

Refining 1011

Chapter 1011 – Three Mountains

Qin Yu sprinted all the way, increasing his speed to the highest possible limit. After a full hour and carefully sensing his surroundings to confirm that nothing was wrong, he was finally able to let out a breath of relief.

He had no idea why Shang Lingyu didn't attack them, but this was the best outcome for Qin Yu. Otherwise, he feared he would have already been chewed up and swallowed into that abyssal being's belly.

It wasn't that he didn't have confidence in his own strength. Instead, the stronger he was, the more he could clearly feel the disparity between them.

Shang Lingyu might not have attacked then, but that didn't mean he wouldn't sometime in the future. A terrifyingly strong abyssal being had appeared in the Path of 10,000 Souls. For Qin Yu, that was like a sword that hung above his head, one that could come chopping down at any moment.

As he thought of this he subconsciously frowned.

"Cough! Qin Yu, I have carefully thought over things and I believe that the old saying is right – as long as the green hills remain, there will always be firewood. As long as we live...as long as you can leave this place and spread news of there being an abyssal being in the Path of 10,000 Souls, that will naturally bring about the attention of others so that they will investigate this matter." The stone pagoda's thought fluctuations spread out, "So leaving now might not be a bad choice."

Hoho.

Where did your great sense of righteousness go? Now that you've sensed danger you've decided to shrink back your neck? Are you really not afraid of losing any of the face you have left?

When it came to the stone pagoda's facial skin, Qin Yu could only say that he felt respect!

But entering the Path of 10,000 Souls was the only way he could find a method to save Ning Ling. He could not miss out on this.

As for that abyssal being...he could just take things one step at a time. Until things reached the end, who knew what the final result would be?

Perhaps he might be able to find a favorable turn too.

He took a deep breath and composed himself. He looked around, determined his position, and then howled into the distance.

"Hey, are you sure? If you continue going forward there are likely to be problems!

"Qin Yu, how about cancelling our previous contract first? That way, I might be able to take revenge for you in the future.

"Answer me, stop pretending to be mute! I know you can hear me!

“Big brother, is it okay if I call you big brother? That abyssal being is incredibly terrifying and you are surely not its match. If you try to do anything you will just be courting death.”

Qin Yu’s lips twitched. He thought that he had underestimated just how thick the stone pagoda’s facial skin was.

With a thought, he severed his connection with the stone pagoda, completely isolating out all of its sorrowful howls and complaints.

Half a day later, after avoiding several groups of cultivators, three towering mountains appeared at the end of Qin Yu’s line of sight.

He had finally arrived!

Once a follower completed their contract, if they wanted to enter the land of inheritance and obtain the lucky chances in the Path of 10,000 Souls, there were three paths they could choose.

One was to be the same as East Zhou Duly. After capturing three platforms they could naturally earn approval to directly enter the land of inheritance.

The second method was these three mountains in front of him. Each mountain represented a formidable test. A cultivator who overcame all three mountains could similarly obtain the qualifications to enter the land of inheritance.

As for the third...

Qin Yu’s complexion changed. He came to a stop and closely stared at where the three mountains were.

Astonishing fluctuations of aura came out from the three mountains. They were like invisible pillars of light that crashed into the heavens. In a moment, they opened up a vortex.

The vortex roared and rumbled as it spun around. Its momentum was exhilarating.

But what was more shocking was that a stairway suddenly fell down from the vortex. It seemed to be made out of pure white jade and it landed in the skies above the three mountains.

A figure fluttered upwards and landed on the steps. One could hear numerous cries of alarm.

Qin Yu carefully looked over. As this figure became clearer, his expression changed.

It was him!

The one who landed on the stairs was none other than Shang Lingyu.

The third method to enter was to release one’s own aura. If one could obtain the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls, sky-reaching steps would appear, allowing one to directly enter the Path of 10,000 Souls...just like what Shang Lingyu was doing now.

He had unexpectedly obtained the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls.

As Qin Yu was left shaken, he felt this was even more bizarre and weird. It had to be known that the purpose of constructing the Path of 10,000 Souls was to aid humans in breaking through the limits of their cultivation and help end the threat that came from the abyss.

But now, a formidable abyssal being had obtained the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls. And under the eyes of everyone, they were sent into the land of inheritance...to put it a bit disrespectfully, this was simply laughable and ridiculous!

It seemed that what the stone pagoda said was true – a problem had occurred within the Path of 10,000 Souls itself. This greatly increased the dangers that Qin Yu would need to endure going forward.

“Qin Yu, you have finally come to your senses. Let me tell you, you cannot stay in the Path of 10,000 Souls any longer. You must leave immediately...”

Before the stone pagoda could finish speaking, Qin Yu severed their connection once more.

As Shang Lingyu landed on the steps and started moving towards the vortex, he suddenly seemed to detect something. He turned around and glanced at Qin Yu.

There was a brief startle, as if he hadn't expected they would meet again so soon. He paused for a moment before revealing a smile.

Qin Yu thought about how he should respond. So soon, a warm and gentle smile appeared on his face.

Both sides smiled at each other like friends who reunited, but in their hearts they wished that the other would drop dead where they stood.

Of course, Qin Yu's desire was much more intense. Shang Lingyu only thought about it briefly before forgetting about it. Because in his opinion, personally killing one's prey was the happiest and most satisfactory ending.

Qin Yu had already joined his list and become one of the prey he had to kill.

To dare kill a noble abyssal being, just this point alone was an unforgivable sin.

He turned and stepped away.

Shang Lingyu's figure finally vanished into the vortex. The sky-reaching stairway disappeared along with him.

But what was unexpected was that after Shang Lingyu stepped into the land of inheritance, the vortex in the skies didn't fade away.

It continued to revolve, as if some will was brewing within it.

Many followers had gathered where the three mountains were. Their eyes widened with shock before brightening.

Could it be...someone else had obtained the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls? After passing the tests of the three mountains, one could enter the land of inheritance. But even if the road was placed in front of them, there was only a small number of people that actually had the qualifications to pass it.

If they could directly enter the land of inheritance, this was an irresistible enticement.

Qin Yu's complexion turned strange because at this moment, he could feel a will descend. Without explanation, he naturally understood that the reason the vortex hadn't dispersed was because it was waiting for him.

As long as he desired it, the vortex would send out a stairway just like it did for Shang Lingyu, delivering him into the land of inheritance.

If he hadn't witnessed Shang Lingyu entering the vortex, he would have accepted the summons of this will without hesitation.

After all, if he could step into the land of inheritance without expending any effort, that would be the best result for him.

But with Shang Lingyu in front of him...haha, consider it done for. I would rather use up my strength and rush past the three mountains in front of me. Otherwise, if I follow right behind Shang Lingyu, who knows what would happen? I should try to minimize these suicidal decisions as much as I can.

Qin Yu rejected the summons of this will. It obviously paused for a moment as if never encountering something like this before. But soon, it vanished.

The vortex above the three mountains quickly faded away, leaving everyone below disappointed. It seemed that the vortex only took some additional time to disappear and it wasn't that someone else had also obtained approval.

They would never have imagined that someone had obtained approval but eventually chose to reject the summons of the vortex.

And this person had quietly arrived in front of the Three Mountains Test.

That's right, the name of these three mountains was the Three Mountains Test.

Throughout the countless years, all followers that tried to enter the land of inheritance had once arrived here. Some of them had been full of confidence or awe. But no matter what they thought, it was always rare for a person to successfully pass the Three Mountains Test and enter the land of inheritance.

"Don't look. Those that can obtain the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls and directly enter the land of inheritance are all absolutely proud elites of heavens. They aren't characters we can compare with."

"That person seemed to be Shang Lingyu. He is an expert from Peach Blossom Spring. Sure enough, the disciples of Holy Lands are fierce."

"Whatever, no matter how fierce others are, that is their business. We should try to figure out a way to overcome the Three Mountains Test."

"Ai! Passing the Three Mountains Test sounds easy, but how many people can actually do it?"

Filled with envy, jealousy, and hate, everyone withdrew their eyes. They once again focused their attention on the three mountains.

The three mountains were presented in a zigzag-like arrangement. They towered into the clouds and their surfaces were covered in lush vegetation. But just looking at them, one could feel an invisible oppression.

Qin Yu looked up for a few moments. Then, after thinking over things, he walked through the thousands upon thousands of people and stepped towards the first mountain.

“It’s another person who doesn’t know the immensity of the heavens and earth!”

“Hum hum, if you don’t stop outside the mountain to adapt to its aura and then recklessly try to enter, at the very least you’ll end up severely wounded!”

“This fellow is soon going to find himself ejected in a miserable fashion!”

Chapter 1012 – Strange Woman

What was valued so highly by the East Zhou Family and considered something that could change East Zhou Duly’s destiny was nothing more than a spot to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls. If one wished to obtain the inheritance, they needed to carefully choose their followers and then pass the initial trial before finally being allowed to enter the land of inheritance.

And if one passed the trial of these three mountains then they could similarly obtain the qualifications to enter the land of inheritance. Through this contrast, it was easy to understand how crushingly difficult these tests were.

The first mountain’s test began the moment he stepped on it.

To be more exact, this was an invisible and intangible aura. It was incomparably strange and possessed a potent penetrating power. It was capable of tearing open all defenses and invading a cultivator’s body, causing them to lose control of their strength and inflicting horrifying damage similar to a backlash.

Qin Yu soon understood why the cultivators sneered and mocked him when he stepped onto the mountain. As he thought, it wasn’t easy to pass the tests of the three mountains.

Those people were stuck outside the first mountain, not daring to enter. They should be hoping that they could adapt to the strange attributes of this aura as soon as possible.

But at this moment, before Qin Yu could mobilize his strength to resist the penetrating aura coming from outside, the blue sun and purple moon within his soul space slightly trembled. As they did, the sun and moon force field vibrated.

Hum –

Like a bubble, he was wrapped inside. It seemed fragile but possessed inconceivable defensive power. The strange and pervasive aura that flooded the range of the first mountain, that tried to enter through every nook and cranny, was unable to rip open this shield and was isolated outside.

This...

Qin Yu moved a little. He could no longer feel the attack of that strange aura. His complexion turned strange.

This should be called cheating...

He waited a moment. When there was no sound, he relaxed. It seemed that this method of cheating that relied on his own strength was allowed.

That made things simple. At the very least, the first mountain couldn't affect him anymore.

He smiled. Restraining his thoughts, he started walking up the stone path beneath his feet, making his way higher.

Because he wasn't affected by the outside aura, his speed was quick. Soon he caught up to the cultivator who had walked before him.

Someone had caught up again. And listening to their footsteps, they seemed calm and relaxed. It should be an expert.

But what was unexpected was that what entered his vision was an unfamiliar face. He couldn't seem to recall any information about this character.

Soon, the cultivator no longer had any thoughts of paying attention to this newcomer's appearance. The cultivator's eyes grew wider and wider until his eyeballs seemed as if they would pop out.

Strolling through a garden, steady and unflustered, calm and carefree...all sorts of words came to mind. He found it difficult to breathe, as if these words were stuck in his throat.

That's right, the one this person was thinking about was Qin Yu. His steps were not fast or slow. It was like he was walking through a tree-lined path...no, it wasn't just similar; he really was walking through a tree-lined path...

But the key point here was that this tree-lined path was none other than the first mountain of the Path of 10,000 Souls' Three Mountain Test.

How many times had the Path of 10,000 Souls opened? How many millions of followers had arrived in front of these three mountains? And how many of them were able to pass the first mountain?

Even this cultivator, who was recognized as an expert amongst the younger generation, was full of confidence before entering. But after coming here, his confidence in passing the first mountain test had fallen to rock bottom.

As his faith was shaken and he was trying to recover, he saw Qin Yu walking up the mountain with such a carefree manner and momentum...the impact to his heart could be imagined.

Qin Yu could feel the gaze coming from the person in front. He nodded as he passed the man, and then soon disappeared into the distance.

He left. He left just like that. Still calm and dignified...ah, my heart! It's so unbearable!

We are both men here, but why are you so much more outstanding than me?

As Qin Yu made his way forward, he shocked many people. All of the mountain climbers he passed looked at him as if they were witnessing the creation of a myth.

