

## Overlord 721

Chapter 721:

When Wang Chunyang noticed Yang Fei's movement, he raised an eyebrow and smiled, "What? Are you planning to barge into the Hidden Sect World from here to rescue the woman named Tong Yunshu?"

Upon hearing this, Helian Rong's expression changed, and she looked towards Yang Fei.

Even Helian Zhan glanced over.

After Wang Chunyang had exposed his thinking, Yang Fei pondered briefly and said, "If they return to the Hidden Sect and indeed unite the five powers to besiege the other three powers, then the interior of the Zhuge family should be in a vulnerable state."

Helian Zhan nodded and replied, "Indeed. But this is based on the assumption that our previous speculation is all correct. What if we were wrong? If the Zhuge family did not ally with other powers against the Poison Sect, Qingtian Sect, and the Langya Wang Family, rashly entering the Hidden Sect World could land us deep within the territory of Zhuge Manor. Young man, it's not that I am being arrogant, but if the Zhuge family has more than two Divine Travel Realm warriors in its stronghold, with the aid of the ancient arrays of Zhuge Manor, even Brother Wang and I would find it hard to escape if trapped alone."

Wang Chunyang nodded on the side, "Exactly. If Zhuge Cang stays back at home, even with his serious injuries, given his achievements in Array Formation Talisman Tao, neither Brother Helian nor I are confident of defeating him at Zhuge Manor."

Yang Fei had clashed twice with Zhuge Cang, and he knew very well how formidable this person was.

Heaven knows how much this guy could increase his combat power after returning to the Zhuge family, and his life-saving methods were also numerous, making it not easy to kill him.

In short, breaking in at this moment was indeed extremely perilous, a desperate gamble with scant chances of survival.

However, if the Zhuge, Duanmu, Giant Sword Manor, Ji Family, and Zhang Family formed an alliance to target the other three families, then it would be the perfect opportunity to head to the Duanmu Family to rescue Tong Yunshu.

What to do?

Yang Fei fell into a brief dilemma.

Seeing Yang Fei's serious expression, as if pondering some important matter, and thinking about his insane idea of breaking into the Hidden Sect, Helian Rong also couldn't help but feel deeply moved.

This guy really seemed to care about the woman named Tong Yunshu.

To think that he would consider such a risky move as entering the Hidden Sect through this passage just to save her was too dangerous.

However, this guy was not mindless; although this action seemed extremely perilous, it actually posed no great danger as long as he bet correctly.

If those five families united to take action against the other three, they would certainly aim for a swift and decisive victory; the faster, the better. Following this logic, the Zhuge family would soon mobilize a large number of elite warriors, with several Divine Travel Realm experts likely to be in action. In that case, Zhuge Manor wouldn't be particularly dangerous.

Once they broke away from the Zhuge family, heading to the Duanmu Family at full speed, the Duanmu Family would still be vulnerable internally, and at that time, the chances of success in rescuing someone would drastically increase.

"Elder Brother and Brother Helian, I would like to give it a try."

After a moment of contemplation, Yang Fei looked determinedly at Wang Chunyang and Helian Zhan, and spoke, "Please guard this spot, elders. I want to go and see for myself."

Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang both frowned, but their eyes also showed a hint of admiration; they thought this young man was brave and daring, a trait much to their liking.

"Have you thought this through? If they haven't acted yet, or if a Divine Travel Realm powerhouse stays behind, entering the Hidden Sect from here will be like walking into death," Helian Zhan couldn't help but remind him.

He truly admired the young man.

Moreover, this young man was the last hope for curing his daughter's stubborn illness; he did not wish for Yang Fei to lose his life.

Yang Fei had already weighed his options clearly. With his current strength, even if Zhuge Cang stayed behind to guard the Zhuge family, he still had the power to fight. Moreover, he was not going in a do-or-die attempt; he just needed to escape from the Zhuge family's estate.

As for the Array Formation Talisman Tao methods that Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang worried about, he was not too concerned, as he had some expertise in these two areas.

What he feared most was that all the strong members of the Zhuge family would be at home.

"Wait one day," said Yang Fei. "If they start making their move, then after one day, the people from the Zhuge family should have left."

Wang Chunyang nodded silently and said, "Exactly. If an action has to be taken, it should be quick and decisive to seize the initiative. They won't delay too long."

Helian Zhan glanced at Wang Chunyang and asked, "Brother Wang supports him going in?"

Wang Chunyang said, "It's not that I support his going in, but he is determined to rescue his beloved. Given that, why not let him try? If the Zhuge family truly is unguarded, let the young man come back once more, then you and I can enter and annihilate the Zhuge family first, how about that?"

Helian Zhan had clearly thought of this point before; upon hearing this, he glanced at Yang Fei, pondered a little, and said, "Let's wait one more day."

Wang Chunyang nodded, "Right, let's wait a bit and see if anyone comes out. With one day's time, Qin Yanyang should be able to accomplish quite a bit. If she can shift the situation in Divine Continent, and the Zhuge family is indeed unguarded, then there's no need for us to stand guard here. We might as well return to the Hidden Sect together later."

Helian Zhan nodded slowly, his opinion now aligned with Wang Chunyang's, then looked toward Yang Fei: "Next, it depends on your wife's control over the secular world of Divine Continent."

Yang Fei looked westward, feeling a quiet anticipation within him.

Without the strong members from the Hidden Sect, for Qin Yanyang, the network led by the Chu and Imperial City's Duanmu families shouldn't pose much of an obstacle.

At that moment, a buzzing sound came faintly from the distance.

Yang Fei was already very familiar and sensitive to this sound. His pupils contracted suddenly, his expression turning serious as he looked toward the distance.

Sure enough, a dense swarm of tiny black dots appeared.

Drones and helicopters were quickly converging from all directions.

Perhaps it was the three Innate Realm experts who had escaped earlier informing the Chu or Duanmu families, or perhaps it was Yang Fei having Zhang Qingyang connect with the Western War Zone that aroused suspicions among those in the military of the Chu family. Either way, the enemy had deployed a large, modern military force.

In a helicopter, Duanmu Gong, looking anxious, said to a senior military officer opposite him, "Hurry up, lock onto the transmission gateway and fire missiles. With this level of bombardment, they should get the signal over there and realize that something big is happening outside. We have to be quick!"

This military officer was Chu Tianxing, a blood brother to Chu Tianshu. Ever since Chu Que and Chu Tianshu were slain by Yang Fei on Yunwu Mountain, the Chu family had lost two high-ranking military commanders. Chu Tianxing, originally lacking the age and experience to serve as a major general, was now exceptionally promoted during this critical period to become a major general stationed in Imperial City.

"Position the coordinates, request to use the missile system," ordered Chu Tianxing decisively.

Although he was only thirty-nine and had just been exceptionally promoted, his military acumen was indeed high, decisive and brave. It was only because he had several elder brothers and there were limitations under the Divine Continent's system that he previously had no room for advancement.

Soon, his aide reported: "General, the coordinates have been locked, and Meishan Mountain is now within the surveillance of the national defense satellite. Authorization for weapon use has been granted. Awaiting your orders."

"Fire!" A flicker of determination flashed in Chu Tianxing's eyes as he gave the order.

## Chapter 722: Chu Family Has No Way Back

The aide-de-camp worked nimbly on a tablet computer, fingers moving across it with agility.

On the tablet, the area of the transfer portal above Meishan Mountain, which had long since been entered into the Military Department's database as a special coordinate, was marked in red.

The miniature missile system locked onto that coordinate, and the moment Chu Tianxing's voice to fire rang out, the aide-de-camp tapped the launch interface.

The satellite missile icon moved rapidly along the coordinates towards the target. Simultaneously, a miniature missile was fired from beneath the medium-large military helicopter.

The three-meter-seven-eight long missile tore through the void, flying toward the high altitude of Meishan Mountain at an astonishing speed, the sharp sound of it breaking the air the only thing audible in the sky above the mountain.

At the same time, on the LCD screen in front of Chu Tianxing, a real-time surveillance image of the airspace above Meishan Mountain was displayed, showing three people dressed in ancient attire, two of whom wore swords at their waists, looking solemnly in this direction.

At the top of the mountain, apart from these few individuals, there were more than a dozen experts from the National Security Department.

However, these people were a significant distance away from the portal, and with their reaction speed, the blast wave of the explosion would not threaten them; at most, it might only injure the few closer enemies.

Directly beneath the transfer portal, when Yang Fei and his companions realized the Divine Continent's great army was closing in, they showed solemn expressions.

Facing such a formation, they believed it would not be a big problem to leave safely, but defending Meishan Mountain would be extremely difficult.

Even after Yang Fei had achieved Foundation Establishment and his defensive power was near invincible, his speed reaching terrifying levels, he was well-aware of the power of technological weapons and dared not take them head-on.

If they were to be treated as live targets, in today's world, whether it was the Hidden Sect, Heaven, or Penglai, Yang Fei believed there absolutely was no one capable of withstanding a direct hit from a medium-large missile.

What's more, what about the strikes from more powerful nuclear weapons?

They were indeed powerful Cultivators, but they were certainly not great Cultivators who could directly withstand nuclear weapons.

It was precisely for this reason that these three great hidden realms remained cautious of the secular powerful nations.

"Senior companions, we can't take it head-on; we can only break through one by one to prevent them from getting close," Yang Fei said in a deep voice.

At this moment, the enemy had just appeared and had not yet launched projectiles.

Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang also had a certain understanding of secular nuclear weapons and nodded silently upon hearing this.

Helian Rong said, "In this way, if someone comes out of the portal, we won't be able to block it."

"There's no other way," Yang Fei said.

Just then, a piercing whistling sound came from the distance.

Yang Fei's pupils shrank, and his expression dramatically changed, "Shit, they're using the missile system, move!"

