

Primordial 501

Chapter 501: Cultivating the Seven Killings Sword Array

"Are you sick? Get lost!"

Lin Chen looked at Fang Xiaoya and cursed her, then walked directly towards the cultivation room.

"You..."

"Seeking death!"

Fang Xiaoya never expected that Lin Chen would ignore her demand, let alone dare to scold her.

Immediately, she became angry and raised her hand, a burst of flames appeared in her palm, and she struck towards Lin Chen.

Seeing this, Lin Chen's expression changed instantly.

Boom —

Lin Chen immediately countered, a Fiery Palm Strike shot out, colliding with the woman's attack.

In an instant, two bursts of flames exploded within the tower, making a huge noise.

"This guy is really blind, he actually dares to make a move on Fang Xiaoya."

"What's the big deal? You only know Fang Xiaoya, but you don't know who that guy is, it's still uncertain who would lose in this fight."

"In your opinion, does this man also have quite a background?"

"You'll find out soon."

The people around them watched the fight between Lin Chen and Fang Xiaoya and began to discuss among themselves.

Actually, Fang Xiaoya's strength was not that strong in the Inner Sect; even with her Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm cultivation, she was ranked around the 900s.

However, inside the Inner Sect, Fang Xiaoya had a powerful lover, he was a big shot ranked in the top hundred of the Inner Sect Pride List.

Therefore, in the Inner Sect, those ranked beyond a hundred seldom provoked Fang Xiaoya. No matter how unreasonable her demands and behaviors were towards them, they had to swallow their pride and bear it.

"I didn't expect you to also cultivate fire-attribute techniques. I want to see whose Flame Palm is stronger."

Seeing that Lin Chen also used a fiery Palm Wind just like hers, Fang Xiaoya's competitive spirit flared up immediately.

Then, Fang Xiaoya struck again with her palm, attacking Lin Chen.

At that moment, the strong fire-attribute spiritual power erupted from Fang Xiaoya's hands. Her lips curled into a chilling smile, as if she had already seen Lin Chen defeated on the ground, wailing in agony as his body was scorched to a crisp by flames.

"It seems I went too easy on you, which was my mistake."

Seeing Fang Xiaoya attack so fiercely, Lin Chen no longer held back his strength. The Fiery Palm Strike reappeared in his hand, and this time he stacked all nine layers of the Ninefold Palm Wind.

Boom —

Fang Xiaoya flew out like a cannonball, striking a wall with a loud noise.

It should be known that Lin Chen had now cultivated the Scorching Sun Divine Fist to the Fifth Level Great Achievement. His physical strength was incredibly formidable. This punch, with just the physical strength alone, was enough for Fang Xiaoya to endure; it also contained the power of the Ninth Layer Fiery Palm Strike.

At this moment, flames blazed on Fang Xiaoya's body, burning her clothes away. It suddenly revealed more than intended, giving many nearby people an eyeful.

"You wait for me, I will make you regret what you did to me today."

After Fang Xiaoya extinguished the flames on her body, she took out a set of clothes to put on, and then left the place in a sorry state.

With severe injuries, Fang Xiaoya limped away.

Today was indeed a huge loss for her. Not only was she seriously injured and exposed in front of so many people, but the Earth Grade Top-Tier Defensive Soft Armor she was wearing was also shattered by Lin Chen's force. Otherwise, without the protection of the soft armor, she might have died at Lin Chen's hands.

Fang Xiaoya bit her lip tightly, vowing that Lin Chen would pay a heavy price for today's humiliation.

At this moment, the people around them discussed the battle between Lin Chen and Fang Xiaoya even more after witnessing it.

And the attendant who had pointed Lin Chen out to Fang Xiaoya frowned and took a few more glances at Lin Chen, feeling somewhat guilty.

From the conversations of the people around, Lin Chen learned that Fang Xiaoya had a powerful lover, who was actually ranked in the top hundred on the Inner Sect Pride List.

This immediately caused Lin Chen some headaches. If that guy named Qiu Haoquan came looking for him, it seemed that Lin Chen would only be able to resolve this crisis by using the Divine Fire Troop Killing Array combined with the Explosive Flame Talisman and having the Explosive Dragon Killing Formation prepared in advance.

In the Formation Sect, killing a member of the Heavenly Pride was a grave sin, but if Lin Chen stayed in his own residence and the other party came looking for trouble, killing them would then be another matter.

But Lin Chen was not going to think too much about that right now. The most important thing was to improve his strength as quickly as possible.

If he could successfully master the Seven Killings Sword Array and pair it with a finely crafted sword, he might not need those killing formations, and could use the Seven Killings Sword Array to defeat his enemies just as well.

Scuttle, scuttle, scuttle —

In the Medium Grade Cultivation Room, after a month of cultivation, Lin Chen finally learned to control seven Flying Swords and could barely bring out some power of the Seven Killings Sword Array.

Afterward, Lin Chen stepped out of the cultivation room, not because he did not want to continue cultivating, but because he could no longer afford the contribution value.

Chapter 502: Accepting the Mission

When Lin Chen returned to his dwelling, he found to his surprise that Chang Bai was already there waiting for him with a sword in hand.

"This guy, his cultivation has also broken through a lot during this period."

Lin Chen's eyes landed on Chang Bai, sensing the strong aura emanating from him, and felt an inward shock.

Lin Chen was very clear about Chang Bai's reason for being there, especially since the killing intent radiating from Chang Bai was unmistakable.

However, even if Chang Bai was strong, Lin Chen's residence was surrounded by a Killing Formation. Once activated, it could unleash tremendous power, so Lin Chen naturally wouldn't fear Chang Bai.

Swoosh, swoosh—

At that moment, Chang Bai made his move, clenching his sword and launching an attack on Lin Chen.

Upon seeing this, Lin Chen also summoned the Fiery Flame Sword and engaged in a fight with Chang Bai.

The clash between the two, the Spiritual Power released, and the Sword Qi unleashed, immediately caught the attention of many disciples within the Formation Sect, with numerous flying over to Lin Chen's cave dwelling to watch the spectacle.

However, no one dared to get too close, since the range of the fighters' powers was vast. If either of them was careless, they could get injured by the Sword Qi, and even face death.

After exchanging blows for a while, Lin Chen realized that Chang Bai's strength was, indeed, above his own. Even with a Natural Sword Body, he was no match for Chang Bai.

At this moment, Chang Bai infused his swordsmanship with Cold Ice Power once more, and instantly, countless chills and cold air formed in the space outside Lin Chen's dwelling.

Seeing this, Lin Chen didn't dare to be negligent, and with a great gesture, he summoned seven Flying Swords. Under his control, they formed into a Seven Killings Sword Array.

The showdown of their Killing Moves would determine the victor.

However, just at this moment, a Sword Light descended from the sky. A cyan Treasured Sword landed between Lin Chen and Chang Bai, dispersing the aura bursting forth from both of them instantly.

Mu Qianqiu descended slowly from above and stood between them.