But this situation was not when he should be trying to keep a low profile. Shang Lingyu had already entered the land of inheritance.

Although Qin Yu didn't want to enter with him, he couldn't fall too far behind.

After all, the reason Shang Lingyu held back and didn't attack was likely related to how impatient he was to enter the land of inheritance.

He needed to enter sooner so that he could find the secrets to the Path of 10,000 Souls and how to undo it before Shang Lingyu completed whatever he was here for.

The closer he approached the summit, the stronger the invisible penetrating aura from the outside became. Qin Yu could clearly feel the deep thundering that the sun and moon force field experienced under the impact. They were like rough seas smashing into the rocky shores.

Compared to when he first stepped on the mountain, the intensity was at least ten times greater!

Because of this reason, as he approached the summit, the number of cultivators he encountered sharply declined.

When he crossed halfway up the mountainside and continued walking to the top, he didn't encounter any more cultivators.

As Qin Yu believed that he had likely reached the front of the pack, a figure appeared in front of him.

At first glance, he subconsciously furrowed his eyebrows, surprised. Before he could look more closely, the figure seemed to become aware of him and looked over.

What beautiful eyes!

The woman in front of him seemed frail and her facial features couldn't be called exquisite, but her dark and intelligent eyes caused her entire being to become brighter and more alive.

Her eyes flashed with surprise, as if she was startled that someone had managed to catch up to her.

Thinking for a moment, she said, "This very fierce-looking fellow daoist, I would like to make a transaction with you. Would you like to agree?"

Her voice was ordinary, just that of a regular woman. But, there was a certain warmth to it that made one feel kind and open.

But why did she call him a very fierce-looking fellow daoist? It sounded strange no matter how he heard it.

But now, Qin Yu wasn't in the mood to consider such things. He secretly furrowed his eyebrows.

He had experienced many things through his lifetime so he understood that favorable impressions didn't come without any reason. In particular, with his current level of cultivation and after all the trials and tribulations he had overcome, he had tempered himself with a heart that wasn't easily moved.

"Sorry, I'm in a hurry."

Although this woman appeared harmless and he didn't feel any evil intentions from her, caution was a way of life that all cultivators should follow at all times.

Sensing the coldness and firmness in Qin Yu's words, the woman was stunned. She immediately responded, coughing several times before saying, "I was born with this voice. My teacher said that only after reaching a certain cultivation boundary can I take it in and release it at all. I am not trying to deceive you!"

She clearly looked worried. Her face flushed red as she waved her hand. Her dark eyes glimmered with a bit of anxiousness.

It was clear that this transaction which was rejected by Qin Yu was extremely important to her.

This was a woman who didn't know how to hide her emotions at all. Although there were people with peerless acting skills in the world, these emotional fluctuations could be clearly perceived.

She really didn't seem to have any ill intent.

But Qin Yu wasn't lying; he really was rushed for time. So after he heard these words he just glanced at her before silently continuing forward. He arrived by the woman's side and without pausing, passed by her and continued walking along.

"Wait a moment! I can give you a reward! An extremely rich reward! And my request isn't difficult at all. With your ability you can certainly achieve it!"

But what a pity, her words weren't able to move Qin Yu. He didn't stop and would soon vanish into the canopy of the forest.

"Hey! This really is a precious reward! This is a treasure I spent a great deal of effort to pry from teacher's hands! It can save your life in a crucial moment...you...why don't you take a look before making a decision..."

Her voice gradually fell. There was some unwillingness and complaint, but there were no other negative emotions.

As she bit her lips and thought she was definitely going to lose, she heard the sound of returning footsteps. She looked up to see that Qin Yu had turned back around and was standing several feet away from her.

"I really am in a hurry, so if you want to trade anything you had best put out your greatest sincerity."

What made him change his mind was not the so-called 'helplessness' shown by the woman. If he really wanted to be a good person in this cruel and brutal world, even if he had a hundred lives it wouldn't be enough for others to kill.

The reason he turned back around was because he heard her mention some extremely precious treasure that could save his life at a crucial moment. For some unknown reason, these words touched his mind, causing his heart to ripple.

With the sun and moon force field he stood beyond the world. Although his cultivation wasn't sky-reaching, he barely had some sky-reaching attributes.

So whenever his mind was touched in such a manner, he couldn't ignore it.

The woman was overjoyed. She hurriedly said, "Don't worry, I care about fairness the most. As long as you can help me I will definitely give this treasure to you."

She flipped her hand and took out a walnut. Its surface was white and mottled with some stains and black dots, as if it was just picked up from the dirty leaf-covered ground and wasn't fully cleaned yet.

"It's this walnut. Take a look first. If you are satisfied then I will state my condition."

As she spoke, she reached out and placed it in front of Qin Yu. He revealed a look of surprise. After a short pause, he reached out a hand and took it.

The walnut looked ordinary, but the moment it fell into his hands, he could hear the explosions of a million thunderclaps in his ears. His consciousness was instantly dragged into a world of thunder. Infinite lightning crazily tumbled around, as if it would destroy all.

His first thought was that this was bad and he had fallen into a trap. He bitterly smiled; he had indeed been too careless.

With a thought, he stimulated the sun and moon force field and his consciousness immediately returned to his body.

But to cultivators, life and death was decided in a moment. When his consciousness had been dragged into the world of thunder, it was enough for a prepared person to kill him several times over.

When he opened his eyes, he saw the woman still standing in front of him. Her eyes were wide and full of admiration. She sighed and praised out loud, "You managed to sober up so fast, how fierce! When I first touched it, I was stunned for a long time!"

Qin Yu: ...

This shouldn't be the important point, right?

But this also let Qin Yu feel a bit more relieved. It seemed that this woman really didn't have any ill intent, otherwise she wouldn't have missed out on the chance just now.

He looked down at the walnut quietly lying in his hand. When he recalled what he saw, his heart chilled.

In a critical moment, if he were to stimulate the power of thunder within this walnut, he really could reverse a situation.

Qin Yu said, "I'm satisfied with this. Tell me your condition." The woman smiled. She pointed towards the mountaintop and said, "I want you to bring me up the mountain."

Qin Yu frowned. "You want to pass the Three Mountains Test?"

He could easily deal with the first mountain by using the sun and moon force field. However, he wasn't sure about the situation of the second and third mountains.

But a person's luck couldn't be good forever. It would be difficult enough for him to cross by himself, and if he had to drag someone through with him, he wasn't certain he could succeed.

The woman waved her hand, “No, no, I don’t want to pass the Three Mountains Test, otherwise...well, you just need to bring me to the summit of this mountain.”

Qin Yu relaxed. If it was just this then it was much less difficult. But he didn’t immediately reply. After mulling over it for a time he finally said, “Alright.”

“Wonderful!” The woman cheered. She took out a ribbon. It was pure white and flawless, like flowing moonlight.

“Hold onto this and I can climb the mountain with you.”

Qin Yu’s thoughts turned. He reached out and grabbed one end of the ribbon. He was originally worried that the existence of the sun and moon force field would be discovered.

Since she had her own methods, that was certainly better.

“Let’s go.”

Chapter 1013A – Don’t Dare to Take A Master

He turned and started walking up. When he pulled the ribbon he could feel a layer of invisible oppression fall on him.

The air turned thick as if he had fallen into mud. Each step forward required him to use up even more strength.

This was because the invisible aura that wrapped around Qin Yu and was trying to drill into his body had increased several times over.

As expected, the Three Mountains Test really did have a bottom line. While it tacitly allowed Qin Yu to easily climb the mountain using his own strength, it wouldn’t permit him to flagrantly cheat like this.

Within his soul space, the purple moon and blue sun began to speed up. There were loud banging sounds like rocks crashing into a thick drum. They weren’t too intense but they were incomparably clear in his senses, causing his ears to ring and his chest to feel heavy.

It was clear that the invisible aura crashing into the sun and moon force field had surpassed some limit and was beginning to influence him.

Luckily, it wasn’t too uncomfortable. After revolving his cultivation a bit, he easily restored his movement.

Qin Yu pulled the ribbon and the woman behind him was like a kite being pulled. She floated in the air, following behind as he walked upwards.

She stared at Qin Yu’s back as his steps slowed down for a moment before regaining his original pace. Then, she let out a sigh of relief.

This was good. This fellow daoist was unexpectedly fierce and could pull her up the mountain with him. If he couldn’t do that, things really would be troublesome for her.

But how did he accomplish this? Looking at his cultivation, he could only be considered average at most, yet he managed to pull her with him!

She blinked her eyes and then quietly reached out a hand...

"I'm warning you, don't try to probe me, otherwise our transaction will become invalid. I will keep the walnut but you can figure out a way to climb the mountain yourself."

The woman's face flushed red and she couldn't cover up her awkward expression. She quietly said, "Sorry, I was just curious. I won't do it again."

She had actually acknowledged it...

Qin Yu shook his head. He confessed that he could be experienced and knowledgeable, yet he still didn't understand this woman. She appeared naive and pure, yet she was able to climb up this far by herself.

Whatever. They had only met by chance. After he brought her to the summit, both sides would be cleared of any debt and it was unlikely he would see her again in the future. Why bother thinking of so many extra needless things?

...

They reached the summit.

Although he had to drag along an extra deadweight that caused him to consume more effort with every step he took, it wasn't a big problem for him. He let out a breath and relaxed inwardly. After all, he had helped someone to cheat and climb the mountain, who knew if it would lead to some eventual punishment?

Fortunately, nothing like that happened.

He let go of the ribbon and the floating woman immediately landed on the ground. She turned around and glanced at the mountain road, joy radiating on her face as well as some lingering fear. She was lucky that someone pulled her for the rest of the way, otherwise if she had needed to climb up here by herself, she could have done it but she would have had to lose a few layers of skin.

Hey, she was someone who feared pain a great deal!

"My name is Liu Xiu. I really must thank you. May I ask what your name is?"

Qin Yu shook his head. "My name is unimportant. I have completed our stated transaction. The walnut is now mine and I will be leaving."

He turned and started walking away. But at this time his complexion changed. He could see the space around Liu Xiu shaking.

An aura that was terrifying beyond imagination gushed out. It was like a harmless little white rabbit staring with wide eyes at a fire-breathing dragon in front of him.

Of course, this little white rabbit was Qin Yu describing himself.

After being covered by this aura, Qin Yu froze in place, unable to move at all. Sure enough, there were no meat pies that fell from the skies in this world. What kind of treasure was that walnut that it could be obtained so easily?

Now, he feared that trouble had come!

But as Qin Yu's heart surged with shock, he didn't notice the change in Liu Xiu's expression. After a brief moment of panic, she showed a trace of distress and helplessness. She was like a little child who had just run away from home and had been caught.

"Humph! What great potential you have! With your level of cultivation you actually dared to seal yourself and descend your avatar into this small world. As your teacher, it seems that I was too tolerant and patient with you and now you've become completely fearless and lawless!"

With an angry shout, a figure emerged from the shaking space. His body was wrapped in a halo of light, making it hard to see his appearance. This was clearly some sort of avatar or projection-like existence.

Yet, this projection was the source of the terrifying aura Qin Yu felt. When this person appeared in front of him, his thoughts slowed down as if they would freeze solid.

Who was this person?

This was a terrifying cultivation. Before this, the Peach Blossom Spring Master was the most formidable cultivator Qin Yu had ever witnessed.

But when he faced this phantom, he felt a presence countless times more terrifying than the Peach Blossom Spring Master. Could this person's cultivation be even fiercer than that of the Peach Blossom Spring Master?

Peach Blossom Spring was a Holy Land that even the East Zhou Family had to be respectful towards. If someone was more terrifying than the Peach Blossom Spring Master...

With Qin Yu's experiences, this was a level completely beyond his understanding. But there was one thing he was sure of. If this person wished to kill him, he wouldn't need to attack at all. Perhaps just a single glance could turn his soul to ashes.

So looks really could kill!

Qin Yu's emotions tumbled like a stormy sea. He loudly roared at Liu Xiu in his heart: I kept bragging that I have some transcendent teacher, but you're the one that really has a transcendent teacher here!

When things are like this, why are you here acting like some weak little girl? If you want to act then act all you want, but don't drag me into your mess!