From a distance, the missile was clearly launched in their direction. Not knowing the missile's power, Yang Fei didn't dare to take it lightly and loudly called for the others to quickly dodge.

After the missile was launched, it moved at a high speed, but in the eyes of Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang, the missile's movement wasn't particularly fast, and they were confident they could intercept it with their swords.

"It's not targeting us; do they intend to destroy this transfer portal?" Wang Chunyang suddenly said.

Helian Zhan also noticed that based on the missile's trajectory, its target was not their location but the chaotic space above their heads, the portal fraught with disorderly spatial forces.

Yang Fei was stunned.

They don't want to kill us, but to destroy the transfer portal?

That shouldn't be the case.

This portal was crucial for the Zhuge and Duanmu alliances, and the Imperial Capital Battlefield was on their side; why would they want to destroy it?

No, not destroy, but to send a signal!

Yang Fei's expression turned grave, and he shouted loudly, "They're trying to warn the Zhuge Family through this method."

"Hmph!"

A cold snort emanated from both Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang at the same time.

They both summoned swords that had belonged to fallen members of the Zhuge and Duanmu families into their hands. With a casual flick, the two swords flew through the void like shooting stars, headed straight for the projectile less than a hundred meters from the top of Meishan Mountain.

What quick movements!

Yang Fei was secretly amazed.

The two powerful individuals acted in one fluid motion, swift as lightning. All he saw was a blur before the two swords were already soaring into the sky.

Immediately after, a dazzling flare shot up into the sky.



"Boom!"

Amidst the thunderous noise, the miniature missile exploded in mid-air, flames soared to the heavens, and a terrifying shockwave spread in all directions.

"Fuck!"

Yang Fei couldn't help but curse.

At the same time, his Protective Gang Qi formed, and he swiftly pulled Helian Rong beside him, retreating backward to shelter her behind him.

In just an instant, the ferocious shockwave descended from the sky, met with his Protective Gang Qi, and flung him away.

Helian Zhan closely followed the pair, equally stunned by the explosive power of the missile. He had intended to protect his daughter first, but to his surprise, Yang Fei's reaction was so quick that he had already shielded her before Helian Zhan could.

"Ahh!"

Several screams and cries of pain followed.

The members of the National Security Department, right below the explosion, had started to dodge upon spotting the missile, but they did not expect Wang Chunyang and Helian Zhan to intercept it with cold weapons, causing it to explode prematurely. Consequently, many were unable to completely avoid the blast zone and were sent flying while spitting blood.

To tell a long story short, from the moment the satellite missile was launched to its interception and explosion, it all happened in less than ten seconds.

The soldiers in the cockpits of dozens of military planes, witnessing the scene through the video feed, were stunned and goosebumps covered their bodies.

Are these even human?

To intercept a missile with cold weapons?

And under such a terrifying explosion, they moved incredibly fast, not affected in the slightest.

Too strong!

Chu Tianxing and Duanmu Gong were also shocked silly.

Especially Chu Tianxing, being a Martial Artist himself, knew all too well about the prowess of the strong individuals from the Hidden Sect, but he was even more familiar with the terrifying power of modern weapons. Those coming from the Hidden Sect had extraordinary agility, making them hard to lock on to, but if they faced modern weaponry directly, they would be no different from any ordinary flesh and blood.

However, now, seeing with his own eyes how the two strong individuals threw their swords causing the missile to detonate earlier, he had a new understanding of the capabilities of these top Martial Arts experts.

After a brief shock, Chu Tianxing and Duanmu Gong came back to their senses, the latter saying, "Shoot them."

Without hesitation, Chu Tianxing commanded, "Concentrate firepower on the Top of Meishan Mountain, open fire!"

If one shell was useless against such powerful individuals, then ten, or fifty shells.

In this world, there were no longer any Cultivators with an indestructible Golden Body. Under the terrifying modern bombardment, Meishan could be razed to the ground in an instant, let alone a few bodies of flesh and blood?

No sooner had the command been given than a voice came through: "Stop, there are still more than a dozen members of our National Security Department over there."

"Have them retreat immediately," Chu Tianxing ordered decisively, "Fire!"

According to previous satellite surveillance, these National Security Department people had, after being threatened, helped the enemy get in touch with the Western War Zone. To Chu Tianxing, this was tantamount to the act of a traitor, and they were not worth pitying.

The Chu Family had already taken a critical step, rewriting the history of the Divine Continent completely. In such a scenario, they could not afford any errors. All enemies had to be eradicated with iron-blooded methods; otherwise, if Qin Yanyang and his forces were to strike back, the Chu Family and other like-minded groups would be utterly doomed.

As Chu Tianxing's order was relayed, dozens of combat helicopters converging from all directions began firing shells with a whooshing sound below.

Instantly, the sky around Meishan was filled with hundreds of shells raining down incessantly, targeting the area where Yang Fei and the others were, unleashing a barrage of fire.

Boom, boom, boom!

Flames engulfed the mountaintop, explosions were nonstop, smoke billowed up, vegetation was instantly consumed by fire, and the entire summit turned into a fiery inferno.

## Chapter 723: Give Up Holding Out to the Death

Amidst the rolling flames and the sky filled with smoke, four figures dashed out from the summit, seemingly unharmed.

In the sky, dozens of helicopter pilots watched this scene, all displaying expressions of shock.

Surviving such a massive bombardment, were these four still human?

"The blast radius was still too small, for most in the Innate Realm, such a level of bombardment might not even be fatal, let alone for them who are at the peak of Divine Travel Realm," Duanmu Gong sighed and shook his head as he watched the escaping figures through the monitor.

Chu Tianxing was somewhat stunned.

Flying Swords intercepting micro-missiles, escaping unscathed from dozens of artillery shells, is this the power of a super Martial Artist from a Hidden Sect?

He even began to doubt that if they couldn't trap these people in a specific area, unless he used worldwide banned nuclear weapons, it would be difficult to kill such super Martial Artists.

"Forget about them for now, bomb the teleportation gate, and send a message inside first. Our warriors haven't been back for too long and might not have left yet. They are still at the Zhuge family. If they get the news, they will definitely come out to investigate. Only when they come out can we suppress powerhouses like Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang," Duanmu Gong advised Chu Tianxing.

Chu Tianxing decisively ordered the continuation of firing shells at the teleportation gate.

He didn't dare to activate the large missile systems, only daring to use the micro-missiles loaded on helicopters for the bombardment.

If this teleportation gate were to be damaged, that would be a complete loss. The most important thing was to alert the people inside that something was amiss here.

Boom!

A shell hit its target directly.

In the sky, that shell automatically exploded after entering a certain area, the space where the energy was disordered was instantly hit hard, causing the entire void to shake violently.

"Did that work?" Chu Tianxing asked.

Duanmu Gong didn't know if it would work, but he felt that such an intense explosion should trigger some response inside. If the bombing continued, they might risk tearing apart the teleportation gate, which really would be a complete loss.

"Let's observe for a while and stop bombing for now," Duanmu Gong pondered slightly before stating, "If the people of the Zhuge family sense something, they should send someone to investigate."

Chu Tianxing nodded.

While the two were talking, suddenly a helicopter across from them lost control and was falling toward the mountain.

"Boom!"

Flames shot into the sky and an explosion sounded, hitting the mountain from dozens of meters up, blowing up the helicopter.

"What's going on?" Chu Tianxing exclaimed in shock, raising his voice.

"I don't know, -13 suddenly lost control, it seemed to lose all manipulation," someone responded.

"Boom!"

Another explosion sounded at that moment.

A helicopter exploded directly in midair.

Soon, a shout came through the communications device, "Fuck, everyone be careful, increase the flight altitude, that guy can use Flying Swords to kill,—15's fuel tank was hit, it exploded on impact."

"Yes, I saw it too, it's terrifying, at least a sixty-meter distance, that man launched his Flying Sword,—15 just blew up," another voice came through, full-toned with deep fear.

"Kill them!" Chu Tianxing roared in anger.

After witnessing the terror of these super Martial Artists, he was shocked and deeply frightened, but at the same time, he was extremely angry.

His side was armed with so many military aircraft loaded with a plethora of weapons and held absolute air supremacy—could they let four men armed with cold weapons scare them away?

This was his first operation since taking office, and failure was absolutely not an option. He had to make an impact.

In truth, without Chu Tianxing's orders, all the helicopters that saw those four figures began locking onto their shadows. The Gatlings on board roared wildly, firing large caliber bullets like money was no object towards the swiftly moving figures on the mountain.

Apart from Gatling fire, snipers also quickly locked onto their targets, and heat seeking missiles were launched continuously.

Da Da Da...

Boom, boom, boom...

The sounds of gunfire and artillery were densely erupting, and the entire mountain was suffering a catastrophic disaster.

On the helicopter, Duanmu Gong watched the live footage with a racing heart.

If it were him in that situation, it seemed he could only frantically flee for his life, completely unable to mount an effective counterattack.

If there were only one or two planes attacking, he was confident in fighting back. But in the current situation, he had no courage to resist, and whether he could even survive was still an unknown.

The weapons of the mortal world were indeed powerful and not to be underestimated.

If cultivators from the Hidden Sect World were to massively enter the mundane world, facing the well-prepared mortal armies, it seemed they had no advantage. Most would be killed under gunfire and artillery, only those above the Innate Realm might survive.

In the dense forest, Yang Fei was frantically moving his body along with Helian Rong.

The terrifying power of the Gatling was enough to break through his Protective Gang Qi.

It wasn't that a single bullet could penetrate his defense, but the bullets fired by the Gatling were too dense. Under the barrage of numerous bullets, his Protective Gang Qi was not very effective. If his body hadn't already attained copper skin and iron bones, he would have been seriously injured earlier while protecting Helian Rong.