"What are you fighting for, don't you know the impact this causes on our sect?"

"If you want to settle your differences, go to the Duel Platform. If I find you two fighting again, you will face sect discipline."

"Also, because of your battle, you've destroyed many of the nearby buildings. The stewards will come to you later for the repair fines."

Mu Qianqiu gave Chang Bai a profound look, her words clearly directed at him, because the confrontation had taken place at Lin Chen's dwelling, making Chang Bai the challenger.

Mu Qianqiu had long kept an eye on both Lin Chen and Chang Bai, knowing full well they didn't get along.

When the two had started fighting, she hadn't rushed to stop them right away, wanting to see for herself just how much these two strongest contenders of their generation had progressed in this time.

However, the more they fought, the more desperate their struggle, and Mu Qianqiu had no choice but to intervene.

Chang Bai gave Lin Chen a displeased look, his eyes still filled with chilly murderous intent.

Watching Chang Bai walk away, Lin Chen felt the pressure mounting inside him. That guy had indeed extraordinary talent. Even when Lin Chen had deployed the Seven Killings Sword Array, at most he would only be able to fight Chang Bai to a draw.

The next day, sure enough, a Law Enforcement Disciple came looking for Lin Chen, demanding he pay a fine of five hundred Contribution Value points.

Lin Chen immediately protested; the buildings had not been destroyed by him alone. Moreover, if Chang Bai had not come to challenge him, Lin Chen wouldn't have caused any of that destruction.

However, his protests were useless, because Chang Bai had been fined a full one thousand Contribution Value points.

Upon hearing this explanation, Lin Chen felt somewhat better and had no choice but to hand over the five hundred Contribution Value points.

Although he had become an Inner Sect Disciple, with a monthly allocation of one thousand Contribution Value points for cultivation resources, and even more for those within the first thousand of the Pride List, losing a full five hundred points still pained Lin Chen greatly.

After handing over the five hundred Contribution Value points, Lin Chen was once again left penniless.

Having no other option, Lin Chen had to honestly take on tasks assigned by the sect.

From among the many tasks available within the Formation Sect, Lin Chen finally chose one to repair an Array Formation.

It turned out that some ancient arrays of the Formation Sect had fallen into disrepair over the years, substantially reducing their effectiveness and requiring a martial artist skilled in Formation to repair them.

However, the competition within the Formation Sect was severe, and many disciples only thought about how to advance their cultivation and climb the ranks on the Pride List. Very few would undertake a task like repairing an array.

Even though the rewards were generous, not only did it offer five hundred Contribution Value points, but it also included a chance to cultivate within the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

The so-called Five Elements Glaze Tower was not merely a place of cultivation like the cultivation rooms, but a tower charged with the Power of the Five Elements which could be used to refine both the body and Spiritual Power of martial artists.

Typically, only the Heavenly Prides of the Inner Sect would train there, as each entry consumed five hundred Contribution Value points.

Chapter 503: Repairing the Formation, Cultivating Below the Tower

Lin Chen completed his task and then headed to the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

"Brother Lin actually understands the way of formation?"

The deacon disciple at the registration desk was slightly surprised when he learned that Lin Chen had come to repair the formation.

Because to practice the formations inside the Five Elements Glaze Tower required a high level of mastery in array formation.

"I know a thing or two."

Lin Chen looked at the deacon disciple and humbly said.

"Heh, a thing or two won't do. To repair this formation, you need at least the skills of a Fourth Grade Formation Master. If you don't have such skills, brother, please leave."

"While the Five Elements Glaze Tower is still operational, if it ceased to function completely after your repair, could you bear that responsibility?"

Lin Chen was merely being modest, yet another deacon disciple working within the Five Elements Glaze Tower immediately rolled his eyes at Lin Chen, speaking disdainfully.

Hearing this, Lin Chen immediately frowned.

He had not expected that despite the tower itself issuing the task, with no specifications in the task detailing what grade of formation master was needed for repair, now that he had arrived, he was being treated with such contempt.

"This shoddy formation can be fixed by me with a wave of my hand; isn't it a task issued by you? Now you're being overly critical of me, are you ill or something?"

Lin Chen coldly glanced at the female deacon who had snubbed him. Her cultivation was merely at the First Level of Reverting Void Realm, someone whom Lin Chen could easily kill with a punch. He could tell at a glance that she was of the same ilk as Fang Xiaoya, and thus spoke without any courtesy.

"A shoddy formation? You dare to say that the Five Elements Spirit Formation arranged by the seven Great Elders of the Formation Sect is shoddy? You've got quite the audacity."

"You're the one who took the task, aren't you? Now, I really want to see what skills you have to repair it."

Without paying attention to the woman's rage, Lin Chen simply followed the other deacons to the place in the Five Elements Glaze Tower that needed repair.

Upon entering the interior of the Five Elements Glaze Tower, Lin Chen noticed that the tower was built on top of a Spiritual Spring, which constantly leaked spiritual energy from underneath. Therefore, the Formation Sect rebuilt the Five Elements Glaze Tower and added a formation, allowing the interior to be filled with the Five Elements Spiritual Energy.

The Spiritual Spring erupted from unknown depths underground, inherently containing the Power of the Five Elements. The purpose of the Five Elements Glaze Tower was merely to dilute and accelerate the absorption of spiritual power and distribute it across each tower layer accordingly.

Lin Chen arrived at the breach in the formation and, without hesitation, began to work.

The materials needed for repairing the formation were provided by the Law Enforcement Disciple. With a wave of his hand, Lin Chen lifted all the materials with his Soul Power, then began to arrange them precisely. The materials flawlessly found their place in the gap of the formation. With runes forming and merging into the materials, in a short while, the formation started to operate perfectly.

"It's fixed, and the task is complete. Now I can receive my Contribution Value reward and enter the Five Elements Glaze Tower to cultivate, right?"

Lin Chen dusted off his hands, looking indifferently at the people behind him.

The deacon disciple looked at the formation that was now operating normally, utterly shocked internally.

Even if an Elder from the Sect came to repair the formation, it certainly wouldn't be possible to fix it so quickly. Yet how much time did Lin Chen take to repair the formation?

"We were blind fools. We have offended brother earlier; please forgive us. Here is the Jade Slip for entering and cultivating inside the Five Elements Glaze Tower. Please, brother, take it. However, the time for cultivation inside is only one day; please be aware of this," said the deacon disciple.

Upon saying this, the deacon disciple handed a Jade Slip to Lin Chen, while the female companion beside him was still not recovered from the shock of Lin Chen's repair speed.

Lin Chen took the Jade Slip, nodded, and then entered the Five Elements Glaze Tower to start cultivating.

Spiritual Light flickered over his body as countless dazzling Golden Lights rose from the surface of Lin Chen's skin.

The Five Elements Glaze Tower had a total of seven levels. Strangely enough, the four upper levels, where the formations were operating, could not be used for cultivation. The only layers that could truly be used for cultivation were the three levels that went underground.