The truth was easy to see. Qin Yu had helped Liu Xiu climb the mountain and she had given him the walnut as payment. This was a matter that both parties agreed upon to begin with, but her teacher might not see it that way.

For such a minor matter, you want to take away a disciple's precious treasure? Young man, what gall and ambition you have!

There wasn't a need to say anything else. As long as this person was discontent at all, with a slight wave of his hand Qin Yu would be done for.

That's right, he was done for...even if he had the little blue lamp, the jade embryo egg, and the sun and moon force field...

In terms of potential, Qin Yu's future could be called limitless. But when it came to things like potential, they weren't worth anything before that potential was fully developed.

The absolute difference in strength was enough to turn him into ashes. There wouldn't even be anything left of him.

"Teacher..." Liu Xiu weakly said. She had a pitiful expression, but she was immediately interrupted. It seemed her teacher was truly moved to anger.

"Don't call me teacher. Just hearing that word makes my head hurt." The figure beneath the halo of light was blurry and it was impossible to tell what they looked like. They could only be seen as a tall and strapping man. Now, the man's eyes turned and landed on Qin Yu. Or to be more exact, on the walnut in his hands.

Qin Yu's thoughts froze. He felt like a fish on a chopping block, waiting for the knife to come down.

The script played out exactly as Qin Yu expected. The man had spent a great deal of effort cultivating these walnuts and had grown no more than ten, and now that he saw one of them had been taken by someone else, it caused him to become irritated.

In his opinion, this incomparably pure and naive student of his had been deceived. Otherwise, why would she hand over the walnut? To dare fool his disciple, hoho, this boy must have eaten the gall of a dragon...no, that wasn't right, even someone who had eaten the gall of a dragon wouldn't dare to do this!

In this life or death moment, survival could be decided in the span of an instant. The figure lifted a hand and pointed at Qin Yu. But soon, it was like he had received an electric shock. He took back his hand, a strange look beginning to appear in his eyes.

As for Qin Yu whose thoughts had been frozen, he certainly didn't know about what had just happened. Everything seemed to occur instantly but also seemed to last for 10,000 years. Then, the terrifying aura that submerged him quickly faded away like a falling tide.

When Qin Yu's consciousness was restored he could control his body once again. He stormed backwards.

This was a spontaneous reaction from his body in the face of danger.

"Hum hum, I haven't allowed you to leave yet, so what can you do even if you run to the edges of the heavens or the ends of the sea?" A cold sneer echoed in Qin Yu's ears and he stiffened. He immediately came to a stop and bowed, "Qin Yu greets senior. This walnut was voluntarily given to me by Liu Xiu. I ask senior to please clarify the situation."

Liu Xiu stood to the side, her eyes wide and open. Then, an awkward look crossed her face, and she thought that she couldn't help it. But it seemed that her teacher was a bit interested in Qin Yu, otherwise with his status, how could he waste his time talking to Qin Yu?

Hold on. Am I going to gain a junior-apprentice brother here?

As soon as this thought appeared, Liu Xiu became excited. She didn't even care about the punishment she was going to face soon.

A little junior apprentice-brother! This was something she had longed for, for many, many years. If she could achieve her dreams, what did it matter if teacher punished her?

The phantom lightly coughed. He said, "This is a transaction between you and Liu Xiu, so I won't interfere..."

Qin Yu's heart loosened. He immediately couldn't help but curl his lips inwardly. No matter how strong or weak a person's cultivation was, hypocrisy was an instinct that they could never rid themselves of.

Wasn't your response just now considered interference? Although I have no idea why I am still living right now, if it was any other cultivator I fear they would be dead beyond dead.

Of course, while he thought this inwardly, he maintained a respectful demeanor. He bowed deeply and said, "I thank senior for your understanding!"

Chapter 1013B – Don't Dare to Take A Master

The phantom looked at Qin Yu and said, "Brat, I can sense something familiar from you. Perhaps before you passed through the six paths of samsara, you and I had some connection. Since we've met here again today, that can be considered fate. Now, I will ask you something. Are you willing to abandon all other minor paths and become my disciple?"

Liu Xiu's eyes widened, feeling a bit dizzy from all the surprise and happiness that was flooding her mind...a junior-apprentice brother, I really am going to have a junior-apprentice brother!

As I thought, I am the smartest person on the mountain. Did I not foresee all of this? Moreover, it was even confirmed by teacher! This is wonderful! Hoho, those senior-apprentice brothers and sisters who said that I was too pure and my brain was full of straw, I bet you are all envying me now!

Agree, hurry up and agree! Boy, just what are you waiting for? My teacher, such a great person, has taken the initiative to ask you to be his disciple! This is something that only occurs in dreams!

In this sort of situation how come you aren't lowering your head and paying your respects to solidify this chance? If you wait too long and teacher goes back on his word, won't you cry in regret for 10,000 years?

Such a thick and shining, mountain-like thigh had fallen from the skies and landed in front of Qin Yu. If he said he didn't have an impulse to rush forward and hug it, he would be lying to himself.

But the problem was that just as this thought appeared, an inexplicable sense of dread appeared in the depths of his heart.

As if...if he were to become this person's disciple, his fate would be miserable...but the key point was that he didn't know why!

Qin Yu had no idea what this person's cultivation or background was, but his terrifying strength and heaven-soaring arrogance were without doubt. If he wanted to kill Qin Yu, it would be easier than crushing an ant. So if this person was trying to fool Qin Yu and had dark intentions, there simply wouldn't be a need for all of this.

So this person offering to accept him as a disciple should be real. Was this his luck, that a golden thigh had delivered itself to his door?

But now, he unexpectedly didn't dare to agree...he even thought about closing his eyes and falling to his knees, directly calling this person his teacher.

At that time, even if a problem occurred, this cheap teacher of his wouldn't just stand there and do nothing as he suffered.

With this person's help, just who in this world could harm him?

But Qin Yu couldn't do it!

As if...if he really were to become this person's disciple, even this cheap teacher wouldn't be able to stop what would happen next.

This was a terrifying sensation that had nearly condensed into tangible reality. Qin Yu absolutely wasn't misreading this.

It would be appropriate to describe Qin Yu's current emotions as 'a state of hopelessness beyond crying'.

The phantom furrowed its eyebrows together, as if never imagining that Qin Yu could remain silent even when he asked him. Could it be that he already knew? No...this wasn't right. That brand mark clearly hadn't been activated yet. This was actually somewhat strange.

But since he decided to snatch it up, he had to do his best. There was no reason for him to give up halfway.

The phantom looked at Qin Yu, who was at this moment still subconsciously gripping tightly onto the walnut in his hands, and he said, "Perhaps you don't know my name. Of course, before you become my disciple, I cannot tell you. As long as you agree to be my disciple, I can give you a special card. I guarantee you that within the Path of 10,000 Souls, no one will be able to touch you."

Temptation!

This was an absolute temptation!

There was a powerful abyssal being lurking here. While it hadn't exposed itself yet, Qin Yu didn't believe he had any chance of defeating that abyssal being by himself.

He was afraid that once the abyssal being had finished its mission, it would turn his head around and think about how to tear him to shreds.

If this golden thigh could give him a card then the situation would be reversed. Qin Yu didn't doubt the strength of this card at all.

Moreover, since this person had spoken up, he would live up to his word. There wasn't any chance he would carelessly misspeak.

At that time, the threat of the abyssal being wouldn't exist anymore. He would definitely be able to probe the secrets of the Path of 10,000 Souls.

Taking a step back, if he were to become the disciple of such an incomparably fierce teacher, would he really need to use up that much effort to save Ning Ling? Perhaps he could even walk into Peach Blossom Spring and command that peach tree-planting woman to sever her connection to Ning Ling on her own initiative.

Qin Yu's heart wavered once again. But at this time, his mind hummed and his consciousness fell into chaos.

It felt like someone had flicked his forehead with a finger. But perhaps because it was too fierce or because his endurance was too low, he directly fainted.

After being caught in a trance for an unknown period of time, Qin Yu regained his wits. He happened to hear an angered roar in his ears, "Just you wait, this matter isn't over yet...!"

This voice seemed to come from that inconceivably powerful phantom.

However, now that he heard it, how come he felt that the voice was a bit afraid, or perhaps something similar to inwardly faint-hearted but outwardly angry?

Qin Yu looked all around but Liu Xiu and the phantom had both vanished from sight.

If it weren't for him hearing the roar just now, he would have suspected that he fell into some sort of trap on the first mountain and landed himself into a strange illusion.

But it certainly wasn't an illusion. This wasn't because of that roar he heard, but because there was still a walnut in his hand.

This was...something that was filled with an annihilating power of thunder that was tyrannical to the extreme, but appeared harmless on the surface...well, he would call it a walnut for the time being.

That woman Liu Xiu had appeared inexplicably and also behaved strangely and beyond reasoning. Her teacher was even weirder and suddenly asked him to be his disciple. At the end he fainted and when he opened his eyes, they were both gone...

Even if this all happened to him, when he thought back to it, all he found was confusion. Just what was going on here!?

If he couldn't figure it out, then he would put it aside for the time being. He was still on the first mountain and he still needed to investigate the secrets of the Path of 10,000 Souls. He couldn't waste his time here indulging in such fanciful thoughts.

He drew in a deep breath. Of course, his first task was to carefully put the walnut away. While this thing couldn't guarantee him free rein within the Path of 10,000 Souls, it was still easily capable of killing someone at a critical moment to save his own life.

Put it away, put it away!

Qin Yu looked up into the distance. Standing at the summit of the first mountain, he could see the second mountain in the distance.

Moreover, he could clearly feel that after reaching the summit of the first mountain he had passed this test.

With just a thought, he would be transmitted to the bottom of the second mountain where the second test would begin.

It was said that climbing a mountain was easy but descending it was difficult. He frowned as he glanced down at the obviously steeper road leading down the first mountain.

Although it was just a road and how steep it was didn't matter to a cultivator, it likely represented that the penetrating invisible aura going down the mountain was much stronger.

Qin Yu could easily reach the summit because he cheated using his own strength. If it were any other cultivator, they would have used up a mind-boggling amount of strength to climb up this far. If it was them, they would certainly choose to be directly transmitted to the second mountain. They wouldn't stay here on the first mountain and exhaust themselves further.

After all, the first mountain was only the first mountain. Only after passing the test of the three mountains did a person obtain the qualifications to enter the land of inheritance.

Every ounce of strength should be valued and treasured. People would save it for necessary times rather than waste it meaninglessly.

But since there was a path leading down the mountain, there had to be a reason for it. Otherwise, once a cultivator reached the summit of the first mountain they would just be directly transmitted to the second. Why bother creating a path leading down in front of them?

Qin Yu thought about it and started walking down the mountain. With the sun and moon force field wrapping around him, the test of the first mountain was meaningless.

If that was the case he might as well use up a little bit of extra time. Perhaps he might have an accidental harvest.

Qin Yu acknowledged that he wasn't the smartest person of the younger generation. Compared to other cultivators, he had better luck and was more cautious.

Right now, if he could think of this, then throughout the numerous times that the Path of 10,000 Souls had opened up through the countless years, there had to have been other cultivators who thought of this too.

But the greater possibility was that their strength wasn't sufficient for them to continue walking down the mountain path, so they eventually gave up and decided to be directly transmitted to the second mountain.

He continued downwards.

Reality proved that Qin Yu's assumptions were right. The steepness of the path represented how terrifying the invisible aura was.

But now, without that deadweight Liu Xiu pulling him down, he calmly and steadily reached the bottom of the mountain.

As Qin Yu took the last step out of the scope of the first mountain, truly climbing to the summit and descending, the invisible aura in the air started to gather up.

Light gradually shined, forming a complex rune that appeared in front of Qin Yu. Then with a flash, it fused into his body.

He closed his eyes and carefully examined himself. The rune appeared in his soul space. After glittering, it fell into a dormant state.

But this didn't stop Qin Yu from figuring out what this rune represented...

At the moment when one finished climbing the mountain and reached the summit, that completed the test of the first mountain. But the path down the mountain was an additional test; a person could either choose to continue or give up.

Giving up wouldn't deduct points. But if a person completed it, they could obtain extra points.

It was just that right now, Qin Yu had no idea what these extra points, signified by the strange rune in his soul space, represented.

But the rune shouldn't be harmful. After probing it and determining that nothing was wrong, he took back his divine sense.