Even without being seriously injured, the impact of several bullets hitting him caused him an aching pain.

He pulled Helian Rong with one hand and waved a black wooden stick with the other. To his surprise, the toughness of the Fusang Wood exceeded his expectations. It could deflect large-caliber bullets without leaving any marks on it.

Helian Rong was not entirely useless either. Her own strength was in the Innate Realm, and with her mastery of the Poison Technique, she was an extremely dangerous figure even in the Hidden Sect World.

However, in such a battle scenario, her abilities in poisoning were utterly useless.

The enemies were merely soldiers similar to ordinary people, but they controlled modern weaponry. Their long-range attacks were dense and powerful, preventing them from even getting close to the enemy.

Helian Rong felt somewhat stifled.

This was the first time she encountered such a situation, and she had gained a certain recognition and understanding of mundane weapons. She no longer dared to underestimate the energy of mundane mortals.

"Kid, we can't hold this place any longer," Helian Zhan's voice entered Yang Fei's ears.

Yang Fei's heart sank.

If they couldn't hold it, the enemy would be able to go in and send a message.

If the Zhuge family's opposing forces were still there, they would definitely come out right away, so if Qin Yanyang's side attempted a counterattack, it would be like walking into a trap.

"But I promised my wife that I would hold this place," Yang Fei reluctantly said.

"Foolish. The enemy's firepower is too strong, staying here would make us live targets. But if we flee, break out of the enemy's encirclement, and monitor this transport channel from the outside, we can still watch every move here." Helian Zhan said harshly.

Yang Fei suddenly realized.



Yes.

Defending this place would only make them live targets, but if they escaped, as long as the enemy couldn't pinpoint their position, and with themselves in the dark and the enemy in the light, it would cause the enemy to panic and be restless.

The greatest advantage of the superpowered in such a situation was their high mobility, which needed to be fully utilized.

As for the enemy gaining control of the channel and sending someone into the Hidden Sect to communicate, it was an unavoidable situation now.

He just hoped that the superpowered from the opposing forces had already left the Zhuge family.

Now, what both sides were fighting for was merely a matter of timing!

"Alright, let's leave first, escape from the enemy's sight," Yang Fei thought quickly and made a decisive decision, hurrying with Helian Rong towards the outside of Meishan Mountain.

At the same time, the eastern, southern, and western combat zones mobilized one after another, pressing into the areas controlled by the central and northern combat zones.

The creation of public opinion followed suit, with Divine Continent Official and various self-media outlets fervently reporting the relevant news.

The main message of the public opinion was just one:

"Reject warlord separatism, restore the great unity of Divine Continent!"

Chapter 724: Qin Yanyang Enters the Capital

The sudden division of the Divine Continent was something totally unexpected to its everyday citizens.

Once it split in two, divided along the lines controlled by the Five Battle Zones and fell under the control of two different powers, all of the Divine Continent was in uproar.

At first, the citizens were completely dumbfounded; once they came to and confirmed that the news was indeed true, the overwhelming anti-division public opinion never ceased.

For many families, although parents and children worked in different cities, they were all within the country, all part of the Divine Continent People.

But suddenly, many families found themselves split across different regions, and close kin became citizens under different national regimes. How could they accept this?

Moreover, since ancient times the people of the Divine Continent have had the deep-seated idea of unity and grand unification etched into their bones; the majority were very resistant and dissatisfied with the current situation of division.

Now, with Qin Yanyang leading the charge and calling for the rejection of warlordism and insisting on the unification of the Divine Continent, she immediately garnered support from the citizens.

Whether it was the regions under the control of the Eastern, Western, and Southern Battle Zones or the ordinary citizens in the Central and Northern Combat Zones, everyone enthusiastically discussed on official websites and various social media platforms, demanding unification, demanding a return to the state before the division.

Of course, the Chu Family, Sun Family, Duanmu Family, and Ning Family were also waving the banner of unification. During this time, both sides engaged in media sparring, and the war of words never stopped.

Nobody, regardless of which side they were on, dared to accept the eternal infamy of having divided the Divine Continent.

In fact, in this regard, forces like the Chu Family had an advantage because their original purpose in launching the decisive operation was to suppress political enemies led by the Qin Family, and with the support of the Hidden Sect, they thought it would be easy.

What they hadn't anticipated was that Qin Yanyang would escape.

Not to mention that even Qin Huai'an also fled.

What was even more unexpected was that the Qin Family and other forces who escaped quickly took action, decisively taking control of the other three battle zones, creating a standoff with them and leading to the division of the Divine Continent.

To put it simply, this was a high-level power struggle between two factions.

But nobody foresaw it developing into the current situation.

Now, both Qin Yanyang and the Chu Family were under tremendous pressure and both carried the stigma of reverting history by starting warlordism and dividing the Divine Continent.

The condemnation and scorn of the public were inevitable. Fortunately, the current global situation is very turbulent, and the Divine Continent's situation is relatively stable in comparison—at least there is no internal warfare or true large-scale conflict.

But this situation must end as soon as possible.

The current state of affairs is that the nation that first achieves a high degree of unification and handles the relationship between the secular world and the Hidden Sect smoothly will have an absolute advantage in the future global landscape.

In the Western War Zone, Qin Yanyang was advised by her subordinates before boarding the plane.

Mo Yinpeng said, "Director, your identity is special now; you can't take risks personally."

"That's right, Director, how can you personally take risks and go to Imperial City? It's better to send the elite from the Military Department. If you get trapped in Imperial City, we'd have completely lost," Peng Ling even grabbed Qin Yanyang's arm, vehemently advising her.

Since the collapse of the Divine Continent, Qin Yanyang was still nominally the Military Department Director, but in reality, the three battle zones followed her lead. She was the highest spokesperson for this faction.

Of course, given Qin Yanyang's age and experience, she was by no means qualified to be the supreme commander. But with Qin Huai'an, the former military superpower, standing behind her, and considering the special circumstances, her youth, outstanding talent, extraordinary ability, and her own strength in the Divine Travel Realm, as well as her husband Yang Fei being a superpower, facing the Chu Family faction with Hidden Sect support, the other families naturally let her take the lead.

If she succeeded, it would be a cause for great joy for everyone.

If not, even in failure, the other families and powers would still have value; at worst, they could surrender, bow their heads in defeat, and not become the primary targets.

Being pulled back by several subordinates, Qin Yanyang looked at them with a solemn expression and said, "I bear an inescapable responsibility for the disintegration of the Divine Continent. Opportunities are fleeting, and I must seize any chance to restore unification to the Divine Continent as soon as possible. I must personally take charge of this mission. Besides, only by being there in person can I stabilize the situation with minimum casualties once the mission in Imperial City succeeds."

With those words, she paused, her gaze sweeping over everyone present, expressing with an unwavering tone, "Remember this; our greatest enemy is not these compatriots who have different opinions, nor some ambitious and scheming individuals from the Hidden Sect World. The biggest enemy of the Divine Continent is the Alien Race!

Now, we must resolve this wrongful division at the fastest speed and with the smallest sacrifice to gain time for a higher position for the Divine Continent in the world's future."

Everyone stood respectfully.

This was Qin Yanyang's charm.

Everything she did was for the Divine Continent, for the Yanhuang Nation.

Compared to the power faction of the Chu Family, the actions of the Qin Family were more honorable and upright, and that's why, in this division, many more were willing to stand by this side.

Accompanying Qin Yanyang in her departure were twenty elite members of the Military Department.

These twenty individuals were all promoted by her after she rose to power, and eight of them, having undergone medicinal transformation at Yunwu Mountain's Base, had advanced their combat prowess into the Innate Realm.

Their sole purpose in heading to the Imperial Capital was clear.

A decapitation strike.

All the top fighters from the Hidden Sect World had returned to their realm; at this moment, among the enemies in Imperial City, there were few strong ones. Qin Yanyang believed this was an opportunity that comes once in a blue moon.

As long as she could take down all the representatives of the hostile forces, she would be able to control the entire situation.

It had to be fast.

Everything must be done before the Hidden Sect fighters emerged again, so that those forces would find themselves without allies in the Divine Continent afterwards.

As for future threats, they would be addressed after the Divine Continent regained its unification.

"Remember, only surround them and do not attack; just create immense pressure on the enemy and attract their attention," Qin Yanyang instructed one last time.

"Yes."

In Imperial City, representatives from the Chu Family, Duanmu Family, Sun Family, Ning Family, and other power groups had formed a temporary command center; representatives from all four families were present.

In addition to them, there was another person sitting in the meeting room—Zhang Wenfeng.

The man who had once stood at the apex of power behind the scenes in the Divine Continent.

"That girl is crazy, daring to cause such an uproar?" Ning Zhongze said with a frown, speaking in a grave tone.

The Ning Family held a lofty status in the military, comparable to the Chu Family; the Northern Combat Zone was essentially under the control of the Ning Family.

"It should just be a bluff," Chu Shiguang said solemnly, "Given her character, she wouldn't do something that would spark a full-blown civil war."

"But now with the three battle zones frequently mobilizing and the army pressing in, we must be fully prepared," one insisted.

"Indeed, even if the opponent is bluffing, we can't be careless," admitted another.

Ning Zhongze exhaled a puff of smoke, crushing the cigarette in the ashtray with a frown, and said, "I always feel that girl has other schemes up her sleeve."

Chu Shiguang nodded and added, "Right, she probably wants to divert our attention with this so that she can carry out other actions."

Zhang Wenfeng spoke slowly, "Does Qin Yanyang know that Zhuge Cang and the other strong ones have left the Divine Continent?"

A sharp glint flashed in the eyes of Chu Shiguang, Ning Zhongze, and others as they all turned to Zhang Wenfeng and said, "Are you suggesting that girl is thinking of trying a decapitation strike on us here in Imperial City?"