Ordinary disciples from the Pride List could only cultivate in the underground first level under the burden of the Five Elements power. As for the disciples in the top five hundred of the Pride List, they could endure the power of the second level underground.

As for the third level underground, only those in the top ten of the Pride List could withstand it.

However, Lin Chen directly made his way to the third level underground in one go. The Five Elements Spiritual Power was indeed immensely dense around him, exactly what Lin Chen needed most.

The Power of the Five Elements was greatly beneficial for cultivating the Scorching Sun Divine Fist. As Lin Chen cultivated, the Scorching Sun Divine Fist showed signs of breaking through to the Sixth Level.

However, just as Lin Chen was cultivating, a voluptuous woman with long blonde hair and a short skirt arrived at the registration desk outside the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

"Senior sister Qin has arrived!"

Upon seeing Qin Yushuang's arrival, the deacon disciple immediately put on a flattering face and went up to greet her.

Chapter 504: I Was Clearly Here First

Qin Yushuang nodded slightly at the enthusiastic Law Enforcement Disciples and, after completing the registration, she set out for the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

Qin Yushuang, ranked ninth on the Inner Sect Pride List for her exceptional strength, visited the Five Elements Glaze Tower to cultivate almost every month.

"Oh no, I forgot to tell senior sister Qin about the brother who was repairing the Array Formation inside the Five Elements Glaze Tower."

"Senior sister Qin often goes to the lowest level to cultivate, where she soaks in the Spiritual Pool absorbing the Power of the Five Elements. What if she encounters that guy, could it be..."

"What are you imagining? Whether that person from before is even among the top ranks of the Pride List is uncertain. His cultivation is merely at the Heaven-reaching Realm. How could his body withstand going to the third floor?"

At that moment, after Qin Yushuang had entered the Five Elements Glaze Tower, the Deacon Disciples at the registration point started discussing immediately.

The female deacon, who was previously unfriendly to Lin Chen, now spoke indifferently.

Hearing this, the other deacons secretly thought that there might be some truth to her words.

But if Lin Chen wasn't one of the top disciples on the Pride List, how could he have repaired the Array Formation so swiftly and flawlessly?

No one could figure it out, and at this time, Qin Yushuang had already arrived at the third floor of the Five Elements Glaze Tower's lower levels and was approaching the Spiritual Pool.

The Spiritual Pool was a natural pond on the third floor, formed by the convergence of the Five Element Spiritual Energy gushing from the spring below.

Qin Yushuang arrived at the edge of the Spiritual Pool and immediately shed her clothes, planning to take a deep soak in the pool to absorb the Power of the Five Elements.

For ordinary Martial Artists, the intense Power of the Five Elements in the pool would be too much for their bodies to bear, making it difficult to absorb.

But for Qin Yushuang, it was an excellent tonic. Although she could only withstand soaking a few times each month, otherwise her body would not be able to absorb it.

"Ah... who are you, and what are you doing here!"

"Lin Chen, it's you, you rascal! I didn't expect you to be such a pervert."

As soon as Qin Yushuang stepped into the pool, she discovered a man lying quietly within, his body shimmering with Golden Light, absorbing the Power of the Five Elements into Lin Chen's body.

From a distance, due to the mist and thick smoke over the pool, Qin Yushuang hadn't noticed Lin Chen's presence in the pool.

It was only when she entered the pool that she found out.

Swoosh—

Seeing Lin Chen also lying naked in the pool, Qin Yushuang did not hesitate; a sword appeared in her hand, and she immediately stabbed at Lin Chen.

"Are you crazy? I was just practicing here; how does that make me a pervert?"

"I was obviously here first. You are the one who stripped off and came in; now you think you're right?"

Lin Chen dodged Qin Yushuang's attacks while shouting loudly.

With a gesture, Lin Chen harnessed the Spiritual Light and struck out with his palm. The Five Element Spiritual Energy in the pool was mobilized by Lin Chen, launching an assault towards Qin Yushuang.

The power within the Spiritual Pool was terrifying, instantly knocking Qin Yushuang back, but Lin Chen was careful with the force, not injuring her.

"How can you mobilize the Power of the Five Elements here? Could it be that you also participated in setting up the formations inside the Five Elements Glaze Tower?"

After being repelled by the power, Qin Yushuang looked at Lin Chen incredulously, blurting out the question instinctively.

But then she thought it impossible because Lin Chen had only arrived at the Formation Sect three months ago, so how could he have taken part in setting up the tower's formations.

"This is my secret. Did Senior Sister Qin come in without clothes just to ask about this?"

Lin Chen looked unwaveringly at Qin Yushuang, grinning.

"You shameless creature, stop looking..."

Qin Yushuang shouted, and with a leap, she rose from the pool and retreated, quickly getting dressed.

Practicing here today was no longer possible. Traditionally, only the top ten on the Inner Sect Pride List could come to this third floor, and Qin Yushuang knew that those few were not currently back at the Sect, so she thought there was no one on this floor.

Moreover, if someone had really been there, those registering disciples should have warned her.

However, Qin Yushuang was unaware that the female deacon at the registration was deliberately doing this, intending to use Qin Yushuang to teach Lin Chen a lesson.

Qin Yushuang walked out of the Five Elements Glaze Tower, threatening Lin Chen that if anyone heard of today's event, she would dig out Lin Chen's eyes.

After saying that, Qin Yushuang left with a flushed face; after all, anyone who was seen naked would not be able to stay calm.

Qin Yushuang walked out of the Five Elements Glaze Tower but did not see those two registering deacons and left in anger, secretly thinking that the next time she saw those two, she would definitely teach them a good lesson.

"What a crazy woman, she came in so inexplicably and called me a pervert. I thought she came to see me," Lin Chen said to himself.

"But I must say, that woman has a really good figure..."

Lin Chen smiled faintly and resumed his cultivation. It wasn't until a day had passed that he left the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

Upon leaving, Lin Chen went to find the two deacons from earlier but couldn't find them.

Clearly, those two disciples were intentionally avoiding him.

However, Lin Chen was not someone to be trifled with, as it was always he who tricked others, and not the other way around.

So, Lin Chen immediately began to inquire about the whereabouts of those two Deacon Disciples within the Inner Sect.

At the Formation Sect Outer Sect, in a secluded mountain peak.

The two Deacon Disciples who had registered at the Five Elements Glaze Tower took leave, planning to lay low on this inconspicuous mountain to avoid trouble, but the sudden appearance of a figure startled them.

"Lin... Senior Brother Lin, what... what are you doing here!?"

The two Deacon Disciples, frightened by Lin Chen's arrival, involuntarily stepped back.

They only found out later that Lin Chen was the notorious Lin the Rascal within the Inner Sect.

Having provoked Lin Chen, they feared there would be dire consequences.

Chapter 505: Outward Mission

"It's nothing, just wanted to discuss and exchange insights with the two of you,"

Lin Chen didn't beat around the bush. Although the man and woman before him were both at the Reverting Void Realm in their cultivation, Lin Chen was not in the least afraid.