He looked up ahead. The test of the second mountain should be next. He just had no idea what this test was.

As he was thinking about it, his surroundings suddenly shook. He had entered the range of the second mountain.

The changes occurred without warning, but when he thought about it, it was also reasonable. After all, the Three Mountains Tests was one whole and it was impossible to divide. Though he had passed one part, that didn't mean he would be given time to catch his breath.

But Qin Yu wasn't in the mood to consider these things, because he now knew the contents of the second mountain's test.

To be precise, this test didn't surpass his previous expectations, because what it aimed at was the soul.

Because of Xue Zheng, Qin Yu already knew about the final inheritance of the Path of 10,000 Souls – that was to obtain the method of splitting one's own soul and condensing 10,000 soul seeds.

Since a person needed to divide their soul and condense it into soul seeds, that meant there were considerable requirements for a person's soul force.

It was fair that this was the second mountain's test.

But soon, Qin Yu's complexion changed again and turned strange. Because he discovered that the sun and moon force field was able to display an effect once more.

That's right, in his soul space, the blue sun and purple moon rose in the west and fell in the east. The sun and moon force field produced from this paused for a moment, as if there were slight changes occurring in its amplitude. Then, Qin Yu unexpectedly felt that the oppressive strength aimed at his soul was blocked out.

This...

It was just epic, amazing, awesome, beyond comparison! This sun and moon force field was comparable with a divine tool!

With the experience of the first mountain, Qin Yu didn't feel any pressure when he looked at the second mountain.

As long as he had this sun and moon force field in hand, he could walk wherever he wanted. No matter how fierce this pressure was, it didn't matter!

This feeling was so great that he felt as if he would blow up!

Chapter 1014 – Soul Grinding Pan

As Qin Yu prepared to rush up to the summit in one vigorous attempt, he heard a cold cough in his ears. Then, with a puffing sound like a sharp blade tearing through leather, the sun and moon force field was ripped open.

Qin Yu could immediately feel that pervasive and omnipresent strength crazily pushing down on his soul.

"Brat, on the first mountain I decided to turn a blind eye to you, but are you really planning to use this method to pass the test?"

With a cold sneer, a white-robed man appeared in front of Qin Yu. He had a solemn appearance and two straight eyebrows that slanted upwards, making him seem angry.

Qin Yu's heart skipped a beat and he quickly bowed. "Qin Yu greets senior." His thoughts raced. Was it possible that this white-robed man was the will born from the Path of 10,000 Souls?

According to the stone pagoda, a problem had occurred within the Path of 10,000 Souls itself. And it was confirmed when the abyssal being had obtained its approval to directly enter the land of inheritance.

If so, then this white-robed man in front of him...was extremely dangerous!

Qin Yu tensed up, his heart turning cold. His hands moved beneath his sleeves; the walnut was already in his palm.

Although he didn't want to use this life-maintaining treasure, if he was in danger then he would have no other choice.

"Humph! Don't think I'll be merciful just because you're sweet-talking me. The test of the second mountain can only be passed using your own ability; give up on trying to play any more tricks." The white-robed man sneered again. But then, he frowned. After watching Qin Yu's silence for several moments, it was like a problem came to mind.

He paused for several breaths of time and said, "According to the rules, it is a violation for me to have broken your protective force field. So, if you can make it out of the second mountain by yourself then you can obtain an extra harvest. Don't ask me what this extra harvest is because I won't tell you."

As the white-robed man finished speaking he took a step forward and vanished. Just like when he first appeared, his departure was equally silent; Qin Yu hadn't been able to sense his aura at all.

It was over like this?

The expected danger didn't appear; it seemed he had been overthinking things, or perhaps the problems with the Path of 10,000 Souls hadn't become too severe yet.

Whatever the reason was, the will of the Path of 10,000 Souls had no intention of doing anything to him right now.

This was good.

Because if the will of the Path of 10,000 Souls had been contaminated by the abyssal beings, that would be truly terrifying.

Since he was inside the Path of 10,000 Souls itself, even if he had the walnut he didn't think he would be able to leave here alive.

He took a deep breath and suppressed his tumbling thoughts. He looked up at the distant summit and started walking upwards.

Without the protection of the sun and moon force field and instead having to rely on his own strength to climb the second mountain, he could feel just how difficult the second test was.

This penetrating aura was different from that of the first mountain. The incomparably formidable suppressive strength that flooded every inch of space was aimed at his soul.

Placed within it, he felt as if there was a massive grinding pan slowly spinning around him.

If a cultivator's soul could not withstand this grinding pan, their soul would eventually burst apart and be smashed to pieces.

The closer he approached the summit, the greater the crushing strength became. Qin Yu could almost hear the sounds of a grinding pan in his ears.

By now, Qin Yu had naturally learned what the test of the second mountain was called – the Soul Grinding Pan!

The moment this name popped into his mind, the world around him changed.

The second mountain and the path leading to the summit had disappeared. What occupied his field of vision was an incomparably large grinding pan that was slowly spinning around.

The so-called slow speed was only in comparison to its massive size. In truth, it was incredibly fast as it rumbled and howled.

Qin Yu was below this grinding pan. What he had to withstand was an immense suppression coming from above. Slowly, and with great difficulty, he made his way to the center of the grinding pan.

He became aware that this soul grinding pan was the true test. Only by resisting this suppression and reaching the center of the grinding pan could one's soul be considered formidable enough.

And this formidable soul referred to not only the quality of the soul but also the cultivator's willpower. Only when the soul and will were equally potent did they have the qualifications to enter the inheritance of the Path of 10,000 Souls.

Because this was the most basic condition for a person to split their soul in half and condense 10,000 soul seeds.

It was impossible to use tricks to pass the second mountain's Soul Grinding Pan. One could only rely on their own strength to stubbornly make their way through.

After understanding this, Qin Yu paused for a moment. He bowed his head and started walking.

Since there was no shortcut, then all he had to do was go forward.

Kacha –

Kacha –

Faint sounds rang out in his ears. Cracks started to appear on the surface of his body.

In truth, no matter whether it was Qin Yu or the grinding pan, they were in a pure soul state. In other words, these cracks appeared on Qin Yu's soul.

This was already an incomparably terrifying injury. If he continued forward these cracks would deepen, eventually causing his soul to shatter and disappear.

But currently, it was like Qin Yu didn't sense it at all...or perhaps he had sensed it but had no intention of stopping.

More and more cracking sounds filled the air. Slowly, they began to take on a flavor of despair and destruction.

Qin Yu's entire body was covered in cracks. There were so many that they were incalculable. The pain produced from each crack far surpassed being stabbed by a knife. It was ten times, even a hundred times more painful.

But he continued moving forward...the closer he came to the center of the grinding pan, the greater the crushing strength became. As for him, his soul had reached the edge of collapse.

Each time a new crack appeared, or each time an existing crack deepened, it seemed as if Qin Yu's soul would break apart.

But each time he endured and continued walking forward. Yet as he walked along the edge of collapse, there would be a time when destruction came for him.

Qin Yu gave birth to an intense and clear premonition. He had ten more steps at most. At the 11th step, his soul would shatter.

He looked up at the incomparably vast grinding pan. Beneath it, he was likely a tiny and almost negligible ant.

And the center of the grinding pan was still far, far away, so far that it seemed that all his previous efforts and the pain he suffered were for nothing.

The impact that this contrast had on a person's heart was terrifying. It was enough to easily destroy their will.

But Qin Yu only calmly looked ahead. There was no change in his expression nor did he slow down. He simply lowered his head and continued forward.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

....

Seven steps.

Eight steps.

Nine steps!

The tenth step.

Qin Yu looked up and furrowed his eyebrows. This was because the center of the grinding pan was still far away in the distance.

As if there was no change at all.

And this was already the limit of how far he could go.

If he took one more step he would surpass his limits. This feeling was much clearer after he took his tenth step.

He was sure that if he really did continue forward, all that was left for him was ruin.

If he retreated, he still had time...if he went forward...that was death!

His frown tightened. Uncertainty clouded his eyes as countless thoughts collided in his mind.

His soul instinctively howled in pain. It implored him to retreat, to not go forward.

But he was advancing; there was no doubt about this. Even if it looked as if he hadn't taken a single step forward...he really had. He had already gone far, far ahead.

"I don't believe that the second mountain's test can be so despairing, not even giving a person a single shred of hope.

"Perhaps the more distant you make the center of the grinding pan appear, the closer I have actually come to the end.

"This step might mean my death, but there is also a chance that it can help me reach the finish line!"

Qin Yu whispered beneath his breath. He closed his eyes and inhaled deeply. Then, he took his 11th step.

As his foot fell down, the crushing aura all around him immediately reached the pinnacle. He could clearly feel the despair of his soul being destroyed.

It shattered, tumbling, the soul fragments fading away. What vanished along with it was Qin Yu's consciousness.

Did he fail in the end?

But I am not willing. If even I cannot make it past the second mountain, then who else can pass the Three Mountains Test?

Qin Yu wasn't being arrogant. Rather, he was confident in his abilities. He had already reached the peak of possibility, yet he still failed!

Death would soon come for him. There was only one trace of his consciousness left behind, attached to a tiny fragment of his soul.

But at this moment, everything came to a standstill. It was like some infinitely strong finger had pushed down and caused the world to fall into suspension.

Then, as time passed, everything began to reverse at an astonishing speed!

The last fragment of Qin Yu's soul quickly became whole again. Soon, it was restored to its initial state.

The cracks and scars all vanished from sight. He closed his eyes and sensed that his condition was in an unprecedentedly good state. His reborn soul surged with formidable strength.

Qin Yu opened his eyes. He had already reached the center of the Soul Grinding Pan.

The 11th step was a step of destruction, but it was also a step of rebirth.

But, it all depended on if a person had the courage to take that last step. If they felt dread then even if they crossed the tenth step they would still fall short and not pass the second mountain's test. They wouldn't earn the qualifications to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls' land of inheritance.

This step was a test of one's character.

Honestly, if it weren't for Ning Ling and there being no path for him to retreat, then when Qin Yu faced this 11th step, he might have chosen to back down.

But there were no 'ifs' in this world. When Qin Yu took this step forward he had passed the test.

As a result, he also obtained the reward he deserved.

After experiencing the Soul Grinding Pan and having his soul shatter and be reborn, Qin Yu had harvested many advantages.

This was what the Path of 10,000 Souls gave back to him.

But things didn't end here.

Hum –

An invisible strength gathered in the air. Light appeared and transformed into a rune.

With his previous experience, Qin Yu wasn't too surprised. He glanced at the rune. It looked similar to the rune he obtained at the first mountain, but if he looked carefully it was easy to spot the differences.

They were like two different direction indicators, one going to the south and the other to the north.

But they gave off a similar feeling, as if these two runes were naturally connected.

Shua –

The rune flashed and submerged into Qin Yu's body. Then, without needing to be stimulated, it directly arrived in his soul space, right next to the first rune.

They both overlapped together and fused. Their textures and lines were perfectly joined, without any flaws.

When the two runes each entered Qin Yu's body, they were in a dark and sleeping state.

But after fusing together, they began to emit a bright light. Then, they ignited.

Qin Yu's soul could feel a slight burning feeling, but there was no malice to it. After a short hesitation, he gave up his resistance.

Then, once the runes burnt out, there was an extra rune mark on the surface of his soul.

A voice resounded in Qin Yu's mind. "Yin and yang are two parts of a whole. You have obtained the inheritance qualifications for the 10,000 Soul Great Dao."

The voice was low and deep, carrying with it a formidable will that could not be resisted.

This was the approval from the Path of 10,000 Souls!

Chapter 1015 - City

Qin Yu opened his eyes and forced a smile. Although he had entered the Path of 10,000 Souls, he had no interest in its method of inheritance.

But somehow, he had bewilderingly obtained its approval.

He knew that by relying on this mark left behind on his soul, once he entered the land of inheritance he could immediately obtain the 10,000 Soul Great Dao.

This was also what East Zhou Duly and the others who entered the land of inheritance were trying to obtain.

However, while Qin Yu had no interest in the 10,000 Soul Great Dao, once he obtained the inheritance he would understand all of its secrets. Undoing it would be even easier.