Zhang Wenfeng nodded and said, "If I were her, knowing that the Hidden Sect fighters supporting you have left, I definitely wouldn't miss this chance."

The sound of sudden movement. Ning Zhongze abruptly stood up, sending the chair behind him flying back with a clatter.

"Right, she would surely do that."

The rest of them revealed expressions of horror and became extremely tense.

"What should we do?"

"This woman is terrifyingly powerful, and with the help of that boy Yang Fei, without the assistance of Hidden Sect fighters, none of us are their match."

For a moment, everyone fell into a state of panic.

A person's reputation can cast a long shadow.

The strongest among them were only at the Innate Realm in the past, but now Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang had reached the even more formidable Divine Travel Realm. With just Innate Realm protectors on their side, how could they withstand the assassinations from these two?

## Chapter 725: The Rules of the Game Are Changing

In their panic, everyone suddenly turned their gaze to Zhang Wenfeng.

Among those present, Zhang Wenfeng was the strongest, and if they were to face Qin Yanyang's decapitation action, he could definitely be a great help.

However, after Zhang Wenfeng came out of seclusion, he was defeated by Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, and since then, the Zhang Family had completely fallen.

Though he harbored a deep grudge against Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei, he was their defeated foe and might also find it difficult to withstand their onslaught.

Sun Youning, the representative of the Sun Family, said, "For safety's sake, let's move to the military base. It has the safest underground bunkers, which those martial arts masters probably can't breach."

Ning Zhongze nodded and added, "Exactly, if we have no other choice, we can only hide inside for the time being."

Everyone nodded in agreement, finding this to be the most appropriate course of action.

"The strong members of the Zhuge family and the Duanmu aristocratic family were too careless, not leaving a few powerful individuals to sit in here," Chu Shiguang couldn't help but complain.

Ning Zhongze said, "Indeed, they act recklessly without planning, taking action without arrangement. This will inevitably lead to a disaster sooner or later."

Duanmu Ci, a member of the secular Duanmu aristocratic family, attended the meeting. He was Duanmu Han's eldest son, Qin Yanyang's uncle by marriage, and he handled most of the Duanmu Family's secular affairs. He had previously served as the deputy director of the National Security Department and had now been promoted to director.



For the other families in the meeting room, the Duanmu Family's status was a bit awkward.

After all, Duanmu Ling was Duanmu Ci's own sister; by all accounts, the Duanmu Family should stand with the Qin Family, yet it was the Duanmu Family that had led this incident.

Members of the Hidden Sect from the Duanmu and Zhuge families kept a low profile in the Imperial Capital Duanmu Family and planned the previous action in secrecy.

From the last action, there was no doubt about the stance of the Imperial City's Duanmu Family, yet their marital relations with the Qin Family were real and substantial.

Chu Shiguang glanced at Duanmu Ci from the corner of his eye and said with a smile, "The Duanmu Family has the support of the respected Elder Duanmu Han. Even if Qin Yanyang personally came, he would have to call you 'grandfather.' The Duanmu Family shouldn't worry about the enemy's decapitation action, right?"

Duanmu Ci frowned slightly and shot Chu Shiguang a cold glance, "Chu Shiguang, we are partners in the same boat right now. Speaking in such a sarcastic tone, are you trying to destroy the unity within? If my Duanmu Family's stance were not firm enough, would I, Duanmu Ci, be sitting here today?"

Seeing Duanmu Ci get angry, Chu Shiguang managed an awkward smile, "I apologize, Brother Duanmu, I didn't mean it that way."

Ning Zhongze immediately said, "Yes, Brother Duanmu, please don't misunderstand. Brother Chu was just speaking offhandedly." Turning to Chu Shiguang, he said, "Brother Chu, without the Duanmu Family, how could we have established a cooperative relationship with the Hidden Sect's forces? You mustn't speak like that again, to avoid damaging our internal harmony."

Sun Youning said, "The situation is not as bad as imagined, we must not lose our composure. Unity comes first. Compared to your families, my Sun Family, being scholars, have even less security."

Duanmu Ci snorted and said, "Hiding is not a solution. Haven't we already secured control over Meishan Mountain? We must send someone to the Hidden Sect for reinforcements right away."

"After those people were defeated, Duanmu Gong had already entered, but it's been almost an hour with no news. It would not be good if something had also gone wrong there. We must prepare several plans just in case," Ning Zhongze said gravely.

Everyone nodded.

Death was a fear for all.

The reputations of Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei were too significant for them, and with the previous battle at Meishan Mountain streamed via video, they had witnessed firsthand the power and terror of the Hidden Sect's top experts. Now that the enemy might launch actions targeting them, they were naturally worried.

"Here's the plan, we continue sending people to seek aid from the Hidden Sect. At the same time, we should also move our families quickly to the military underground bunkers for safety. As long as we avoid being decapitated, our base will remain stable. Once forces from the Hidden Sect join us, we can secure our current territory," said Sun Youning in a somber voice.

This proposal garnered unanimous support from the others.

"Besides us, some of the key officials in charge of the government should also be relocated promptly," Sun Youning added.

Everyone nodded again.

Zhang Wenfeng said, "I think we've forgotten about one thing."

All eyes turned to him.

Zhang Wenfeng continued, "We still haven't played our biggest card yet."

Ning Zhongze frowned, "Are you talking about the hostages?"

Everyone's eyes lit up.

Right, how could they have forgotten about the hostages.

During the previous operation, many hostages were captured, including important members of the Qin Family, precisely, the married couple, Qin Zhen and Wang Ying, and their son, Qin Zhao.

In addition to that, Qin Huai'an's younger son's family and his son-in-law's family were also detained in Imperial City.

At that time, from the Qin Family's direct lineage in Imperial City, the only ones who managed to escape were three people: Qin Huai'an, along with the couple Qin Zhengfang and Duanmu Ling.

Qin Zhengfang and his wife Duanmu Ling were able to escape on that day because Qin Huai'an called them after he fled, and they immediately shook off the National Security Department surveillance personnel's tracking and fled Imperial City with Qin Huai'an.

However, the hostages from the Qin Family, including Qin Zhen, his wife, and their son, as well as the families of Qin Huai'an's other children, were already sufficient.

Apart from the Qin Family, many important officials who stood with the Qin Family had their families controlled if they were within the range of the central and eastern battle zones.

The number of these hostages reached an astonishing figure.

For the enemy, they definitely carried a significant threat.

"By using these hostages, we can do a lot of things, at least it will deter them from rash actions," Zhang Wenfeng said.

Chu Shiguang's face darkened, and he said in a deep voice, "Old Zhang's reminder is correct, these hostages indeed need to be put to good use. In times of crisis, we can even kill a few to send a message to Qin Yanyang."

Ning Zhongze, Sun Youning, and Duanmu Ci's eyelids twitched.

They knew how much Chu Shiguang hated Yang Fei. The Chu Family's Chu Que and Chu Tianshu were executed on the spot by Yang Fei at Yunwu Mountain's Base. At that time, Yang Fei used the opportunity to issue a warning: whoever dared to harm his family, no matter where they were, he would seek vengeance for his deceased loved ones.

Of course, at this time, they couldn't mention this issue, nor could they express their worries about Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang's vengeance afterward.

Sun Youning spoke up, "Brother Chu, calm down. We indeed have many hostages in our hands, but their side has also detained many families of our military officers and political dignitaries."

Before the last operation, these top families had safely placed their relatives out of reach of Qin Yanyang's side, but they did not expect that operation to allow all the Qin Family leaders to escape, resulting in a standoff, which led to the enemy taking control over many families of their military and political officials.

Comparatively, they had many more and much higher-profile hostages in their hands, but if they showed no concern for the lives of those subordinates' families, then they would lose the people's support and become powerless commanders with no followers.

"Even if we don't kill, we can still use them to threaten the other side. Otherwise, if that girl really launches a decapitation strike against us, we are the ones in danger," Chu Shiguang snorted.

This time Ning Zhongze sided with Chu Shiguang, nodding, "Right, the hostages can be of use this time. Although we can't kill them, it can make Qin Yanyang hesitant to act. Let's do that, move with the important hostages to a safe place first."

Everyone stood up, leaving with heavy hearts.

Facing those top-tier combatants who were like elusive dragons, they had no power to resist and could only hide and seek, a feeling that was extremely stifling.

How could this even compare to the past when they used to be high-ranking bosses?

The rules of the game in this world had changed.

For bosses of their caliber, as long as they didn't mess up badly, even if they failed in their struggles, they could still retreat in one piece, at worst losing their power.

But now, failure meant losing their heads.

This change was something that the former powers that be found utterly incomprehensible and unacceptable.

Meishan Mountain.

After Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, Yang Fei, and Helian Rong were driven away by overwhelming firepower, the control over the teleportation passage above Meishan Mountain returned to the Chu Family's hands.

Duanmu Gong didn't hesitate and, after giving Chu Tianxing a heads-up, soared into the sky and entered the teleportation array.

He needed to report back and request Divine Travel Realm experts from his side to come and hold fort in Imperial City; otherwise, everything they had hard-won could be lost again.

Chapter 726: Hu Lizhong's Unexpected Gains

Hu Lizhong was quietly waiting at the foot of Meishan Mountain.

Yang Fei had deliberately sent himself away to protect himself, a fact that Hu Lizhong was very clear about, so he was very touched in his heart.

But he didn't leave immediately; instead, he anxiously waited around Meishan Mountain, constantly alert to any commotion happening on the mountain.

Even several times he contemplated ascending Meishan Mountain, thinking that he and the Brother Yang had shared life-and-death experiences and had formed a bond as close as brothers. Now that Brother Yang was in danger, how could he justify sneaking away to safety?