An hour later, Lin Chen stripped both individuals of their clothes and treasures, leaving satisfied.

Watching Lin Chen's retreating back, the two Deacon Disciples felt like crying without tears, ruefully thinking that if only they had known this would happen, they wouldn't have offended Lin Chen.

After looting the treasures from the two, Lin Chen headed back to his dwelling.

However, when Lin Chen arrived at the entrance to his cave dwelling, he saw Qin Kaifeng standing outside with a bruised face, seemingly waiting for him.

"Brother Lin, what did you do to my sister? When she came back, she went crazy, beat me up, and said that I made a bad friend, telling me to stay away from you in the future,"

Qin Kaifeng held his cheek, a puzzled look on his face as he stared at Lin Chen.

In response, Lin Chen simply shook his head lightly, choosing not to reveal what had happened in the Five Elements Glaze Tower.

As a joke, if others found out about the incident, who knew what that crazy woman Qin Yushuang might do.

Seeing that Lin Chen had no intention of elaborating, Qin Kaifeng could only swallow his grievances alone.

"By the way, Brother Lin, Xia Wanxin and Ouyang Xuan are preparing to go on a mission to gain some experience. Do you want to join them?"

Qin Kaifeng looked at Lin Chen with interest and shared some news.

The so-called mission outside was basically for self-improvement while earning some sect contribution points.

However, these contribution points were generally not substantial, depending on the level of the mission.

"What mission, to where?"

Lin Chen asked Qin Kaifeng with keen interest. Lin Chen's current cultivation was at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, only a step away from the Reverting Void Realm. Perhaps an outside mission could provide an opportunity for a breakthrough.

"To the Qingmu Kingdom, to investigate several murder cases. Recently, there have been successive deaths among the royal martial artists in the Qingmu Kingdom, and they suspect assassinations,"

Qin Kaifeng informed him.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen furrowed his brow and immediately became interested.

As Qingmu Kingdom was a Second-Rank Vassal State affiliated with the Formation Sect, the assassination of royal martial artists should be a significant matter, and with the high danger involved, it was unlikely that only a few new disciples would be sent.

"Don't worry, it's not just a few of us on this mission. He Ye and Cheng Huan will be there too,"

Qin Kaifeng explained right away upon seeing the anxiety on Lin Chen's face.

Hearing this, Lin Chen felt more at ease. He Ye and Cheng Huan were both among the top one hundred martial artists in the Inner Sect Pride List, with He Ye at ninety-sixth and Cheng Huan at ninetieth. With these two ranked within the top hundred on the list, there was less fear of something going wrong.

While Lin Chen and Qin Kaifeng were talking, suddenly two more figures flew towards Lin Chen's cave dwelling—it was Xia Wanxin and Ouyang Xuan.

The two had also come to invite Lin Chen.

Seeing this, Lin Chen agreed and the four of them decided to set off in two days.

After that, Lin Chen returned to his cave dwelling, planning to refine some elixirs and Talisman Inscriptions during these two days to carry with him.

Because Lin Chen's Divine Soul had grown stronger, and with access to many Fifth-Grade Materials within the Formation Sect, he managed to refine quite a few Pseudo Fifth-grade Talismans and elixirs this time.

Time flew by, and the two days passed in a blink.

Lin Chen arrived at the high wall in the territory of the Formation Sect Outer disciple, according to their arrangement. Qin Kaifeng and the others had been waiting there for some time.

As Lin Chen approached and looked up, he saw not only familiar faces like Qin Kaifeng, Xia Wanxin, and Ouyang Xuan but also He Ye in a traveler's outfit and Cheng Huan in a conservative pink dress. Besides them, there were three other Inner Sect Disciples of the Formation Sect.

Lin Chen was unfamiliar with these three, but judging by their aura, they were seventh level of the Reverting Void realm martial artists, strong in their own right, probably ranked within the top five hundred of the Pride List.

"Who are you, and what are you doing in our team?"

As Lin Chen leapt into the group, Cheng Huan immediately frowned at him and asked in bewilderment.

"Little brother, you must have entered the wrong place and joined the wrong team."

With Cheng Huan's words, the three Formation Sect disciples behind her burst into laughter, their gazes filled with contempt as they looked at Lin Chen.

Lin Chen's cultivation was, after all, only at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, which, even with extraordinary talent, did not qualify him to be part of their team.

Cheng Huan had been in seclusion until recently, coming out only to take on this mission, and was unaware of the recent events in the Formation Sect, including Lin Chen's current reputation within the Inner Sect.

"Cousin Sister, this is the friend I told you about. He's the one I invited,"

Xia Wanxin had never expected Cheng Huan to have such a big prejudice against Lin Chen.

Knowing Lin Chen's temper, if he got angry and decided not to participate at all, that would be problematic.

So Xia Wanxin immediately came beside Lin Chen and introduced him to Cheng Huan.

"Cousin Sister, this is your first time traveling far. You may not recognize the true colors of some people; don't be deceived by their appearance. This guy is not someone we should involve in our team,"

Cheng Huan, surprised at Xia Wanxin's strong concern for Lin Chen, whom she'd never seen show such interest in a man before, feared that Xia Wanxin had been deceived by Lin Chen and outright decided to eliminate the chance of Lin Chen getting close to her.

After all, Xia Wanxin's status was obvious, many vied to get close to her, and Lin Chen, with his Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm cultivation, obviously seemed like a freeloader.

"Cousin Sister, Lin Chen is very powerful, and he has saved my life before,"

Xia Wanxin didn't understand why Cheng Huan harbored such prejudice against Lin Chen and immediately spoke up for him.

However, the more Xia Wanxin defended him, the more resolute Cheng Huan became about her opinion.

"So be it, let him join then. But boy, don't blame me for not warning you, stay away from my cousin sister. Your little tricks are transparent to me. Should you harbor any thoughts about her, you'll not get away with it,"

Chapter 506:

Lin Chen didn't take Cheng Huan's attitude to heart.

Then, everyone boarded a small flying boat and set off for the Qingmu Kingdom.

Ten days later, the flying boat arrived in the Qingmu Kingdom.

However, what was strange was that despite the Formation Sect having issued this task, there was no one from the Qingmu Kingdom to welcome them. It wasn't until He Ye and Cheng Huan released powerful auras that they caught the attention of the Qingmu Kingdom, and only then did someone come to receive them.

Upon inquiry, it turned out that the people of the Qingmu Kingdom did not want the Formation Sect to interfere in the matter at all, and it seemed that they had kept the issue a secret. It was very strange how the Formation Sect had found out about it in the first place.

But since they had already arrived, whether the Qingmu Kingdom liked it or not, He Ye, Cheng Huan, and the others would not return to the Sect until they had completed the task.