But could the 10,000 Soul Great Dao really be that simple?

Qin Yu was worried. He was worried that once he obtained the inheritance, he would find that trying to undo it was a hundred times more difficult instead.

The white-robed man who represented the will of the Path of 10,000 Souls didn't appear again, but his voice echoed in Qin Yu's ears. "Boy, I will fulfill my promise and give you an extra harvest. Now, go and enter the third mountain. This is the final test."

Before Qin Yu could respond, an invisible strength descended. His surroundings twisted and he found he had entered the range of the third mountain.

Qin Yu had a solemn expression. When he passed the first test he had been cheating, so he didn't feel much about it.

The second mountain's test allowed Qin Yu to truly understand how terrifying the Three Mountains Test was. This was the last mountain. According to common sense, its difficulty was likely greater than the last one.

But in truth, nothing happened.

Qin Yu walked from the base of the mountain to the summit. The process was smooth and easy, without anything happening at all. When he reached the top, a strong wind howled, clearing away the thick fog that surrounded the peak.

A great shining gate appeared in the void. It was radiant and dazzling.

But now that he was up close, Qin Yu could make out the massive pits and slash markings covering its surface.

As if a long time ago, this gate had withstood an astonishingly powerful attack.

Facing Qin Yu, this gate slowly opened.

Rumble rumble –

Above his head, thunder roared and raged. A million bolts of lightning tore through the skies.

Throughout the entire three mountains region, whether it was people on a mountain or outside, all cultivators gathered here could feel their hearts shake. They looked up into the distance to see a massive golden gate opening up.

"Someone passed the Three Mountains Test!"

"Someone succeeded already!?"

"How is this possible? I am just now approaching the summit of the first mountain!"

“Just who can achieve this?”

Cries of alarm rang out again and again. Countless cultivators widened their eyes, shock and awe in their pupils. Although the contents of the Three Mountains Test were made available here, due to certain restrictions, the cultivators here could not share information about it with the outside world.

But through the countless years, there were numerous cultivators that passed the Three Mountains Test. Even so, the fastest amongst them still took at least a dozen days.

But now...from when the Path of 10,000 Souls had opened, only a little more than two days had passed...

The golden gate shined in the distance. But when people looked over, they could see the tall and noble figure standing before it.

So when Qin Yu paused for a moment before stepping into the gate, his blurry figure became clear.

Countless cultivators saw Qin Yu's appearance.

“It's him!”

Outside the first mountain, several cultivators exclaimed out loud. After regaining their composure, their faces flushed red with shame and embarrassment.

Before, when Qin Yu was walking up the first mountain, they had mocked and ridiculed him.

They didn't see Qin Yu get kicked out so they were amazed. They thought that this kid had some skills.

Yet no matter what they imagined, they never thought that Qin Yu would have already passed the Three Mountains Test.

“It's not two days...but one day...it was one day...” One of the cultivators muttered beneath his breath, his body shivering with awe.

Several people heard him speak and they stiffened. Their faces were full of disbelief.

To rush through the Three Mountains Test in one day...if they didn't see it with their own eyes, who would believe it? Just who was this person and where did he come from!?

“Qin Yu, that's Qin Yu!”

“So it was him!”

“I doubted the rumors before, but now I no longer suspect him. Qin Yu must have an astonishing background...perhaps he does have a transcendent teacher!”

“Qin Yu was actually this terrifying!”

At the first mountain, halfway up the mountainside, Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun were stunned. They glanced at each other, seeing the shock and bitterness in their eyes.

So they had actually been together with such an incomparably formidable existence.

No wonder East Zhou Duly trusted him so much, allowing him to guard the first platform alone so the rest of them could seize the other platforms.

How laughable. Before this, they still felt some dissatisfaction and refused to accept it.

Pure Summer wryly smiled. "Fortunately for us, we didn't show any hostility to Qin Yu, otherwise things really would be troublesome for us."

Peaceful Nun nodded. "I also feel a little jealous about Shang Lingyu's good luck. If he didn't choose to give up at the start, he would have died a miserable death."

"Not necessarily. That Shang Lingyu was able to directly obtain the approval of the Path of 10,000 Souls and enter the land of inheritance. He must have hidden himself deeply." Pure Summer shook his head. But when he looked at the summit, his eyes shined, "These two people may be formidable, but that doesn't mean they can obtain the true inheritance of the Path of 10,000 Souls."

Peaceful Nun smiled. "That's right. We still don't know who the biggest winner will be here!"

The two lowered their heads and continued upwards. An invisible strength lingered around them, blocking out the majority of the pervasive aura.

In this world, there would always be more than one person who was hardworking, lucky, or prepared.

Before the end, who could determine who had won or lost?

...

Qin Yu came up with countless plans in his head as he entered the golden gate. But, he never imagined that the so-called land of inheritance would be a city. That's right, it was ordinary and full of life, just like a small city that could be seen in any common mortal world.

To call this a small city wasn't going too far, because this city was only four or five miles long. The low city walls were mixed soil and wheat stalks. When they were built, perhaps sticky substances like glutinous rice water were added as glue.

Even so, after being exposed to countless years of wind, rain, and sun, the city walls were scarred and damaged. Most sections of it only retained half of their original height or even less than that. Occasionally, a section of the city wall was severely damaged, or perhaps too many corners were cut during construction, but only the bare roots were left remaining.

Outside the circular city gates, one could see the smoke rising from the chimney stacks all over, as well as the bursts of scent from fragrant dishes.

Gulu –

Qin Yu's belly grumbled. He touched it, a strange look on his face. It had already been numerous years, but when he smelled the scents all around, the feeling of hunger struck him once again. He couldn't help but admit that this was simply unbelievable.

But soon he stopped rubbing his belly. He reached into his chest and felt a hard object.

It was a big golden coin.

It was the type that was the size of a knuckle, shaped like a circle with a square hole inside. The surface wasn't rusted but instead shined with a dazzling golden color.

Holding this gold coin in hand, a weird expression crossed his face. He thought for a moment and put the gold coin away before walking into the city.

As he walked through the city gates, noise immediately surrounded him. Stalls were open on both sides and the merchants were clearly competing for business. They had workers arranged all around, loudly calling towards the entrance in an attempt to catch the attention of visitors.

"Come, come! Look at our store's new batch of silk! The quality is definitely top class! If a man wears it they will be dashing and handsome, and if a woman wears it they will be as beautiful as a fairy! Don't miss out!"

"That person over there is just bragging needlessly! When it comes to quality, our century-old brand is still the highest available quality!"

"They are just talking nonsense. Our Kunlun Mountain Silk Store is a famous shop that has been inherited through several generations, and we possess our own uniquely special weaving methods. Our silk is guaranteed to last you a hundred years without fading in color. There is simply no comparison!"

It was clear that these three silk stores were all competing against each other and trying to disparage the others.

Qin Yu's lips twitched. Did he pick up the wrong script by accident?

This was the land of inheritance?

He restrained his thoughts and continued forward. Pedestrians roamed through the streets. This small city was unexpectedly prosperous and bustling.

Soon, Qin Yu found some useful information.

For instance, some people were clearly out of tune with the city. With one glance it was easy to understand they were outsiders.

A purple-robed man stood in front of a steamed bun stall. His complexion was dark and uncertain. After a long time he clenched his teeth and took out a coin from his chest, "Give me a steamed bun!"

Qin Yu could see everything clearly. The coin this person took out was exactly the same shape and style as the one he had, but the color was entirely different.

It wasn't golden, but a dark and rusty stained bronze color.

"Very well, customer, one coin for one steamed bun, please take it." The smiling vendor with a white towel over his head pulled out a steamed bun and wrapped it up, placing it in front of the man.

Even though he was far away, Qin Yu could clearly hear the loud rumbles coming from the man's stomach; he seemed to be incredibly hungry. Then, the man took the steamed bun and ferociously ate it in three bites before closing his eyes.

At this moment, Qin Yu could sense seven or eight pairs of eyes gathering from all directions and falling on this person.

After several breaths of time, the cultivator who ate the steamed bun opened his eyes. With an annoyed look, he turned and walked away. As for the several pairs of eyes, they turned away. One of them glanced at Qin Yu for a moment but didn't linger long.

An hour later, Qin Yu had nearly walked throughout the entire small city. He had approximately gathered the information he wanted.

For instance, the cultivators who entered the land of inheritance would obtain some coins after arriving here. But the colors were different. The worst were copper coins, with some silver coins scattered around. As for the golden coin he had, he hadn't seen anyone else with one.

This city was the Path of 10,000 Souls' land of inheritance. And the coins that these people had were the medium used to obtain the inheritance. Or in another way, it could be said that through the transaction of coins, any purchased goods contained a kind of inheritance.

This was because the Path of 10,000 Souls' land of inheritance didn't have just the 10,000 Souls Great Dao. Rather, within this place, there were tens of thousands and even more kinds of inheritances.

Some of them were extremely strong, but they were only in the minority. Most of them were ordinary and didn't even meet the barest standard.

As for what a person could exchange for, that all depended on a cultivator's luck and eyesight. In short, whether they chose something good or bad, that was their choice.

Of course, the appearance of inheritances weren't static. Rather, they came in a random pattern with seemingly no regulated path.

For instance, the cultivator who purchased a steamed bun had obtained an inheritance after eating it. But from looking at his expression, it clearly hadn't been good. However the next cultivator to purchase a steamed bun might have the chance of eating it and obtaining a fierce inheritance.

Moreover, there were two important things in this city that had to be purchased.

The first was a place to stay and the second was food.

Chapter 1016 - Strange Rules

The specific reason would be explained later, because right now as Qin Yu stood outside a restaurant, he could feel a fire burning within his chest and belly. His stomach that hadn't received a sacrifice yet was ready to go on strike.

Rumble rumble –

There was another series of gurgles. Hunger permeated his bones, making him want to pick up a stone and gnaw on it. It had been a long, long time since he had felt this sensation.

Perhaps the only time he had felt something like this was before he met Aunty Gu, when he was wandering around by himself.

He subconsciously rubbed his belly and drew in a breath. This was bad. The fragrance of wine and food grew thicker. It was like sharp spikes, digging into his will and drawing him close!

“Customer, are you hungry? Come visit our restaurant! Our shop has food cooked by master chefs and the flavor is top class. You won’t regret it after tasting it!” A greeter stood at the entrance of a restaurant, his eyes shining when he saw Qin Yu. “A silver coin. As long as you have a silver coin then you can enjoy a feast in our store. It is absolutely worth the value. Customer, don’t hesitate anymore and come and have a taste!”

A copper coin for a steamed bun.

A silver coin for a banquet.

Then what about a gold coin?

Qin Yu didn’t know nor had he seen another gold coin appear in this city yet. His intuition told him that it was best if he didn’t expose his gold coin, otherwise it would likely bring about unexpected troubles.

But if he didn’t use his gold coin, how was he supposed to eat a meal?

When a cultivator entered the city they would feel hunger. They had to eat to survive.

And there was also the issue of where he would stay...

It was said that when night came to the city, if one wasn’t in a room, then something terrifying would happen.

Qin Yu had no idea what it was and he hadn’t experienced it either. But, he definitely didn’t want to use himself as an experiment.

It seems that things had reached a deadlock...

If he used the gold coin then there was likely to be trouble. But if he didn’t, food and lodging would become an issue.

While Qin Yu mulled it over, the hunger in his belly grew heavier. As he bitterly smiled, he suddenly heard a loud shout.

Then a figure fluttered down from the second floor and landed in front of him.

“Qin Yu, you made it!”

The person standing in front of him was a happy East Zhou Duly. But soon she seemed to think of something. She restrained her expression and pulled him towards the restaurant, “Come with me!”

As they walked she lowered her voice and said, “Don’t say anything.”

They entered the second floor and arrived at a round table. Several people stood up and started to size up Qin Yu.

East Zhou Duly smiled and said, “Everyone, this is a friend of mine. According to our previous agreement, I can bring him to eat with me.”

A woman in a pink dress nodded. "Miss East Zhou does have this right." Her eyes fell on Qin Yu's face and she said, "But, this fellow daoist looks quite familiar."

There seemed to be something pointed in her words.

East Zhou Duly's complexion changed, "My friend here has always been poor in social situations and he rarely interacts with outsiders. I believe Miss Yun must have mistaken him for someone else."