Very soon, a formidable sword Qi emitted from the mountain top.

That sword Qi, even tens of miles away, left Hu Lizhong at the foot of the mountain trembling with fear, and the heroic resolve he had moments ago to ascend the mountain and share life-and-death with Brother Yang was once again suppressed.

Calm down, stay calm!

Even if the enemy was still up there, there were several powerful figures accompanying Brother Yang, and to those figures, Brother Yang still had significant utility; they should protect him.

Moreover, Brother Yang was profoundly strong and if he intended only to escape, it should not be difficult.

Brother Yang was a man of honor. If I rashly charged up the mountain now, I wouldn't be of any help to him; on the contrary, if an enemy caught me, Brother Yang would surely save me, thus burdening him instead.

Yes, the best help I can offer Brother Yang is not to go up the mountain and avoid making things worse.

Very soon, Hu Lizhong understood that not going up the mountain was indeed the greatest help he could offer Yang Fei; thus, he 'righteously' continued to hover around the foot of the mountain, waiting anxiously.

After a while, another sword Qi crossed the sky, followed by faint sounds of intense battle.

Old Hu was always tense; he didn't know what the situation on the mountain was like, or if Yang Fei would be in danger.

He hid in a tree within the forest, calmly observing the battle at the mountain's peak, and soon realized that although the battle seemed fierce, it didn't appear to be particularly perilous.

Compared to the commotion caused by the battle between Yang Fei and Zhuge Cang on Yunwu Mountain, this was much smaller.

"Could it be that Zhuge and the strong figures from the Duanmu family are not on the mountain at the moment?" Hu Lizhong analyzed silently.

If that was the case, even if the defenders on the mountain were formidable, they should not be a match for Brother Yang and his companions.

As expected, the battle ended quickly.

The mountain top quieted down once again.

Hu Lizhong had an itching curiosity, almost unable to resist the urge to climb the mountain to investigate, but the surrounding forests of Meishan Mountain were guarded by a large number of special soldiers, among them some martial arts masters. Now, in broad daylight, it was impossible for him to ascend the mountain undetected and easily discovered.

Thus, after struggling with himself for a while, he suddenly heard a familiar humming sound in his ears.

"Aerial support has arrived!" he looked up to the sky, and his scalp tingled instantly.

A dense group of aircraft was converging from all directions.

Compared to the interceptors encountered when escaping from Yunwu Mountain's Base last time, the number of helicopters closing in from all around had multiplied several times over.

Even though he was now a martial artist of the Innate Realm, Hu Lizhong felt the impulse to flee for his life immediately.

While still at a distance, a helicopter launched a miniature missile, causing Hu Lizhong's pupils to constrict and his heart to pound.

This display of force, was it intended to destroy Meishan Mountain?

Then, he watched in wide-eyed astonishment as two swords flew up into the sky and intercepted the miniature missile, causing it to explode in the air.

"Damn, can missiles be intercepted like that?" Hu Lizhong thought of the two flying swords that soared into the sky like lightning, their speed astonishing; even with his strong eye-power, he barely caught a clear sight of them.

It must have been those two sword-wielding figures who made the move.

So strong!

What followed was a relentless, devastating bombardment.

Under such overwhelming firepower, Hu Lizhong felt that his flesh and blood body could only survive by escaping as quickly as possible.

However, he saw several aircraft being effortlessly eradicated.

This scene was not unfamiliar to him; just a month ago, Qin Yanyang had blown up a helicopter while escaping from Yunwu Mountain.



Yet seeing once more how effortlessly a powerful Martial Artist could destroy a heavily armed helicopter redefined Hu Lizhong's understanding of top fighters.

Shocked, Hu Lizhong, hidden in the tree, suddenly changed his expression.

Someone was coming down the mountain, and one of them was heading straight towards his location.

Since the other party was descending the mountain, occasionally jumping to move around, their good line of sight made it very easy to spot Hu Lizhong in the tree.

Hu Lizhong was about to hide when his pupils shrank slightly.

Old Luo?

Caught off guard, the man escaping down the mountain also spotted Hu Lizhong. Their eyes met, and the other's expression clearly showed surprise, followed immediately by an intense murderous intent as he raised an Energy Cannon and aimed it at Hu Lizhong.

Hu Lizhong's pupils narrowed, and he called out in a hurry, "Old Luo, it's me."

Hearing this voice, Luo Ping was first startled, then his pupils narrowed as he looked at Hu Lizhong with a mix of wariness and confusion, "Old... Old Hu?"

"It's me, Luo Ping, what are you doing here?" Hu Lizhong immediately asked.

After asking this question, Hu Lizhong immediately regretted it. Damn, wasn't that a stupid thing to say?

Luo Ping was Luo Yong's younger brother and the second strongest in the Luo Family, besides Luo Yong himself. He had also joined the Military Department early on due to his brother's influence.

Now, anyone from the Military Department who hadn't gone south with Qin Yanyang had chosen to side with the Chu Family Faction.

Luo Ping quickly realized this as well, the Energy Cannon in his hands still aimed at Hu Lizhong, his face full of vigilance.

Hu Lizhong was also extremely tense.

However, after a moment of eye contact, neither of them showed any intent to attack.

They had a good relationship in private when they were in the Military Department.

Even now, serving different masters, it was hard for them to strike at each other.

Suddenly, Luo Ping lowered the Energy Cannon, looked around, and said in a low voice, "Go. Pretend you didn't see me."

Hu Lizhong felt touched but still didn't let down his guard as he looked at Luo Ping and said, "Did your entire Luo Family side with the Chu Family's power group?"

Luo Ping spoke calmly, "It seems so. Old Hu, from now on, we serve different lords. It's better if we don't meet again. This is no place for you; you should leave soon."

After speaking, he was about to leave.

Hu Lizhong said in a low voice, "Wait a moment."

Luo Ping glanced at him, "Your family must be locked up in Deep Blue Prison. Most hostages are held there. Old Hu, take my advice. Even though you've reached the Innate Realm, going to Deep Blue Prison now is pointless. There are powerhouses from the Hidden Sect on guard there."

Elated to hear this information, Hu Lizhong expressed his gratitude, "Thank you."

"Leave now; this place is not safe to linger in." Luo Ping urged again, looking anxious to leave.

Hu Lizhong couldn't help but say, "You're supposed to be stationed here, right? Wouldn't leaving like this be abandoning your post?"

Luo Ping's eyes flashed with a hint of sorrow as he said sarcastically, "What does abandoning my post matter? It's better than being cannon fodder here, getting bombed to death by my own people."

Hu Lizhong was startled, recalling the frenzied bombing and strafing from earlier, his own fear palpable.

The airstrike troops had indeed been too reckless, their firepower completely disregarding the lives of their own people stationed in the forest.

"Not to make you laugh, Old Hu, but ever since my older brother was sent out by Qin Yanyang to join forces with Yang Fei, our Luo Family has lost all trust among these power groups of the Chu Family. They're wary of the Luo Family, worried that we might be the Qin Family's pawns left behind." Luo Ping suddenly shared his indignation with Hu Lizhong, his face showing deep disappointment.

He had always stood with the Chu Family Faction.

Even when he initially went to capture Yang Fei, he led the team personally, which ended up offending Qin Yanyang, earning him a fierce beating.

His loyal service had been met with suspicion from above, being assigned to such a dangerous location. Now, not caring about their own people's survival and resorting to indiscriminate bombardment, how could he not be disillusioned?

## Chapter 727: I Need You Now

"Damn, have the Chu Family's brains been kicked by a donkey? Right at the time when they need people the most, they start suspecting their own, if they ever take over, won't they be even more ruthless in

settling scores in the fall?" Hu Lizhong's heart stirred, and he immediately said with righteous indignation.

Luo Ping gave him a glance, knowing that Hu Lizhong was deliberately speaking this way, but the fact was indeed true.

Hu Lizhong suddenly lowered his voice and said, "You are closer, what happened on the mountain top just now?"

Luo Ping pondered for a moment and said, "A few people stormed up the mountain, and then a fight broke out."

"Where are those people now?"

"They ran off, they were too strong, we simply couldn't hold them back."

Old Hu completely relaxed, then said, "In that case, why are you running?"

Luo Ping's mouth twitched, and he snorted, "I was on the edge of the bombing area on the top of the mountain at the time, was I supposed to wait there to get blown up?"

Hu Lizhong chuckled, and Luo Ping waved his hand and said, "Brother Hu, you've really got some nerve, and luckily it was me you ran into, or else you'd be in great danger now if your whereabouts were exposed in Imperial City, hurry and go, don't get discovered and implicate me."

Hu Lizhong was somewhat touched. However, if it hadn't been for you, I would have dealt with you already.

But Luo Ping had told him so much, also out of the bond formed over many years as comrades-in-arms, and past loyalties, it was just a pity that now everyone served a different master and didn't have control over their actions.

Hu Lizhong had to keep this kindness in mind.

He had an idea and said, "Let's go together, no one can recognize me in this state."

Indeed, it was Hu Lizhong's voice that Luo Ping had recognized. After all, Old Hu was disguised as someone else, and even people familiar with him couldn't recognize him.

However, Luo Ping had no intention of joining him.

Now that everyone served their own masters, it was best to avoid getting involved with each other.

"No need, I'm just laying low for a bit. Once the firefight here stops, I still have to come back to my post, you should go," Luo Ping urged.

Hu Lizhong's eyes flickered, then he said, "How about you come with me to the south? Don't worry, as long as I recommend you, you will definitely be valued. Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei are not narrow-minded people, they think much bigger than those from the Chu Family."

Luo Ping frowned and then slowly shook his head.

The actions of the Chu Family and the others had indeed disheartened him, but he was not willing to turn and throw in his lot with Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang.