"Hmph, it's just a Second-Rank Vassal State, and yet when we arrived, there wasn't even a high-ranking official to greet us. Even after we revealed our identities, there was only one elder to receive us. This Qingmu Kingdom really thinks too highly of itself," Cheng Huan said, looking at the people of the Qingmu Kingdom with great dissatisfaction.

Not just her, He Ye and the other Heavenly Prides of the Inner Sect all had displeased expressions on their faces.

They were used to being exalted within the Formation Sect, and were unaccustomed to this kind of neglect.

"This matter is probably not as simple as it seems. The person who relayed the task to our Formation Sect is the Crown Prince of the Qingmu Kingdom, yet the person who received us was a mere subordinate. Something doesn't add up," He Ye speculated.

"Perhaps there's a conflict within the Qingmu Empire, which has led to this situation. It may not be that the Monarch of Qingmu does not wish to meet us, but rather that he may not be in a position to do so."

"We need to investigate further before taking any rash actions," Lin Chen frowned slightly as he expressed his opinion, but faced opposition from Cheng Huan.

"Investigate? Why should we investigate? Can't we simply go to the imperial palace and ask the Emperor of Qingmu?" Cheng Huan glanced at Lin Chen and spoke out immediately.

Cheng Huan never had much respect for Lin Chen, whose cultivation was modest. Listening to Lin Chen's opinion further confirmed her belief that he was incompetent.

Following that, Cheng Huan and He Ye led three Inner Sect Disciples of the Formation Sect towards the Grand Hall of the imperial palace.

Xia Wanxin, Qin Kaifeng, and Ouyang Xuan looked at Lin Chen, and seeing that he had no intention of moving, they inquired about his opinion.

"Asking Qing Xuan now will surely yield nothing; we might not even get to see his face."

"This matter can only start with Qing Wu, after all, it was he who initiated this task with the Formation Sect."

After Lin Chen shared his thoughts, Xia Wanxin and the others immediately agreed.

"So the place we are now heading to is not the Qiankun Hall of the Emperor, but the Crown Prince's Palace?" Xia Wanxin followed Lin Chen's lead and continued.

However, Lin Chen shook his head.

"The Crown Prince's Palace may not necessarily allow us to see the Crown Prince."

"No, it's more accurate to say we definitely won't see him. Since he was the one who made the task request to the Formation Sect, if he were free to come and go, he would have met us when our flying boat landed."

Lin Chen spoke calmly.

Upon hearing this, Xia Wanxin, Qin Kaifeng, and Ouyang Xuan immediately furrowed their brows.

"Brother Lin, are you suggesting that the Crown Prince has been put under house arrest?"

"Or perhaps, he has been killed?"

Qin Kaifeng and the others finally grasped the severity of the situation. This was not a simple case of a disappearance or assassination; it was likely an internal struggle within the Qingmu Empire.

Furthermore, there might be forces involved aside from the Formation Sect, such as the Moon Shadow Pavilion under the Red Soul Hall, as they were the most adept at handling such matters.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen nodded.

"Damned Qing Xuan, claiming to be ill and refusing to meet us."

"He thinks he is someone important? He's just a ruler of a Second-Rank Vassal State relying on the Formation Sect, yet he dares to refuse to meet us," Cheng Huan fumed with anger.

Soon, Cheng Huan, He Ye, and the others returned with faces flushed with anger, evidently not having met with the Emperor of the Qingmu Empire, just as Lin Chen had guessed.

Although the Qingmu Empire was a Second-Rank Vassal State under the Formation Sect, Qing Xuan, as the ruler of a nation, was not obligated to meet these Inner Sect Disciples.

If he had come to meet them, it would have been a sign of respect, giving them face, but if he chose not to meet them, there was nothing particularly improper about it.

After all, Cheng Huan and the others were merely Inner Sect Disciples, not Elders or Peak Masters of the Formation Sect.

While Cheng Huan and He Ye were returning, Ouyang Xuan, who had gone to the Crown Prince's Mansion upon hearing Lin Chen's words, also returned.

"No, according to the people at the Crown Prince's Mansion, the Crown Prince Qing Wu disappeared a month ago," Ouyang Xuan reported.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen immediately frowned, because a month ago was exactly when the Formation Sect had received the mission request from the Qingmu Empire.

"It seems this matter is more troublesome than we anticipated; we may even be in danger!" Lin Chen spoke softly, raising his head to survey the surroundings.

Hearing this, Qin Kaifeng, Cheng Huan, and the others also looked around. At some point, squads of soldiers had begun patrolling the area.

While it appeared to be a normal patrol, they never wandered more than ten miles away from Lin Chen and his group.

Clearly, these troops were there to monitor them, or perhaps even prepared to take action against Lin Chen and his comrades at any moment.

"Do you mean to say that the Qingmu Kingdom dares to make a move against us?" Cheng Huan frowned slightly, glancing at the distant soldiers and addressing Lin Chen.

In response to Cheng Huan's earlier disdain and her current reaction to his words, Lin Chen had fundamentally changed her opinion of him.

Chapter 507: Tentacle Demon

"It's still too early to say since they haven't made any moves yet."

Lin Chen spoke calmly, up until now, everything was merely his conjecture.

Cheng Huan and the others frowned, showing worried expressions.

Because Qingmu Kingdom was a Second-Rank Vassal State, there existed martial artists of the Heavenly Human Realm.

If they really had to prepare for the worst, and Qingmu Kingdom not only underwent internal strife but also decided to deal with the disciples of the Formation Sect who had arrived, then their current situation would be dangerous.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Lin Chen turned his head and looked towards the direction of the Qingmu Royal Palace.

"What is it?"

Cheng Huan and He Ye noticed Lin Chen's change and immediately asked, thinking Lin Chen had discovered something.

"It's nothing, it's getting late. Let's find a place to stay for the night."

"Something might happen tonight."

Lin Chen looked at the people around him and said with a faint smile, indicating something with his words.

Subsequently, everyone was accommodated by Qingmu Kingdom and settled in a residence not far from the Crown Prince's Mansion.

However, what Cheng Huan and the others did not know was that just now, Lin Chen turned his head towards the direction of the Qingmu Imperial Palace because he sensed a very familiar Yin Sha Qi.

Not long ago, inside the Qiankun Hall of the Qingmu Imperial Palace.

A general clad in iron armor knelt on one knee in the hall, exuding an extraordinary presence; he was actually a martial artist of the Ninth Layer of the Reverting Void Realm.

At this moment, sitting above on the royal throne, Qing Xuan wore a yellow robe; his gaze was cold as it fell upon the ironclad general.

"A month ago, you told me that you had taken care of everyone who could contact the Formation Sect, so why have the disciples of the Formation Sect now come here?"

Emperor Qing Xuan looked at the ironclad general and asked indifferently.

Upon hearing this, the ironclad general trembled slightly, unsure of how to defend himself.

However, the words that followed from Qing Xuan made the ironclad general's body shake even more violently.

"The Crown Prince isn't dead, right?"

"You let him go! Are you indeed my Protectorate Great General, or are you the Crown Prince Qing Wu's Great General?"