As she spoke she pulled Qin Yu down, "Sit down and eat. I have some matters to attend to soon so I can't stay here much longer."

Qin Yu nodded. No matter what the several people across from him thought, he sat down and started to stuff his face with all the food that arrived in front of him. But what a pity, while the feeling of blissful fullness came, he wasn't able to harvest any inheritance from the Path of 10,000 Souls.

This seemed to be different from the information he had learned. It was apparent that there were other matters he hadn't yet fully understood.

"Are you full yet?" East Zhou Duly glanced at him. Seeing Qin Yu nod, she stood up and said, "Then everyone, we shall bid our farewells first."

As her voice fell, Qin Yu stood up and the two of them left the restaurant.

As the two left, the pink-dressed and beautiful Yun Feng narrowed her eyes, a thoughtful look within them.

"What is it? Does fellow daoist Yun truly know that person?" Another cultivator asked, arrogance in his eyes. "This East Zhou Duly comes from some remote family and she was lucky enough to get a few silver coins. Otherwise with her qualifications, how could she be able to dine with us? What sort of background could people around her possibly have?"

Yun Feng smiled and softly said, "Perhaps I was just overthinking things." She shook her head and suppressed the thoughts running through her mind. She glanced around and said, "Now, the only ones left here are our people. Everyone, please state what your recent harvests have been."

After leaving the restaurant and avoiding everyone's line of sight, East Zhou Duly came to a stop. She turned and looked at Qin Yu, "You came that fast?"

When she finished speaking she seemed to think of something, or perhaps it was because she felt that her question was inappropriate, but her face flushed red and she quickly said, "I mean, how did you come to the land of inheritance so quickly?"

Qin Yu traced his nose, thinking that it was better if she didn't try to rephrase her question. Instead, he was the one feeling uncomfortable now. He coughed and said, "My luck was good. I overcame the Three Mountains Test and arrived here."

East Zhou Duly certainly wouldn't believe that good luck would allow someone to enter the land of inheritance. Was he trying to fool her? But even if Qin Yu didn't say anything she could approximately guess the situation. He really was worthy of being a Ruler's disciple; his depths could not be fathomed.

“There are some words that aren’t convenient to say here. Come with me first.” East Zhou Duly looked at her surroundings. Then, she grabbed onto Qin Yu’s hand and hurried forward.

A moment later, in a distant small courtyard, East Zhou Duly pushed open the doors and walked in. An old man was in the courtyard doing some woodworking. When he saw the two come in he frowned and said, “Little Duly, is he your friend? We agreed that you wouldn’t bring anyone back here.”

East Zhou Duly quickly said, “Uncle Cow, this is my friend. I am just going to have a brief chat with him. He will leave soon.”

Uncle Cow looked at Qin Yu and nodded his head, showing neither approval nor disapproval. Then, he turned back to his woodcraft work.

East Zhou Duly eyed Qin Yu. The two entered a small room. After closing the door, the sounds around them immediately quieted.

“Hu!” East Zhou Duly let out a deep breath. “It’s fortunate that my luck is quite good. Uncle Cow seems serious but in truth he’s a good person, otherwise you wouldn’t have been able to come here.”

Qin Yu nodded. He looked around. This was a very small room. Besides a bed there was nothing else here.

The space was small and narrow. With a man and woman standing here, an inexplicable scent filled the air.

Sensing Qin Yu’s silence, East Zhou Duly’s heart skipped a beat. She coughed and said, “You still don’t know what’s going on in this city, right?”

Qin Yu nodded. “After I arrived in the city I spent some time walking around. I found some useful information, but it wasn’t complete.”

East Zhou Duly revealed an appreciative look. “As I thought, with your intelligence you realized something was off.” She paused and said with an earnest expression, “This city is the Path of 10,000 Souls’ land of inheritance. You should already know of this, but there are many rules in the city.

“For instance, you absolutely cannot attempt to attack any person in this city. Otherwise no matter how strong your cultivation is, you will suffer. I have seen this with my own eyes so definitely do not try and attempt it. Moreover, you must be careful with how you spend your coins. Once you spend them all, you will be forcefully transmitted out.”

Qin Yu nodded, expressing his understanding. He asked why he didn’t harvest any inheritances after the previous meal.

“It’s normal. A silver coin can pay for a banquet table, enough for ten people to eat their fill. But only the person who paid can harvest the inheritance; you and I can only feel full.” East Zhou Duly looked up and hesitated a little. She said, “Qin Yu, you should have been the first person to pass the Three Mountains Test and enter the land of inheritance this time around. Then you have...”

She stared at Qin Yu’s face. “If it’s not convenient for you to tell me, you don’t have to.”

Qin Yu said, "You want to know how many coins I have." He reached into his chest and took out the gold coin. "I only have this."

"Ah!" East Zhou Duly cried out loud, her eyes turning round like saucers. "A gold coin, you actually obtained a gold coin!"

Her face was full of shock.

Qin Yu observed her reaction. Besides surprise and envy, there wasn't anything else. He relaxed a little. He was old acquaintances with East Zhou Duly, and because she helped him enter the Path of 10,000 Souls, it could be said that he owed her a favor. He didn't want to come into conflict with her just because of a gold coin.

Now, it seemed that this woman's character was passable.

"What does a gold coin represent?"

East Zhou Duly drew in a deep breath. Her gaze was deep as she said, "Ten copper coins can be traded for one silver coin. But 100 silver coins are needed to exchange for a single gold coin...but that isn't the key point. The key point is that this gold coin represents the qualifications to obtain the 10,000 Souls Great Dao."

She pursed her lips and continued to say, "As long as you are willing to use this gold coin, then any transaction you complete with it in this city will have you obtain the 10,000 Souls Great Dao inheritance...your luck is too good!"

When she finished speaking, she felt that something was wrong. If Qin Yu was able to obtain a gold coin then it had to be related to how quickly he rushed through the Three Mountains Test. It wasn't related to his luck.

So it was like this.

Qin Yu's heart stirred. He thought of the runes he received after passing the first and second mountains. They had fused together and marked itself on his soul...by relying on this rune, he could already obtain the inheritance of the 10,000 Souls Great Dao. If so, wasn't this gold coin unnecessary?

As his thoughts turned, he calmly said, "I thank Miss East Zhou for the reminder."

East Zhou Duly barely managed to regain her composure. She waved her hand and said, "With your intelligence, you had likely already sensed that there was something unusual about that gold coin, otherwise you wouldn't have hesitated outside the restaurant for so long."

She furrowed her eyebrows together, "This is a difficult problem. The gold coin cannot be exposed. Once others realize its existence they will not hesitate to pay any price to steal it from you. Qin Yu, since you have already obtained the gold coin, don't delay any further. Complete any transaction right now. After you obtain the 10,000 Souls Great Dao inheritance, you can immediately leave!"

Qin Yu shook his head, "I came to the Path of 10,000 Souls for other reasons. I cannot leave yet."

East Zhou Duly said, "Then what are you going to do now? I can help with your food issue, but where do you plan on staying?"

Renting a room was cheaper than living in an inn, but it still wasn't a small expenditure. She had to search for the inheritance so she couldn't solve this problem for Qin Yu.

Qin Yu wryly smiled, "I'll try to figure out another solution."

Chapter 1017 - Room

East Zhou Duly looked at him. "Don't even think about staying outside overnight. Although I have no idea what the danger is, everyone that tried to stay outside at night has already vanished. I don't know where they are right now, but I believe you shouldn't be curious about this."

She glanced at the bed behind her and clenched her teeth, saying, "You wait here, I'll be back." She pushed open the door and it didn't fully shut behind her. Qin Yu could hear East Zhou Duly speaking to the old man in the courtyard outside.

Her bitter pleading was eventually rejected in the end. This seemed to involve some bottom line in the Path of 10,000 Souls.

Qin Yu put away the gold coin and walked into the courtyard. "I have taken Miss East Zhou's kindness to heart. I will think of another way, so goodbye."

He turned to leave. But at this time, the old man's eyes suddenly brightened. "You have a gold coin?"

Qin Yu's expression sank. A cold light flashed in his eyes.

East Zhou Duly was also stunned. She knew what sort of terrifying consequences would occur once news of this spread out.

Uncle Cow didn't say much more. After determining something, he looked over Qin Yu and curled his lips, "Since that's the case, I can make an exception this one time. You can stay the night, but you must be in the same bed as that girl Duly. I don't want to cause any trouble for myself."

"Thank you Uncle Cow, thank you Uncle Cow!" East Zhou Duly was ecstatic. After expressing her thanks repeatedly she pulled Qin Yu back into the room, as if she were afraid he would go back on his word.

After closing the door behind her, her face was red with joy. "This is wonderful. Your living situation has been solved. You can continue staying here!"

Qin Yu rubbed his nose, an obscure look on his face.

East Zhou Duly soon thought of something. She flushed red and said, "Since this involves your interests and goals, I don't think fellow daoist Qin would be so rigid, right? Or perhaps you have some dark intentions towards me?"

Qin Yu hacked out a cough and waved a hand. Weren't these words just a bit too aggressive?

Seeing him behave like this, East Zhou Duly laughed inwardly. At the same time she also felt a bit disappointed.

It seemed that he really wasn't interested in her.

Night arrived. The lively city fell into a deathly silence.

Uncle Cow had already locked the courtyard doors. After coughing a few times he returned to his room and turned off the lights to sleep.

It was pitch black outside. In the darkness, Qin Yu and East Zhou Duly seemed to remember Uncle Cow's reminder.

Uncle Cow hadn't been trying to make things difficult for them by having the two of them sleep in the same bed. Besides, the entire city had gone dark and there was no sound at all; it was obviously strange.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. It had already been awkward enough for East Zhou Duly to ask if he could stay here. He certainly wouldn't force her to take the initiative to speak first.

"Miss East Zhou, we should go to bed."

These words...while Qin Yu was doing his best to appear calm and composed, he still felt that they sounded somewhat off.

East Zhou Duly's face flushed red in the darkness. While she had spoken about it casually, this was still the first time she had ever done anything like this in her life. She felt a little bit of fear and distress, but she didn't dare to speak. She simply hummed in agreement.

She took the inside and he took the outside.

In the pitch black room, they could hear each other breathing. The bed they were sleeping on was uncomfortable too. Well, this didn't have anything to do with the bed. With their cultivation, it wouldn't make any difference if they slept in a sea of flames or a raging storm. Everything was in their hearts.

Even if Qin Yu never had any other thoughts towards East Zhou Duly before, it was inevitable that his heart would fluctuate in this sort of situation. This was simply human nature.

As for East Zhou Duly, if she could really become dual cultivating dao companions with Qin Yu, then while she might appear reserved on the surface, she would be filled with joy inside.

Luckily, this awkward situation didn't last for long before it was interrupted by the sounds of knocking.

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

Extremely loud knocking sounds could be heard from far away. In the dark silence, they were especially clear.

"Coming, I'm coming!"

It was Uncle Cow's voice. There was a hint of restlessness in it. The courtyard doors were opened, but there was only the sound of a single pair of footsteps; those from Uncle Cow.

"There's no problem here, you must have sensed wrongly!" Uncle Cow said, apparently giving an explanation. But soon, things developed in the worst possible direction.

Hu –

A dark wind blew in and the windows swung open. Although it was still dark outside and one couldn't see anything, whether it was Qin Yu or East Zhou Duly, they both stiffened. A cold chill shot up their backs.

It seemed that there was something outside the window that was coming closer and peeking in.

Uncle Cow's voice turned dry. "There's a little girl living inside. She has already paid rent and I have reported it to the city. My lord, your actions can already be considered as going against the rules.

"She really does live here. Why would I lie about this? My lord, you should continue patrolling. Don't make things difficult for little old me."

It was still only Uncle Cow speaking. But the more it was like this, the more fear one felt.

The existence hiding in the darkness clearly didn't believe Uncle Cow's words. The cold wind blew with greater intensity. The windows and even the tightly shut door began to rattle and hit the walls.

East Zhou Duly bit her lips. She reached out and grabbed Qin Yu, tightly pulling into his chest.

"Don't move and don't say anything. The thing outside has already sensed us. This is the only way we can fool it."