He thought that, when the right opportunity came, he and his cousin, Luo Yong, would take the best warriors of their clan and leave the Imperial Capital, to completely leave behind the Divine Continent, this land of strife.

With the world in chaos everywhere, with the wealth the Luo Family had accumulated over the years, and not to mention the many martial artists in the family, as well as he and his cousin being skilled fighters, they should be able to establish themselves overseas.

"I have offended both Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang before, and now I'm on their opposing side. Even if I defected, I wouldn't be valued, only mocked as a fence-sitter," Luo Ping decisively refused.

Hu Lizhong quickly responded, "That's not the case. Didn't your brother also work with Yang Fei before? Plus, I'm on very good terms with Mr. Yang personally. With my introduction, he definitely won't make things difficult for you.

Old Luo, can't you see? Even after the Qin Family was caught off guard this time, they still managed to maintain control over three major war zones. The Chu Family can't compete with them.

And you saw just now, Yang Fei has also formed alliances with several powers of the Hidden Sect. With the support of the Hidden Sect, the influential groups on the Chu Family's side are even less of a match. You should listen to me and come over."

In Hu Lizhong's view, whether it's the current internal struggles or future development outside Divine Continent after its unification, ancient martial families like the Luo Family are very useful.

Especially since Luo Ping was already at the Energy Transformation Eighth Rank, with such talent and a lot of Genetic Liquid Medicine, the chances of advancing to the Innate Realm are quite significant.

The future Divine Continent will need a large number of its own cultivated top-notch experts and powerful beings, and families with ancient martial backgrounds like the Luo Family are very valuable.

Now that Luo Ping clearly harbors resentment toward the Chu Family, Hu Lizhong feels that it's time to flip sides and draw him over.

However, Luo Ping remains unmoved.

He is a very opinionated man, already planning to leave the Divine Continent with his cousin Luo Yong and take his family with him. He has no intention of deflecting to Qin Yanyang and refuses, "Thank you, Brother Hu, for your kind intentions. I know you genuinely want to help me, but our Luo family has had past dealings with Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang. Even if we went over to them, we wouldn't have much room for development in the future. I prefer not to do something as demeaning as become a family servant that people look down upon."

But Hu Lizhong is relentless, continuing to pester him.

Luo Ping is speechless at his tireless persistence.

If not for his good relationship with Hu Lizhong, he would have wished to shout and capture this man, which, although minor, would count as a merit.

But since he has plans for his family's relocation, it's not wise to offend Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang further. Regardless of the future situation, the strength of Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang remains formidable, and they cannot be too offended.

So he can only patiently deal with Hu Lizhong, listening to his endless offers to 'buy him out.'

Before long, the battle in the mountains stopped.

Instead of immediately returning to the area he had previously defended, Luo Ping decides to wait and see, biding his time.

After a while, Luo Ping receives a message on his phone. After glancing at it, his pupils shrink slightly.

After pondering for a long time, Luo Ping says to Hu Lizhong, "Old Hu, I'll give you another piece of intelligence."

Hu Lizhong is taken aback and asks in confusion, "What intelligence?"

"My cousin just sent a message saying that the higher-ups have ordered the immediate relocation of important military officers and political figures' family members to the underground military bunker," says Luo Ping.

Hu Lizhong's pupils shrink with excitement, "Something's happened?"

Luo Ping nods slowly, "Something big must have happened."

Hu Lizhong presses for details, "What happened?"

Luo Ping shakes his head, "We just received notice to relocate our families, but I don't know the specifics of the incident."

But both men are astute. Such an order from higher-ups surely means something significant has occurred.

"Given Qin Yanyang's style, could it be that she is launching an all-out attack at any cost?" Luo Ping speculates with narrowed eyes.

Hu Lizhong immediately shakes his head, "Minister Qin is decisive in her actions, but she would never recklessly gamble with the innocent lives of our compatriots. She would not initiate a total assault."

"Then it must be a decapitation strike!" A flash of shrewdness appears in Luo Ping's eyes, and he can't help but stand up, saying in a deep voice, "Yes, that must be it. Qin Yanyang might even personally take action and has entered Imperial City."

Hu Lizhong's eyes light up as well.

According to the previous battle situation on Meishan Mountain, it seems that the enemy Hidden Sect experts, just as Brother Yang predicted, were no longer in Imperial City—they must have returned to the Hidden Sect World.

With this, Imperial City's top-tier military and talent are left vacant. After Brother Yang received accurate information, he must have contacted Minister Qin, who would act immediately.

If even Hu Lizhong can see this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, how could Qin Yanyang miss it?



Instantly, Hu Lizhong feels a rush of excitement. He says to Luo Ping, "Old Luo, the opportunity is right before us. I, Hu Lizhong, swear to the heavens that if you make the right choice this time, you and your Luo family will be immensely wealthy and prosperous, trust me. Also, considering that I have saved you twice before, I hope you can help me this time, just this once. I need you right now."

#### Chapter 728: Deciding to Break into the Hidden Sect

"The cleverness and ingenuity of the secular people should indeed not be underestimated. Just with this level of encircling attack, we were unable to hold our position and could only flee."

At the foot of Meishan Mountain, in a rather hidden spot, Wang Chunyang arrived and reunited with the four who had previously scattered.

The speaker was Helian Zhan, his face showing a hint of admiration, highly praising and acknowledging the secular people's intelligence.

It was the first time Helian Rong had come to the secular world and witnessed the lethality of modern weapons on cultivators. She still felt lingering fear as she said, "It's indeed terrifying. People from the Hidden Sect always look down on the secular people, but once they step into the secular world and face such powerful attacks, more than ninety percent would be annihilated."

Wang Chunyang silently nodded.

Although the four had been driven away, none of them were injured or even showed a hint of dishevelment.

Yang Fei said, "What you just saw was merely the most conventional hot weapon attack. Many advanced weapons controlled by powerful secular nations have not even been used yet.

Drones, unmanned combat vehicles, high-frequency sonic waves, tracking missiles, and more have not been used yet.

In my knowledge, today's cultivators, even the strongest among them, cannot withstand a frontal bombardment by micro-missiles. Facing medium to large-scale bombardments at close range would leave them with no escape.

As for the more terrifying nuclear weapons, as long as one is in the blast zone, even those in the Divine Travel Realm cannot escape.

So, thinking that you can do whatever you want in the secular world just because you have a high combat power is impossible.

Of course, for the secular world, martial artists at the peak of the Late-stage Energy Transformation Realm already possess great lethality. Due to their high agility, moving unseen to carry out assassinations and such, they pose a significant threat to secular tycoons.

However, as long as they don't expose their movements and aren't tracked, attacks like nuclear strikes are useless against top-notch fighters. Moreover, in densely populated major cities, devastating nuclear strikes wouldn't be permitted.

In summary, between powerful martial artists and secular tycoons, there exists a mutual threat and balance."

Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang nodded in agreement. Helian Rong, shedding her arrogance, gained a deeper understanding of the outside world.

"But when faced with a large number of martial artists, the secular tycoons of this world cannot compete. As long as the martial artists are not foolish enough to charge head-on into modernized troops but rather disperse individually across the country with organized and purposeful actions, it wouldn't take a month for the entire country to be thrown into chaos, or even to be secretly controlled," Helian Zhan, agreeing with Yang Fei's analysis, quickly voiced his thoughts.

Wang Chunyang's eyes lit up.

Yang Fei nodded and said, "That's right, looking long-term, the advantage lies with the martial cultivators who possess powerful individual strength."

Helian Zhan chuckled, "That's why Zhuge Cang and Duanmu Wugou were too hasty. And yes, they were also too foolish."

Wang Chunyang nodded and said, "Indeed, they weren't just too eager, but too foolish. After sneaking into the secular world, they could have taken their time instead of trying to control secular power so quickly. With the strength of their families, they only needed to quietly integrate into the secular world, and in no time, they could have secretly controlled everything."

Hearing this, Helian Zhan shook his head, laughing, "Brother Wang, do we as hidden aristocratic families or sects entering the secular world have to control everything and become the sovereigns?"

Wang Chunyang was taken aback, looking at Helian Zhan.

Helian Zhan slowly said, "Just as in the Hidden Sect World, no matter which family dominates the Hidden Sect, they inevitably become targets. Take the Bu Dao Sect as an example.

A dynasty lasts a hundred years, an aristocratic family a thousand. After we enter the secular world, the crucial choice is whether we want to establish our own dynasties, or act as aristocratic families continuing our individual families and sects."

A gleam of realization flashed through Wang Chunyang's eyes.

He clasped his hands and bowed to Helian Zhan, "I have learned a lot."

Helian Zhan hastily returned the bow, "Brother Wang flatters me too."

Wang Chunyang looked seriously at Helian Zhan and said, "For the sects and aristocratic families of Heaven, the Hidden Sect, and Penglai in the Three Realms, everyone thinks of entering the secular world as a way to dominate this world, which is indeed a cognitive trap.

Actually, the best choice for the forces from the Three Realms after entering this world is to exist as aristocratic families continuing the lineage. Otherwise, whoever establishes a dynasty can only exist temporarily and will soon be replaced, which is detrimental to the continuation of the family or sect."

Helian Zhan laughed, "That's why I said that the Zhuge and Duanmu families were too hasty and too foolish. If they weren't in such a rush, relying on the Zhuge family's secret passages to the outside world to silently build up strength, it wouldn't be long before they could become the hidden rulers of Divine Continent."

Listening to their conversation, Yang Fei silently sighed in his heart.

The future world would certainly be as Helian Zhan described, forming a delicate balance of mutual checks and cooperation between oligarchical clans and the authorities.

In this equilibrium development, over time, these forces would slowly become the real puppeteers behind countries worldwide.