"I have not abdicated yet!"

Emperor Qing Xuan stood up from the throne and bellowed at the ironclad general below.

Upon hearing these words, the ironclad general immediately knelt with both knees on the ground.

"I was confused at that time and let the Crown Prince escape. My crime deserves death!"

The ironclad general pleaded for mercy.

"Deserve death? Indeed, you do."

Emperor Qing Xuan sat back on the throne slowly, knowing that things had come to this point, and the disciples of the Formation Sect had already arrived; getting angry now would be of no use.

The ironclad general thought that Emperor Qing Xuan would not blame him any further, but suddenly he felt a chilling power attacking from behind and quickly turned around, only to see a huge black demon atop the royal hall, unknown where it came from, swinging its numerous black tentacles.

If Lin Chen were here, he would surely recognize that these black tentacles were identical to the Blood Chains he absorbed and refined during the battle with the disciples of the Black Cloud Sect in Divine Sun City.

However, the blood chains at this moment were not red but black, and there were as many as a thousand of them.

Swoosh——

Suddenly, those originally pliant black tendrils stiffened and shot straight towards the Ironclad General. Just as he began to perceive the threat, his body was pierced through by countless black tendrils.

Immediately after, the Ironclad General's blood and vital energy were swiftly drained by the black tendrils.

In just a few dozen breaths of time, the Ironclad General turned into a pile of bones clad in iron armor.

At this sight, Qing Xuan stood up once again from the dragon throne, but this time his demeanor wasn't as aloof as it had been when facing the Ironclad General. Instead, it was extremely servile as he raised his head and looked up at the tentacle demon above him.

"Your Highness, the disciples of the Formation Sect have ultimately arrived at the Qingmu Imperial Palace. Shall I lead them here right now to provide you with an additional meal?"

Qing Xuan asked with a chilling heart as he looked up at the tentacle monster above him.

This was not the first time he had witnessed such a scene. Yet, each time the tentacle demon reduced a person to a skeleton, his heart would palpitate.

Not to mention the Ironclad General with his Ninth Layer of the Reverting Void Realm, even the three Protectorate Supreme Elders beside the Crown Prince met the same fate.

Therefore, Qing Xuan had no strength to resist, not even daring to conceive of it.

"Don't rush. Handle this matter well. You must not let them escape again."

"If you attract the attention of those old fogeys from the Formation Sect, then we will be in big trouble. If that happens, you know what the consequences will be."

After the tentacle demon finished speaking, it transformed into a shadow and disappeared from the ceiling above.

The ability of the other party to appear and disappear like a ghost left Qing Xuan with an incessant palpitation.

He then made arrangements to ensure that Lin Chen and the others would not return...

...

That night.

The cold wind howled, and the full moon hung high. It was indeed not a good night to be out.

After Lin Chen and the others sat down to meditate, several black figures quietly slipped into their rooms.

Before entering the rooms, these black figures released a considerable amount of black smoke through the windows around where everyone was staying. This smoke was capable of preventing martial artists from properly circulating their spiritual power, rendering them no different from ordinary people for a time.

Of course, what could not be circulated was only spiritual power; physical strength and the like were still present.

Swoosh——

After the black-clothed men entered the rooms, they immediately thrust their swords at Lin Chen. However, just as one sword was about to pierce Lin Chen's body, Lin Chen opened his eyes and sent a punch straight to the black-clothed man's chest.

Thump——

The punch collapsed the chest of the black-clothed man, breaking his ribs instantly, and the sword that the black-clothed man used to stab Lin Chen did not even leave a wound.

After further cultivation in the Five Elements Glaze Tower, Lin Chen had honed his Scorching Sun Divine Fist to a level infinitely close to the Sixth Layer. The durability of his body had reached the point where it could compete with a martial artist of the Fifth Level of the Reverting Void Realm, so how could the man's attack possibly hurt Lin Chen?

In the other rooms, the same scene was unfolding at that moment.

All the black-clothed assassins who came to kill them were repelled.

"How is this possible, how could you not be affected by the Weakness Scattering Powder?"

The black-clothed men were baffled. They had clearly released Weakness Scattering Powder into the room, but Lin Chen, Cheng Huan, and everyone else seemed unaffected.

However, they had no idea how strong Lin Chen's divine soul was. He had sensed their movements early on and had preemptively administered the Poison-Avoiding Pill to everyone, ensuring they would not be poisoned.

Chapter 508: Father and Son at Odds

Before long, all the shadowy figures were subdued by Cheng Huan and the others.

Although Cheng Huan and his peers had intended to keep one alive for interrogation, unexpectedly, all of these individuals chose to sever their own meridians, committing suicide.

Just as everyone was wondering who had sent these assassins, another figure appeared in the distance.

"Who goes there!?"

Cheng Huan and the others watched the figure in black with caution, ready to confront the newcomer.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it's me!"

Just as Cheng Huan and the others were about to make their move, the person removed their hood of their own accord, revealing their face.

"Qing Wu, Crown Prince of Qingmu Kingdom."

He Ye evidently recognized the person and immediately called out Qing Wu's name.

Afterwards, everyone relaxed and commenced discussing the matter at hand.

It was from Qing Wu that Lin Chen and the others learned that, a month prior, a tentacle demon suddenly appeared within Qingmu Kingdom, wreaking havoc and committing mass slaughter. Under the leadership of Emperor Qing Xuan of Qingmu, the people mounted a campaign against the tentacle demon. Yet, even with the three great elders of Qingmu Empire and Qing Xuan himself joining forces, they were no match for the tentacle monster and ultimately met their demise at its hands.

As Qing Wu spoke of Qing Xuan, a flash of coldness passed through his eyes, fleeting but still noticed by Lin Chen.

"Four beings of the Heavenly Human Realm joined forces, and yet three of them died at the hands of that tentacle monster."

"Only you and Qing Xuan escaped from its clutches?"

Lin Chen, after hearing what Qing Wu had to say, was shocked but also expressed some skepticism.

If that tentacle monster truly possessed such strength, wouldn't it be capable of obliterating the Qingmu Kingdom? If so, how could the Qingmu Kingdom still exist until today?

He Ye and Qin Kaifeng and the others also frowned slightly, showing some apprehension regarding the tentacle demon Qing Wu mentioned.

"Do not be afraid. Although the tentacle demon is elusive, it was gravely wounded in our last confrontation. Together, we should definitely be able to subdue it," said Qing Wu indifferently.

"Do you know where in the royal palace this tentacle demon is hiding?" Cheng Huan asked, with her gaze fixed on Qing Wu.

"I do; it is in a corner of the Qiankun Hall within the palace," replied Xuanwu.

"If that's the case, let's rest first. Tomorrow morning, you lead the way in front, and together, we go to exterminate that tentacle demon," Cheng Huan announced without a hint of fear after hearing about the tentacle demon from Xuanwu.