East Zhou Duly's face was hot red and she did her best to restrain her thoughts. It was unknown what secret art she utilized, but her aura soon vanished.

At the same time, her body became much hotter. Qin Yu felt as if he were hugging onto a mass of flames.

This level of heat certainly didn't trouble Qin Yu. On the contrary, it made it so he could clearly feel the softness pressed into his arms and just how elastic it felt.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed his impulses. In truth, he had an even better idea. If he released the sun and moon force field to conceal his aura, it should be enough to fool the unknown existence outside.

But before he could do it, East Zhou Duly had tightly hugged onto him. If he were to shove her away now it wouldn't be giving her any face at all. Moreover, it would seem like he was trying to take some kind of high moral stand after already having profited.

My apologies!

Qin Yu thought to himself. Then, he restrained his senses, reducing the impact of her chest against him as much as possible.

The cold wind gradually faded and the door and windows stopped shaking. Uncle Cow's voice sounded out, "My lord, you can see that I wasn't lying, there really is only one person inside. If you had rushed in just now, you would have broken the city's rules.

"It's fine, it's fine, I certainly understand that you are utterly loyal to your duty and you aren't trying to make things difficult for me. Let's just pretend that this matter never happened. My lord, please take

care as you leave. My status is limited so it's not good for me to walk around too much at night. I won't be seeing you out."

The courtyard doors closed and the lock clicked in place. Uncle Cow turned back around. When he passed by East Zhou Duly's room, he humphed, clearly dissatisfied with the two people inside.

But he didn't knock on their door. After returning to his room he fell silent.

East Zhou Duly had a red face as she came out from Qin Yu's chest. She said, "It should be fine now."

The rest of the night passed peacefully. When the first rays of light appeared, the city that seemed to have fallen asleep became lively once more.

The sound of Uncle Cow's movements came from the courtyard. Qin Yu got out of bed and cupped his hands, saying, "I apologize if I offended you in any way last night."

East Zhou Duly shook her head, not saying anything else about that. "This city is mysterious and there are many other secrets that we have yet to come into contact with. No matter what you do, you must be careful."

Qin Yu's heart warmed, "Miss East Zhou should do the same."

As the two walked out, Uncle Cow's complexion was indeed not good. When he glanced at them he couldn't help but coldly humph again, "A young man and woman staying in the same room and same bed at night. I thought that would be the end of it, but I never thought such an unexpected guest would arrive. I was almost caught up in a great mess! If that lord from last night found you, not only would the two of you have been in trouble, I would have also encountered disaster!"

But even though he had a bad expression, Uncle Cow didn't say anything else. He only impatiently waved his hand, sending the two people away as soon as possible.

Strangely, he never mentioned kicking Qin Yu out. This was somewhat beyond their expectations.

After leaving the courtyard, East Zhou Duly said, "Since he hasn't chased you out you can continue staying there. After all, in this city it's difficult to find a place to stay."

Qin Yu thought for a moment and nodded. He didn't bother going through the conventions of refusing before accepting. His time was precious and he didn't want to waste it on figuring out his living situation at night.

Without accident, that abyssal being should be in the city. But just what was he trying to do?

There was also that night inspector hidden in the darkness last night. Although Qin Yu never saw its appearance, he could feel a fearful aura in the surging cold winds.

This city was much more complex than what he saw in the daytime.

The two people didn't say much. After agreeing to meet up again before night fell, they turned and parted ways.

The reason for entering the land of inheritance was to obtain the Path of 10,000 Souls' inheritances. Every extra day that they spent in the city meant more expenses for food and lodging. Everyone had a limited amount of money so no one could afford to delay.

Qin Yu walked down the long street, his eyes constantly sweeping around. Along the way, he saw many cultivators who came from the outside world just like him.

But in this strange city, everyone dreaded each other. Unless they were acquainted already, they would just glance at each other and distance themselves. There was no desire to communicate.

Everyone had money in their hands, and each coin represented another opportunity in this city. If one said they never had dark thoughts of stealing from others, that person would just be lying to themselves. It was just because of their scruples that everyone held back and didn't wantonly attack others.

So it was best to stay further away from each other, lest they rouse the envy of others.

The city wasn't large to begin with. Even though Qin Yu walked slowly, he was able to walk around every corner in about four hours.

Right now, he was standing deep in an alley somewhere in the south of the city. An unremarkable private school was in front of him.

The reason he knew it was a private school was not just the typical black and white walls and the unique architectural style, but also because of the plaque hanging at the door and the sounds of reading from within.

Qin Yu quietly waited outside. The courtyard doors of the private school were open. After a brief hesitation, he stepped inside.

Chapter 1018 – Private School Teacher

The doorway wasn't large, but there seemed to be another world inside. Looking at the size, it was at least as large as four or five of the surrounding courtyards where the insides were removed and opened.

Besides two neat rows of studies, there was a considerably large garden with a pond in it. It was unknown where the water came from but koi fish swam within, their shining white and red bodies creating a beautiful sight.

Qin Yu looked at his surroundings with a casual demeanor, covering up the dark golden light that flashed in his eyes.

Finally, his eyes landed on a teacher in the private school who was currently in class. He wore white robes and he had an indifferent appearance. His gestures conveyed a certain type of charm that only scholars had.

When Qin Yu looked at him, the teacher also looked over. As their eyes met, the teacher furrowed his eyebrows but didn't say anything.

After speaking for a while and telling the students to study and review the reading material in their own time, the teacher opened the door and walked over to Qin Yu. He stood tall and said, "This is a lecture

hall, a place for students to study and learn. There's nothing here for the likes of you to look for and no transactions are available here. Please leave."

Qin Yu apologized. He cupped his hands together and turned to leave. But after taking several steps he turned and said, "This mister, may I ask if you are selling the book in your hand?"

The teacher's frown deepened and a look of discontent flashed in his eyes. "This is a book of sages and saints. As it records the words of the sages and saints, how can it be traded away?"

Qin Yu smiled and bid his farewells. When he left the private school he turned and looked back, a dark golden light flashing in his eyes once more.

Before night arrived, Qin Yu reached the little courtyard. After waiting at the entrance for a while he saw East Zhou Duly hurrying back. She had a weary look on her face as if she was exhausted. When she saw Qin Yu and smiled, it was a forced expression.

Qin Yu asked her about it but she didn't say much. He stopped when he noticed that she didn't want to discuss it. After a brief conversation, the two went to bed.

Just like before, she slept on the inside and he slept on the outside.

But tonight, no one came to inspect the room. Qin Yu relaxed a little but also discovered that there was a faint trace of disappointment in his heart.

This discovery left him stunned. Then, he ridiculed himself. As he thought, he was really just an ordinary man.

The night passed without words. They left the next day, each one going their own direction.

Qin Yu didn't stop. He went straight to the private school from yesterday. When he arrived, several cultivators were walking out, their complexions hard to look at as if someone had slammed the doors on their faces.

The one who drove these people out was the indifferent and worldly mister teacher from yesterday.

"Let's go, let's go, there really isn't any opportunity here!"

"A group of pitiful souls that's born from the Path of 10,000 Souls actually dares to drive us away!"

"Why bother arguing with these dead things!"

Several people rapidly said amongst themselves. When they saw Qin Yu they looked away and quieted down.

They had already probed the entire private school once. Since they hadn't found any harvests, this place was worthless to them.

Qin Yu coming here alone was a waste of time in their opinion.

Of course, none of them knew each other so there was no need to warn him. With this being the case, they would let this boy suffer and find out the truth himself.

And facts proved that these people were right. Qin Yu was rebuffed. When the teacher saw him, his eyebrows rose up.

When he didn't raise his eyebrows his appearance was unremarkable. But now that he was a little angry, he appeared much more energetic and heroic.

Those two not-so-beautiful eyebrows were like two little swords that could fly out and attack at any moment.

"Why are you here again? This academy is a place for children to study and learn. If you want to cause trouble then go somewhere else!"

Qin Yu carefully looked at the teacher. He bowed and cupped his hands together, "Mister, I would like to study here."

The teacher coldly coughed. He pointed a finger at the door, "Please take a look. This private school is for children and children only. It isn't a place for adults. Put your little thoughts aside and leave!"

It seemed he was already prepared for this trick.

Qin Yu smiled. "They say that in learning there is no first or last, and all should be taught without discrimination. Since I have sincerely come to study, how can you push me away?"

"Clever words are useless. If you don't want to leave then feel free to waste your time here." As the teacher finished speaking he turned and left.

Qin Yu rubbed his nose. Sure enough, he couldn't trust those stories where it was said that the protagonist's eloquent words were immediately appreciated.

He walked forward and headed into the private school. When the teacher turned his head in anger, Qin Yu reached out a hand and opened it to reveal the gold coin within.

"Is this enough for me to study here?"

The teacher's complexion changed. He looked at the gold coin and said, "Since you have that, why don't you hurry and leave? Why stay here?"

Qin Yu said, "I have my own reasons."

"Put it away. I don't want the peace and quiet of this private school to be ruined by you outsiders!" He turned and walked away.

Qin Yu put the gold coin away. He cupped his hands together and said, "Thank you mister."

This thing really was useful. Qin Yu had sensed when Uncle Cow changed his attitude. And, it seemed that the natives of this city weren't allowed to reveal anything concerning the secrets of the gold coin.

After a day passed, Qin Yu hadn't heard any news about a gold coin circulating through the city. This was the reason why he dared to take it out and try using it here. It was unexpectedly useful.

A moment later, Qin Yu picked up a book before he was kicked out. According to the teacher, this was the most face he could give due to the gold coin. If Qin Yu wanted to stay and study, it would be impossible.

Qin Yu said his goodbyes without hesitation. He couldn't really stay here even if he wanted to. Because if others were to learn that he was able to stay behind while they were all chased out, they would think there was another reason for it...and for the time being, he wanted to keep a low profile.

When Qin Yu left the private school he felt a cold feeling on his back. His complexion changed and he spun around, but didn't discover anything wrong.

But that feeling just now...

Abyssal being!

That's right, it had to be him!

Qin Yu never imagined that after yesterday being so uneventful he would actually encounter the abyssal being outside the private school today.

Or, had this abyssal being been paying attention to this place the entire time?

As he thought, there really was something hidden in this private school!

But now was not the time to care about such things. If he was targeted by the hidden abyssal being, would there be a good ending for him? Thinking of this, Qin Yu's heart became uncomfortable and his face clouded over.

Yet the rest of the day remained calm and uneventful. Qin Yu couldn't help but wonder, had his senses been wrong?

Before night arrived, Qin Yu met up with East Zhou Duly outside the courtyard. The weariness on her face was heavier and her eyes were a little bloodshot.

Looking at her appearance, could it be that she encountered a problem?

But she still didn't say anything. After she entered the room she pulled out a steamed bun and gave it to Qin Yu, "You should be hungry, right? I'll give this steamed bun to you."

She smiled with some difficulty but there was no hesitation in her voice. It was clear that she didn't want Qin Yu interfering in her business.

Perhaps there was another reason.

Qin Yu ate the steamed bun. His eyes flashed but he didn't say anything.

As night fell, darkness covered the city and everything fell into silence, with no more sounds coming out. But, the night was doomed to not be calm. There was a knocking in the darkness, followed soon after by rustling sounds in the courtyard.

Uncle Cow stood up and opened the door. He seemed to be bitterly smiling, "My lord, why are you here again? Wasn't it said that there isn't a problem here? If you continue doing this it will affect my guest."

East Zhou Duly opened her eyes. She moved and drilled her way into Qin Yu's arms like a boneless snake.

With her previous experience she was quick to act. She soon adjusted herself and completely restrained her aura.

But this time, the situation had spun out beyond their control.

There was a stuffy coughing sound in the courtyard. Although it was faint, Qin Yu could still sense the shock and disbelief contained within it.

Then, all sounds belonging to Uncle Cow thoroughly vanished. What rose up in the darkness was a light but clear sound of chewing.

The rank scent of blood filled the air.

In his arms, East Zhou Duly froze in place. Even after restraining her aura she still had an amazing perception ability.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with a sharp light. He glanced at the window. Although it was pitch black, he could sense a pair of ice cold eyes locking onto his body.

As he thought, the tranquility in the daytime didn't represent anything...that abyssal being had made his move!