Don't think that the phrase 'dynasties for a hundred years, aristocratic families for a thousand' is just an expression.

Since ancient times, it has been the aristocratic families, not the dynasties, that have endured the longest.

In the feudal era of Divine Continent, at the end of Great Tang, although Huang Chao ostensibly exterminated all aristocratic families, during the nearly thousand-year period of feudal dynasty that followed, many new aristocratic families emerged. These families were relatively smarter; they knew how to keep a low profile and stay hidden.

Compared to the aristocratic families of the mundane feudal dynasties of Divine Continent, the current Hidden Sect forces have more advantages.

They are martial artists, among them top-tier powerhouses; such forces are sufficient to ensure safe succession of the family or sect when they enter the world.

Of course, if you think the term 'aristocratic family' is unpleasant, you can call them capitalists or tycoon groups instead.

"It's not that the Zhuge and Duanmu families are too foolish, but that they have underestimated the people of the mundane world. If they weren't worried about us contesting with them, even pouring out their entire forces would still allow them slowly to suppress the Qin Family's opposing forces and achieve unification over Divine Continent," Helian Zhan said.

Several people nodded silently.

Including Yang Fei, who did not deny this point.

Although Qin Yanyang was temporarily leading a force to confront their adversaries head-on, if external factors did not come into play, and without the addition of other forces, the combined might of all the experts from the Zhuge and Duanmu families would overwhelmingly suppress Qin Yanyang's faction.

"Father, discussing this has no practical significance. What should we do now? Should we return to the Hidden Sect and start an all-out war with them to determine the victor, or should we continue to stay in the mundane world and watch?" Helian Rong shifted the topic as she looked towards her father.

Yang Fei nodded, then said, "I promised my wife I'd help guard this gateway, and now it has fallen; we need to find a way to notify her."

"Has it fallen?" Helian Zhan asked with a smile.

Wang Chunyang again showed his supreme confidence and said lightly, "Although we can't directly confront that firepower, with the forces stationed on this mountain, Brother Helian and I are still capable of handling them."

Yang Fei was startled, but quickly calmed down.

Earlier, although they had fled, it wasn't in disarray; however, standing their ground against the enemy's firepower would have been the most foolish act.

But now the tables were turned; they were in the dark, the enemies in the open. Leaving Helian Rong aside, if the three of them joined forces, they could definitely break through and wipe out the troops stationed on the mountaintop one by one.

"There's no need. Even if we retake control, the enemy would send even stronger forces for reinforcement," Yang Fei immediately rejected the idea from the two others.

Helian Zhan slowly nodded, "Exactly, so all we need to do is stay nearby and watch in secret. Duanmu Gong has been gone for a long time yet no one has come out from there; if I'm not mistaken, the Zhuge family has mobilized en masse, joining other forces to attack our three families."

Wang Chunyang said, "Exactly, if I were them, since they've decided to act, they must strive for speed—the faster, the better."

"Let's wait for the time it takes to drink a pot of tea. If no one comes out by then, let's head back. Now that the great forces of the Hidden Sect are divided into two factions, this battle should be resolved within the Hidden Sect itself. The sooner it's stabilized, the better it is for the future development of Divine Continent," Helian Zhan said.

Wang Chunyang nodded, greatly agreeing with this.

Yang Fei's eyes brightened.

In that case, he would have to go in as well.

With internal conflict breaking out within the Hidden Sect, guarding this passageway temporarily isn't important and has minimal impact on Qin Yanyang.

But he could take advantage of the Duanmu family's internal vulnerability to rescue Tong Yunshu.

Soon, the time it takes to drink a pot of tea arrived.

Helian Zhan made a decisive call, "Let's go, it should be as we guessed. The Zhuge family is likely vulnerable right now."

Wang Chunyang immediately stood up.

After all, if the other side really did go to besiege the three families, the position of the Langya Wang Family would be the most dangerous, definitely becoming the first target of the siege.

Chapter 729: One Wrong Step Leads to Many

Atop Meishan Mountain, Chu Tianxing was in high spirits.

Before this, the strong figures from the Zhuge and Duanmu aristocratic families were aloof and exceedingly arrogant in front of them.

But when confronted with the super experts from the Hidden Sect, more than ten Innate Realm masters were killed, leaving ten dead, and they had to ask for his help to drive the enemy away.

However, Chu Tianxing was not without intelligence.

After he reclaimed control of the passage entrance, he immediately called for reinforcements.

Given the frightening combat power of those individuals, if they were to counterattack, his side would be unable to hold them off.

Previously, they had a target they could strike at will, but if those strong fighters were to retaliate, he and his men would become the targets. At that time, their side's firepower would be far less effective against them.

They needed to set up ultrasonic audio weapons, which held great lethality against Divine Travel Realm experts, and could greatly suppress and interfere with the Divine Travel Realm's Divine Soul Thought Power.

Although he had arranged through a call for additional weapons and strengthened the defense, Chu Tianxing still decided to leave this place.

A wise man doesn't stand under a collapsing wall. After witnessing the terrifying strength of those Hidden Sect super experts who could single-handedly intercept missiles and destroy helicopters, he wasn't foolish enough to remain personally in such a dangerous place.

Just as Chu Tianxing was handing over the task of guarding this area to the National Security Department, a cry of alarm came from the mid-slope in the distance, "They're back!"

Chu Tianxing's pupils shrank upon hearing this, cold sweat breaking out all over his body, as he hurriedly whispered, "Go, protect me and leave first."

Zhang Qingyang and other members of the National Security Department looked at him with disdain, but none raised any objections.

In truth, they were not much better off; having seen the terror of those super experts, they had not a shred of courage to confront them.

However, the special soldiers stationed there were well-trained, quickly setting up their weapons and adopting a defensive posture.

The helicopters circling high above decisively moved towards that area. However, before the personnel on board could lock onto the enemy's position, they saw a figure shooting into the sky, rapidly approaching the helicopter.

When the distance closed to less than a hundred meters, a sword light flashed by.

The helicopter's cockpit was pierced, the pilot decapitated, the aircraft immediately losing control. The co-pilot quickly attempted to correct it, but the helicopter had already lost its threat to the enemy.

Just then, two figures linked together, one ahead of the other, raced toward the summit.



It was Yang Fei and Helian Rong.

Following closely beside them was Wang Chunyang.

Seeing Yang Fei leap tens of meters at a time while pulling Helian Rong, reaching an astonishing speed, Wang Chunyang couldn't help being inwardly shocked.

This kid's speed... even with my full effort, I could barely keep up.

And he was even carrying Helian Rong.

Could it be that his speed was even faster than mine?

Wang Chunyang was somewhat unsettled.

Ratatatat...

Boom boom boom!!!

A barrage of gunfire rang out, bullets sweeping towards the three like rain, but the trio moved too quickly, nearly all the shots trailing behind them.

Some clever shooters fired ahead of their path to block their way, but with Yang Fei and Wang Chunyang waving a stick and a sword respectively, combined with the protection of Protective Gang Qi, the few bullets that could lock onto them posed no threat whatsoever.

It might seem like a long story, but from the moment the individuals appeared and charged toward the summit to when they reached just below the transmission channel, less than a minute had passed.

When Helian Zhan attacked and destroyed the helicopter, drawing the attention of most other helicopters, the trio took advantage of the gap to reach the bottom of the transmission channel.

They didn't engage in battle, nor did they hesitate for a second; Yang Fei with Helian Rong soared into the sky, charging toward the channel entrance.

Wang Chunyang followed immediately, his sword flashing silver in his hand, fending off the heavy gunfire.

The next instant, he also disappeared into the chaotic void above, vanishing from sight.

On the other side, as Helian Zhan was drawing fire, he moved closer to the summit. When he saw that Yang Fei and the other two had safely entered the passage, he no longer lingered. With his strong telekinesis, he harnessed the power between heaven and earth beneath him, traversed through the void, and flew directly below the entrance of the passage before disappearing into it.

Gunfire atop Meishan Mountain ceased abruptly.

All the special forces and the Martial Arts experts from the National Security Department stationed there stared blankly at the transport passage, speechless for a long time.

It's just so bullying.

Coming and going as they please!

Do they think this place is a public toilet?

Yet, what overwhelmed them even more was a deep shock and a sense of powerlessness.

These top-tier powerhouses were just too formidable, their speed too fast. Unless they were locked on with concentrated fire, there was basically no way to harm them.

Especially when they had no intention of lingering in battle but were solely focused on making their escape, the stationed troops simply couldn't hold them back.

Chu Tianxing took a deep breath and said to Zhang Qingyang, "We'll leave this place under your care, National Security Department. Defend it well."

Zhang Qingyang's face was bitter, and inwardly he just wanted to curse.

How the hell are we supposed to defend this?

Chu Tianxing understood his predicament, patted his shoulder gently, and scorned, "Zhuge and the Duanmu Family are simply too foolish. Such an important transport passage, yet they didn't leave any top-tier fighters to guard it! If even one top-tier combatant had been left here, with our cooperation, the enemy could not have been so arrogant."

"Indeed," Zhang Qingyang couldn't help but join the complaint.

Chu Tianxing patted his shoulder again and said, "Don't worry, Brother Zhang. I understand the difficulty of your position and will speak on your behalf. As the commander of the Imperial Capital Guard Army, I'm needed in many places and won't linger here any longer. Farewell."

After finishing his words, he didn't hesitate, boarded a helicopter, and took the majority of the troops with him as they left.

Watching the dozens of helicopters departing, Zhang Qingyang's mouth twitched, and he ultimately couldn't help it, cursing, "What kind of people are these? Can they really get things done like this?"

"Sigh!"

The rest of the National Security Department personnel also shook their heads and sighed.