Since she and He Ye were ranked in the top one hundred on the Inner Sect Pride List, boasting exceptional strength. Although they had the cultivation of only the Ninth Layer of the Reverting Void Realm, in true battle, they were capable of unleashing the strength of the Heavenly Human Realm.

Together with three other martial artists at the seventh level of the Reverting Void Realm and Qin Kaifeng among others, there shouldn't be any problem dealing with that tentacle demon. In fact, Cheng Huan felt that she and He Ye alone could resolve the issue.

"Sister Cheng, there are still many doubts about this matter. It would be better to make long-term plans," Lin Chen cautioned Cheng Huan, sharing his thoughts.

Especially since yesterday, Ouyang Xuan had clearly gone to the Crown Prince Palace in search of Xuanwu, but the people there claimed Xuanwu had disappeared for a month already.

They also reached out to the Formation Sect for help, and tonight, as Lin Chen and the others encountered the assassination by the shadowy figures, Xuanwu just happened to appear.

If that tentacled demon was truly as formidable as described by Xuanwu, and the three senior elders of the Qingmu Kingdom perished, why would Qing Xuan and Qing Wu emerge unscathed?

"Hmph, if you're scared, you can simply choose not to go tomorrow. After all, with your cultivation level, even if you did come, you'd only slow us down without being of any help,"

Cheng Huan said disdainfully as he looked at Lin Chen.

Hearing this, Lin Chen ceased to offer further persuasion.

Then, Cheng Huan and He Ye went to rest, and Xia Wanxin approached Lin Chen, initially intending to vindicate her cousin by explaining that the disdain wasn't for Lin Chen personally. It was just that her cousin hadn't witnessed Lin Chen's strength, or else she certainly wouldn't have made those comments.

"Are you all going tomorrow?"

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen waved his hand dismissively and looked at Xia Wanxin, Qin Kaifeng, and Ouyang Xuan as he asked.

"Brother Lin Chen, if that tentacled creature is as dangerous as Qing Wu said, I must go. I can't allow my cousin to face danger alone,"

Xia Wanxin said. Qin Kaifeng was indifferent and waved his hand dismissively, while Ouyang Xuan was waiting to see what Lin Chen would say.

Seeing everyone's stance, Lin Chen felt helpless. He thought that he had to accompany Cheng Huan tomorrow; otherwise, if any danger did arise and Cheng Huan and He Ye were harmed, not only would their mission be difficult to complete, but their reputation within the Formation Sect would also be tarnished. They would be seen as deserters, marked for not sticking with the team.

So, the next morning, under Qing Wu's leadership, everyone headed to the Qiankun Hall first.

However, when they reached the outside of the grand hall, they were met with obstruction by the imperial guards.

"What? Even I, the Crown Prince, you dare to stop?"

Qing Wu removed his cloak, and upon recognizing his identity, the guards immediately allowed them to pass.

Within the palace, the guards were already well aware of the events that had unfolded over the past month.

With the split between Qing Xuan and his son Qing Wu, it was feared that in the end, only one would survive.

As imperial guards, they were supposed to prevent Qing Wu from entering the Qiankun Hall according to Qing Xuan's orders. However, given that the present company consisted of Inner Sect Disciples of the Formation Sect, with extraordinary strength, how could they possibly stop them?

They opted to let them pass, hoping that Xuanwu would defeat Qing Xuan and seize the throne.

"Qing Xuan, you killed the three great elders and caused the death of countless officials of Qingmu Kingdom. Today, I shall rid the kingdom of you, the scourge,"

After arriving at the grand hall, Qing Wu shouted directly at Qing Xuan, who was meditating with his eyes closed on the dragon throne.

"So, you're indeed not dead!"

"Hmph, how dare you call the Emperor by name, showing insubordination. Today, I shall properly discipline you,"

Qing Xuan's eyes were filled with boundless killing intent, directed not only at Qing Wu but also at the Formation Sect disciples standing behind him, all of whom were on his list to be eradicated.

Immediately after, the two engaged in battle.

But Emperor Qingmu, Qing Xuan, a practitioner at the First Layer of the Heavenly Human Realm, was not someone Qing Wu could contend with.

"How audacious, to commit violence right before us!"

Seeing Qing Xuan repel Qing Wu, Cheng Huan let out a loud shout and charged into the fray.

After a bout of fighting, Qing Xuan found himself defeated at the hands of Cheng Huan.

"My Lord, save me!"

Chapter 509:

Seeing that he was no match for Cheng Huan, Qing Xuan immediately looked up at the opening above the great hall and called out for help.

Hearing this, Lin Chen and the others immediately became vigilant.

As the ruler of a nation, even though it was under the Formation Sect as a vassal state, there was no need to address even the elders or Peak Masters of the Formation Sect as 'Your Majesty.' However, at this moment, Qing Xuan actually called the person who had not yet appeared 'Your Majesty,' indicating he had already submitted to them.

Could this possibly be the tentacle creature that Qing Wu had mentioned?

Whoosh whoosh—

Just as Lin Chen and the others were filled with suspicions, a black Spiritual Power vortex suddenly appeared above the great hall, and a black tentacle demon crawled out from within the vortex.

"What kind of monster is this... such a dense Yin Sha Qi."

Lin Chen looked up at the tentacle demon that had appeared above the great hall, his brows furrowing immediately. No wonder he had felt a strong surge of Yin Sha Qi coming from this direction yesterday; it turned out to be emitted by the tentacle demon in front of him.

"Your Majesty, save me."

Screech screech screech—

However, just as Qing Xuan thought the tentacle demon would come to his rescue, the demon's tentacles suddenly extended, more than a dozen of them piercing deeply into Qing Xuan's body.

"Why... why!?"

Qing Xuan felt his blood and life force being rapidly drained, utterly baffled.

"Idiot, I did not kill you solely because I wanted to control Qingmu Kingdom through you. But now that the disciples of Formation Sect have already investigated this far, you no longer have any value to me."

"However, at this moment, you still have one last use, and that is to become my nourishment."

As the tentacle demon spoke, it soon sucked Qing Xuan dry, leaving behind a skeletal corpse.

"You are a Demon Cultivator from Red Soul Hall!?"

Cheng Huan, looking at the tentacle demon above his head, his brows deeply furrowed, felt a tremendous pressure.

He Ye and the others also took out their weapons, looking at the tentacle demon, ready for a fight.

"Indeed, I belong to Red Soul Hall. A hundred years ago, that despicable woman Mu Qianqiu almost killed me. Luckily, I managed to escape using a secret technique and survived."

"After a century of recovery, I have finally regained some strength, but I have become this neither human nor ghostly figure."

"Today, I will collect some interest from you little kids from Formation Sect."

The tentacle demon writhed its body, and as its tentacles spread out, a head devoid of hair and completely crimson emerged from the flesh of the tentacle demon.

Everyone was startled by this sight.

"This guy has been lurking in the Qingmu Kingdom for almost a hundred years without being detected by anyone. It seems he's quite skillful."