One person said with a heavy heart, "We just received news to move our families to underground military bunkers, fearing there will be a major action in the south. We thought, with the support of the Hidden Sect's power, we had an absolute advantage, but now it seems that in both the worldly powers' stand-off and the Hidden Sect's side, things are not going as smoothly as we hoped."

"That's right, the key lies with the Hidden Sect. If the Hidden Sect forces supporting us don't ultimately prevail, I'm afraid the situation will turn unfavorable for us."

"It's all too hasty!"

"Indeed, that lightning-fast strike, even surrounded by heavy troops, still allowed the elite of the Military Department to escape, particularly not capturing any of the influential people from the Qin Family."

The crowd joined in the chorus of complaints, their faces marked with obvious worry.

...

As night fell, the intense battle that had erupted in Meishan during the day had nonetheless become known to the general public, with many remotely captured video images being exposed.

The people of Imperial City were in a state of restlessness.

Particularly, it caused panic when news came out that many relatives of important military officers and politicians had been moved to safer military bases, which rapidly spread from Imperial City to the surrounding areas.

Most of the ordinary people indeed knew nothing, but with the upper echelons making such significant moves, members within the middle and lower tiers of the system, as well as some well-informed individuals, could still get wind of it.

The movement of so many people, such a big commotion, couldn't be completely concealed. Relatives of some high-level officials invariably would have close friends, and an unintentional kind reminder could expose a lot of information.

A melancholic, defeatist, and depressed mood spread rapidly within the regions controlled by the Chu, Sun, Duanmu, and Ning families, among others. People were anxious, and many middle and lower-tier individuals, thinking themselves abandoned, secretly made their own choices.

One mistake leads to another.

The moment Zhuge, Duanmu, and other factions rashly decided to deal with the threat within the Hidden Sect first, without taking into account the secular world of Divine Continent, they doomed the balance of victory to tip.

Against this backdrop of tension and panic, Qin Yanyang, leading twenty elite fighters from the Military Department, infiltrated Imperial City under the cover of night.

Chapter 730: Change in Strategic Thinking

Imperial City, within a courtyard house.

This courtyard house, located in the Second Ring, boasts an excellent location.

Despite the extensive grounds of the courtyard house, only an elderly couple past their eighties remain to watch over it.

At night, lights are still on in the courtyard house. From the outside, one could occasionally glimpse the silhouettes of the two old people moving about.

A massive underground chamber is hidden beneath this spacious courtyard house.

After Qin Yanyang secretly entered Imperial City with the elite of the Military Department, his first stop was here.

The gray-haired host of the courtyard house, who seemed senile to outsiders, stood in front of Qin Yanyang, full of vigor, his face radiant, with occasional flashes of wise light bursting from his eyes.

His expression slightly excited, he looked at Qin Yanyang and said, "It's been a full fifty-seven years. Who would have thought that we, an old couple, would still find ourselves useful, alas."

Qin Yanyang looked at the elderly man with a gentle expression, apologizing, "I'm sorry, Grandpa Zhou, for disturbing you at such an advanced age."

The old man was named Zhou Xueqing, a second-generation intelligence worker of the Divine Continent, once leading the Divine Continent Intelligence Bureau and controlling the entire internal intelligence system of the Divine Continent.

His spouse also was an excellent intelligence worker; the couple was once renowned and feared by many in the country.

But at that time, Zhou Xueqing and his wife would hardly show their true faces, and in the Martial Arts World, they were respectfully referred to as the Hundred Transformation Double Killers.

For the cause of the Divine Continent, the couple had lost two children, and afterward they decided not to have any more children. In private, however, Qin Fangzheng referred to the old couple as "second father" and "second mother," and among the third generation of the Qin Family, only Qin Yanyang knew the couple well.

"The things you're looking for should all be in here. However, they're not comprehensive, and I don't know if they'll be of any use to you. After all, three years ago, under your grandfather's direction, we began to wind down the entire intelligence system," Zhou Xueqing told Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang said, "They'll be of great use. With Grandpa Zhou's help, the fragmentation of the Divine Continent will soon come to an end."

Hearing this, Zhou Xueqing slowly nodded, his expression serious as he addressed Qin Yanyang, "Child, you must not disappoint me, nor let the billions of the Divine Continent people down. The Divine Continent has always been a unified country, and although the current crisis emerged suddenly, the cause of the Divine Continent's fragmentation is not only due to the ambitious factions like the Chu Family, the Sun Family, the Ning Family, and the Duanmu Family, but also due to your unavoidable responsibility. If you cannot restore the unification of the Divine Continent at an early time, you, your whole family, will become sinners in the history of the Divine Continent."

Qin Yanyang nodded firmly, "Grandpa, rest assured, I definitely will not let you down. Moreover, I can assure you, whether or not this operation is successful, I will not allow the situation of the Divine Continent's fragmentation to continue any longer."

Upon hearing this, Zhou Xueqing's expression changed drastically.

In the underground chamber, several elite members of the Military Department, who had originally been carefully reviewing intelligence materials with full concentration, also showed a change in their expressions and cast a complex glance at her after hearing Qin Yanyang's words.

Zhou Xueqing swept his gaze around, keenly noticing the change in the expressions of several people, and slowly shook his head, speaking to Qin Yanyang in a heavy voice, "Girl, the Qin Family now does not just represent your family. The Qin Family was able to escape this disaster and garner the support of so many people, holding their own against the Chu Family and Ning Family factions with the help of the Hidden Sect,

not only because of your grandfather's respectability, your own selfless public spirit, and your family's just and benevolent manner, but also because those who support you believe that only by following you can this country become better, stronger, and, at the same time, they too can reap huge benefits after the success of the cause.

So now your decisions affect not only you and the future of the Qin Family but also the future of a large group of people who support you.

If you can't move forward, they will push you from behind.

As long as you strive and toil, even if they know that peril lies ahead, they will follow closely; but if you think of surrendering without a fight, they will deliver the harshest blow to ensure the Qin Family's downfall.

In the current situation, the Qin Family no longer has a retreat; they can only march forward and achieve ultimate victory."

Facing Zhou Xueqing's stern gaze, Qin Yanyang was silent for a moment before slowly nodding, "Thank you for the reminder, Grandpa Zhou. Yanyang understands what needs to be done."

Zhou Xueqing's words were not beyond her consideration, but after the fragmentation of the Divine Continent, the pressure on her was simply too great.

She felt that if she had not led the Military Department in resistance, if she had not fled, without the Qin Family banner, perhaps the Western, Southern, and Eastern War Zones would not have united to counter the upheaval initiated by the Chu Family Faction.

Although this meant that the Hidden Sect effectively controlled the Divine Continent, at least the Divine Continent was in a state of unified governance.

It was precisely because of the existence of the Qin Family that many people saw hope in the struggle, thus leading to the current state of the Divine Continent.

Since the incident, Qin Yanyang had been under immense pressure, her conscience and soul constantly bearing the silent condemnation.

Even though she said this, deep down she was still facing tremendous pressure.

But with Zhou Xueqing's words, her belief was even more resolute.

At this point, she, the Qin Family, had no way out and could only move forward.

Then charge ahead with courage!

Two full hours later, the people of the Military Department who had been going through intelligence reports compiled a series of information and reported it one by one to Qin Yanyang.



In the end, Qin Yanyang said, "I hadn't expected they'd anticipate our assassination plan and transfer all the key figures to military strongholds in the war zones. After all, we only have so few people, we can't attack military fortresses."

"What do we do then? If they keep hiding, did we come here for nothing?" Xiang Yunfei couldn't help but say.

Another person suggested, "Deep Blue Prison?"

Immediately, someone objected, "Even if we could break into Deep Blue Prison, we can't ensure the safety of the hostages. There are simply too many of them. Moreover, even if we rescue all the hostages, the target would be too large. How would we leave Imperial City?"

For a moment, there was a flurry of discussion among the people.

They had traveled a long distance from the Western War Zone to Imperial City, thinking they could carry out a stealthy assassination operation, only to find out that the enemy had guessed this move and extremely cautious, had all high-level targets go into hiding.

This put Qin Yanyang and the others in a dilemma.

If they lingered in Imperial City, once discovered, they could very likely be the target of enemy encirclement and suppressive attacks.

And now that they were here, retreating without doing anything was very much unwilling.

Moreover, with the enemy's important members all relocated, the current Imperial City could be said to be in a very vulnerable state, giving them the illusion that they could do a lot. But upon closer inspection, they found they couldn't actually do anything.

After all, even though the enemy's high command had all relocated, their ability to command the various departments remained, and once Qin Yanyang and others were exposed, the enemy might spare no expense in launching a devastating counterattack.

"Girl, you could consider changing your approach," Zhou Xueqing had been listening to everyone's discussion, and seeing that they couldn't come to any conclusion and were caught in a catch-22, he suddenly said to Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang quickly looked at him, "Please, Grandpa Zhou, give your guidance."

Zhou Xueqing said, "Them hiding away, rendering your assassination operation unfeasible, will indeed lead to a missed strike, like throwing a punch into cotton. But have you considered that in doing so, they actually played a terrible move that stinks to high heaven?"

Qin Yanyang tried to maintain the clearest state of mind, thinking along the lines Zhou Xueqing had hinted at.

Zhou Xueqing reminded her again, "They only relocated those they consider important high-level officials. It's impossible to move everyone. This breaks their people's morale."

A glint of understanding flashed in Yanyang's eyes as if she had grasped onto something crucial.

A moment later, she looked at Zhou Xueqing and said, "Grandpa Zhou means that I should change my perspective, not focus on their high command, but start disintegrating them from the grassroots level?"

"Just like the old instructor's strategy of rural areas surrounding the city," Zhou Xueqing said with a chuckle.

Enlightened, Qin Yanyang gratefully said, "Thank you for the advice, Grandpa Zhou. Now I know what to do."