Cheng Huan was extremely shocked in his heart because Qingmu Kingdom, as a second-rank vassal state of the Formation Sect, was located not close to the Formation Sect, yet was still within the central region of its influence. And yet, a demon from Red Soul Hall had been hiding right in the belly of the Formation Sect's territory without any detection.

Was this due to negligence from the members of the Formation Sect, or was someone within the Sect actually providing cover?

Cheng Huan secretly decided that once he returned to the Sect, he would report this matter.

"Brother Qin, Ouyang Xuan, take Xia Wanxin and escape back to Formation Sect immediately, report this matter to the Sect so they can send a powerful expert, at least someone with the strength of a Peak Master."

Seeing the tentacle demon, Lin Chen immediately spoke to Qin Kaifeng and the others.

"Brother Lin, we will stay and fight with you."

Although Qin Kaifeng and the others knew that Lin Chen's strength was above theirs, the thought of running away and leaving Lin Chen behind didn't sit well with them.

"Stop the nonsense, listen to him, you must leave quickly; you cannot handle this demon."

This time, Cheng Huan stood on Lin Chen's side, immediately addressing Xia Wanxin and the others.

"Lin Chen, I don't want to go, I want to stay with you."

Xia Wanxin looked at Lin Chen. Now that she understood the power of the tentacle demon in front of them, she was even less willing to leave Lin Chen to face it alone. After all, Lin Chen already had a special place in her heart.

Thump—

However, just as Xia Wanxin finished speaking, Cheng Huan knocked her unconscious.

Chapter 510: It Still Can't Scare Me

"If you flee with her and anything happens to her, I will never forgive you."

Cheng Huan knocked Xia Wanxin unconscious and handed her over to Lin Chen.

Xia Wanxin's earlier words had made it clear to Cheng Huan just how important Lin Chen was to her.

Although Cheng Huan didn't understand what kind of magic Lin Chen had that could captivate her high and mighty cousin sister, Lin Chen's recent actions had earned Cheng Huan's approval.

This young man was indeed not reckless but exceedingly astute.

If Lin Chen were the kind of person who exploited Xia Wanxin for fame and wealth as Cheng Huan had previously thought, he would surely be focused on dealing with the Tentacle Demon in front of him to gain merit with the Formation Sect.

Instead, Lin Chen's actions were to send Xia Wanxin, who had weaker cultivation, along with Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan, away from danger.

However, Cheng Huan truly couldn't understand one thing—why Lin Chen, knowing how powerful the Tentacle Demon was, would send Xia Wanxin and the others away but choose to stay himself.

Could it be that he was prepared to sacrifice himself to buy time for his friends and lover to retreat?

It must be said, Cheng Huan's imagination was indeed wild, which was why she knocked Xia Wanxin unconscious and asked Lin Chen to take her and flee as well.

"Brother Qin, Brother Ouyang, I entrust her to you."

Lin Chen handed Xia Wanxin to Qin Kaifeng and spoke indifferently.

Although Cheng Huan and He Ye were very strong, along with the three Formation Sect disciples, they might stand a chance against the Tentacle Demon, the probability of victory was too slim, so Lin Chen had to stay.

"Brother Lin, take care of yourself."

Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan exchanged glances. They knew that Lin Chen, being much stronger than them, would not choose to stay without a plan.

They had never seen Lin Chen undertake anything without certainty after getting to know him.

"You're actually not leaving?"

Cheng Huan never expected Lin Chen to choose to stay.

Cheng Huan looked deeply at Lin Chen, realizing that she had misjudged him. Now, Lin Chen appeared extremely enigmatic in her eyes.

"The demon is indeed powerful, but not enough to scare me."

Lin Chen said with a faint smile on his face, looking at Cheng Huan.

In fact, Lin Chen's decision to stay was not entirely out of concern for the safety of Cheng Huan and He Ye or because they couldn't handle the Tentacle Demon. There was another very important reason.

That was the fact that the Tentacle Demon, relying on absorbing the vital energy and blood essence of others to strengthen itself and transform into Yin Sha Qi, proved that this Yin Sha Force could be absorbed by the Primordial Transformation Art...

Lin Chen looked at the Tentacle Demon, his eyes alight with fervor, filled with anticipation.

If he could absorb it, Lin Chen's strength would surely increase by at least one level, allowing him to break through to the Reverting Void Realm.

Whoosh, whoosh—

Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan, dragging Xia Wanxin, rapidly fled the scene.

"Thinking of escaping? It's not that easy. None of you shall leave here alive today."

The Tentacle Demon's grotesque head spoke, and immediately its tentacles chased after Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan.

Seeing this, Lin Chen's figure instantly disappeared and reappeared next to Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan. His fist, shimmering with a golden glow, was thrust towards the tentacles.

Tremendous spiritual power erupted from Lin Chen's fist.

"A mere Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm youth dares obstruct my tentacles, truly overestimating himself."

"Since you wish for death, I shall grant it to you."

The Tentacle Demon spoke as its tentacles immediately pierced towards Lin Chen.

Cheng Huan and He Ye's expressions changed dramatically upon witnessing this scene, for even they did not dare to directly confront the tentacles of the Tentacle Demon.

Boom—

However, it was just a punch, and the ten-odd black tentacles, that were piercing towards Qin Kaifeng and the others, were scattered by Lin Chen's fist, exploding into countless spurts of purple liquid with a pungent stench of blood.

"This guy..."

Cheng Huan and He Ye, as well as the other two martial artists from the Formation Sect, were taken aback by what had unfolded before them. Was Lin Chen really only at the Ninth Level of the Heaven-reaching Realm?

"Boy, you've foiled my plan, today you're undoubtedly going to die."

Seeing Qin Kaifeng and Ouyang Xuan escaping the area made the Tentacle Demon furious.

It knew very well what would happen if its presence was made known to the Formation Sect.

If the Formation Sect's powerhouses arrived, it would have no place to hide, and the only option would be to flee beyond the Formation Sect's domain.

But considering the distance from the Red Soul Hall and its current strength, it definitely couldn't escape.

Luckily, it had set up a Space Sealing Array early on. Within the Qingmu Kingdom, it was impossible to Send a Message outside. As long as it could swiftly exterminate Lin Chen and the others, it could catch up and kill Xia Wanxin and the three others.

Scuttle scuttle—

Knowing Lin Chen's formidable Physical Strength, the Tentacle Demon immediately merged its root tentacles together, forming a massive Blood Palm, and slapped down at Lin Chen.

Cheng Huan and He Ye and the others, seeing this, also took action, trying to help Lin Chen. However, the Tentacle Demon naturally did not ignore them, and also extended some tentacles, transformed into massive Blood Palms to deal with them.

The power of the massive Blood Palms was incredibly strong, many times more potent than the earlier smaller tentacles.

Seeing this, Lin Chen immediately drew his Fiery Flame Sword and used his swordsmanship to cope.

While Cheng Huan and He Ye, going full out, could only handle one Blood Palm. Lin Chen, on the other hand, was dealing with three.