The only good news was that his true self hadn't arrived. It seemed he also had some scruples at nighttime. But, this led to another problem; the abyssal was unexpectedly able to control the night patrollers of this city.

When Qin Yu thought deeply about this point, it caused his heart to turn cold.

The courtyard was peaceful. The air turned thick and sticky. A yin chill overflowed, as if the entire place would freeze solid.

But this peace would eventually be broken...

Chapter 1019 – Nighttime Attack

Qin Yu patted East Zhou Duly and shoved her away from his arms before getting out of bed. The moment he landed on his feet, the closed door was thrust open.

It was still pure darkness there, but at this time East Zhou Duly could feel a turbulent ice cold aura gushing out from that pure darkness and drowning her.

She wasn't able to resist it at all. It passed through her skin and seeped into her body. Without stopping, it made its way deeper, reaching the depths of her marrow and diving into her soul!

She froze in place. Besides her thoughts, she couldn't even move a finger.

The sun and moon force field spread out in Qin Yu's soul space. The intrusive yin chill aura invading his body was quickly melted away by his roiling blood energy.

After a brief moment of stiffness his movement was restored. He stepped forward without hesitation as he raced towards the door.

East Zhou Duly was in the room. He didn't hope for her to be dragged into this battle.

Moreover...fortune favored the brave. It should be beyond the inspector's expectations that he was able to resist the invasion of that yin chill aura.

While it was unprepared, he would seize this chance to widen his advantage!

The sun and moon force field rolled out. Qin Yu's eyes were closed but he could still sense that seemingly invisible and intangible presence in the dark.

Without hesitation, he raised a hand and punched out.

The other party slowed down. The inspector that pushed open the door and was just about to step in clearly hadn't expected such a violent counterattack.

Its hand was still raised, a cold aura wildly gathering there. But by now, Qin Yu's fist had already fallen.

The moment Qin Yu touched that yin chill aura, he simply didn't need to activate anything. The jade embryo egg's strength within his body seemed to sense its natural enemy and burst out howling.

At this moment, a trace of light appeared in the darkness.

It was weak, but within the darkness it was enough to illuminate this small space.

Qin Yu was finally able to see the inspector hidden in the darkness. It was an old man with an ordinary face. His mouth was still covered in bloodstains that had yet to be cleaned up.

But what shocked Qin Yu the most was that this face belonged to the owner of the courtyard – Uncle Cow!

Before he had time to figure out what was going on, the yin chill aura beneath his fist began to bubble as if it had been exposed to the hot sun. It all disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Qin Yu could sense that while his fist was able to collapse the chest of his opponent and cause numerous ribs to break, he actually wasn't able to cause any substantive damage.

To the inspector that was covered in a cold aura and fused into the night, an injury of this degree was something that could be restored with just a thought.

However, what Qin Yu erupted with now was not just his own strength, but also the power of the jade embryo egg.

Like a torrent of hot lava, it followed the wounds inflicted by Qin Yu, smashing into the inspector's body.

Where it went, everything was destroyed and no vitality was left!

A pained howl rang out. The face that looked exactly like Uncle Cow's painfully distorted. Flames surged out, wrapping around the inspector and then extinguishing a second later.

The extremely terrifying nighttime inspector, who hid in the darkness and was able to disable East Zhou Duly with just its cold aura, was thoroughly burnt to ashes.

It died.

Let alone the inspector, even Qin Yu was stunned because the process had been far too simple and easy. The enemy had pushed open the door, he had attacked, and with a single punch the fight was finished.

When he pushed East Zhou Duly away and took the initiative to launch an attack, he had already prepared himself for a long and drawn out battle. Otherwise, why would he worry about the shock waves of the battle drawing in East Zhou Duly and harming her?

The jade embryo egg's strength...

Since he refined it into his body, this was the second instance of it exploding with power without Qin Yu needing to control it.

The first time was when he killed the abyssal being he saw at the start. The second time was now.

In essence, Qin Yu could determine that the city inspector had obeyed orders from the abyssal being to come here. And the strength of the jade embryo egg had erupted once more, causing a terrifying fatal injury to the inspector.

This possibly indicated that the inspector's body had been tainted with abyssal energy...in other words, the Path of 10,000 Souls and its city of inheritance had been eroded by the power of the abyss!

If this was true, then while he had killed the inspector tonight, perhaps it was only the start of a terrifying new arc.

As he thought of this, his complexion became even more dignified.

He looked up at the pitch black darkness outside the courtyard. He took a deep breath, feeling the threat of the infinite yin chill.

He didn't go and close the courtyard doors. Instead, he took a step back and closed the door to the room. While the yin chill feeling was still there, it was isolated outside. He felt much more at ease.

He turned around and moved to the bedside. He picked up East Zhou Duly's hand and felt the piercing cold within her. He furrowed his eyebrows.

There was a brief hesitation in his eyes. Then he got onto the bed. He said in a low voice, "My apologies if I offend you."

He stretched out his arms and pulled her cold body into his chest. His heart started to wildly beat. Billowing blood energy flowed through him, causing him to release heat that wrapped around her.

An hour later, Qin Yu heard a long exhale. He asked, "How do you feel?"

"I'm...I'm fine..." East Zhou Duly's voice shivered. When she was permeated by the cold chill in the air her thoughts had become increasingly slow and she could do nothing about it. She even thought that she was going to die.

Now that she leaned into Qin Yu's chest and felt the warmth he released, she unexpectedly had an impulse to cry.

Only after experiencing the torment between life and death could a person understand how precious it was to live.

"Qin Yu...thank you...thank you for saving me..."

After a short pause, Qin Yu revealed an apologetic look. He said, "If I'm not mistaken, it came for me. You were merely swept up in this matter because of me."

"I have a premonition that this is just the beginning. I will find another place to stay tomorrow. Don't say anything else and just recover as soon as possible."

The rest of the night passed quietly. The deathly silence and darkness that covered everything retreated from the city, and noise could be heard once again.

Qin Yu loosened his hand and got off the bed. East Zhou Duly sat there, her complexion still pale.

"You're leaving now?"

"Mm." Qin Yu didn't give an explanation. He thought for a moment and said, "There is an unknown danger hidden in the Path of 10,000 Souls' land of inheritance. You should leave as soon as possible."

East Zhou Duly revealed a look of struggle. But she soon took a deep breath and said, "Alright, I'll listen to you."

The events of the past two days had left her exhausted in mind and body. In addition, the unprovoked attack from the nighttime inspector last night caused her to make the decision to finally leave.

Although she didn't obtain the 10,000 Souls Great Dao that she most wanted, her harvests had still been considerable.

People had to know when to be satisfied and stop. If they were insatiably greedy and wanted more all the time, it would be difficult for them to have a good ending.

Qin Yu nodded. Just as he was about to push open the door and leave, he furrowed his eyebrows, an amazed look in his eyes.

A moment later, there were the sounds of several people speaking coming from the courtyard.

"East Zhou Duly lives here?" A woman asked.

Another person said, "That's right. I saw her come here with my own eyes."

"Why is the door open?"

"Go, see if she's still in there!"

On the bed, East Zhou Duly's complexion changed. She glanced at Qin Yu and revealed an anxious look.

"My friend has arrived. Don't come out!"

As she spoke she got out of bed. Adjusting her clothes a little, she pushed open the door and walked out of the room.

“Miss Yun, fellow daoists, may I ask why you came here in the morning looking for me?” East Zhou Duly looked around. When she saw two black-robed figures standing behind the group, she frowned.

Yun Feng had a calm expression. She smiled and said, “Miss East Zhou, our time is precious so I won’t waste any of it with small talk. The reason we came here today is for yesterday’s matter. May I ask whether or not Miss East Zhou has considered it yet?”

East Zhou Duly’s eyebrows furrowed even tighter. “I already gave you an answer yesterday. I won’t trade away my silver coins!”

Yun Feng lightly said, “Miss East Zhou, we can be considered friends so I hope you reconsider this and don’t make things awkward for all of us.”

“Miss Yun, I’m not trying to make things difficult for anyone...I don’t want to talk any more, so if there’s nothing else you have to say, please leave!” East Zhou Duly said, rising anger in her voice.

“You would rather do things the hard way than take the easy way out! East Zhou Duly, since we came to visit, you do not have the qualifications to refuse!” Another cultivator said, a look of ill intent on his face.

“Hand over your silver coins and our previous agreement won’t change. Otherwise, Miss East Zhou will regret it!”

“East Zhou Duly, a true genius knows when to submit to circumstances. Don’t harm yourself because of your stubbornness!”

The group of cultivators all had cold expressions.

East Zhou Duly said, “If I don’t agree will you all steal from me? Don’t forget what place this is!”

This was a place where cultivators felt hunger and needed to fill their bellies with food. It was a place where they had to find a place to stay in the evening to avoid the night. However, cultivators who entered the city still possessed their own strength. Once they collided with each other, the aftermath would inevitably spread out to the surrounding area.

And in this city, once any native residents were affected, those involved would be directly suppressed by the city guards.

Because of this, even though several days had passed the city was still peaceful and there wasn’t any explosion of slaughter between outside cultivators.

Yun Feng glanced around, a look of pity in her eyes as if she were feeling sorry for East Zhou Duly’s ignorance. She turned towards the two black-robed figures – one could only distinguish that they were a man and a woman – and respectfully said, “My lords, East Zhou Duly has chosen not to cooperate. I can only trouble you with this matter.”

A man’s deep voice came from one of the black-robed figures. “Alright.”

He lifted a hand and two figures flashed out. They were impressively the guards that maintained order during the daytime.

“I need to deal with some personal matters here. Please ask the surrounding residents to temporarily leave.”

The two guards nodded and left in different directions. They knocked on the courtyard doors along the street, leading the citizens away.

Hearing the sounds around her, East Zhou Duly paled. She looked at the two black-robed people with stunned shock.

They could actually control the city guard!?

Even though this wasn't the first time Yun Feng had seen this happen, she was still in awe of it. She had no idea where these two lords had come from, but they had already agreed to reward them once they collected enough silver coins.

Yun Feng didn't doubt this at all. Her voice became even more respectful as she said, “I must exhaust the two lords.” She turned towards East Zhou Duly, the disdain and pity in her eyes even thicker. This was just a girl from some distant backwater place, so how could she understand the true secrets of the world?

Before the Path of 10,000 Souls had opened they had already locked onto the inheritance they wanted.

But all of this was based on satisfying the conditions of the two lords. So, she had to obtain East Zhou Duly's silver coins!

“Miss East Zhou, hand over your silver coins and I will give you one final grace.”

East Zhou Duly paled even further.

At this moment, the black-robed woman suddenly spoke up, “There's another person in the room.”

Yun Feng's eyes were swift and fierce, “Who is it? Come out!”

East Zhou Duly fiercely looked up. “I will give you all of my silver coins, so I ask you to leave immediately!”

“Hoho, it seems that Miss East Zhou is very nervous about the person in the room. Then, I must take a good look and see who it is.

“Come out, otherwise don't blame us for attacking!”

Creak –

The door was pushed open from within. Qin Yu walked out. He swept his eyes around. When he saw the two black-robed figures, a dark golden light flashed in his eyes.

“It's you!”

With deep shouts, the group revealed looks of surprise.

A few days ago, East Zhou Duly had invited Qin Yu to dine with them. Although they didn't speak much, it was not too long ago so of course they remembered.

Yun Feng's pupils flashed. "It seems that we have some fate with this fellow daoist. Miss East Zhou, will you not introduce us?"

The first time they met, she had felt something strange coming from Qin Yu. Now that she saw him again, this feeling was even more intense. In addition, there was also the way East Zhou Duly tried to protect him.

Yun Feng narrowed her eyes. It seemed there were some issues with this person.

Chapter 1020 – Old Acquaintances

Just as East Zhou Duly was about to say something, she was interrupted by Qin Yu. He stood in front of her and said, "My name is Qin Yu. I am Miss East Zhou's friend."

"Friend? Hoho, a single man and a single woman living together in a single room with a single bed? You two must be very good friends!" A cultivator clenched his teeth as he spoke, a cold light surging in his eyes.

It was undeniable that East Zhou Duly was a beautiful woman. Although he looked down on her background, Jiang Yuanyi was still interested in her.

But what a pity, East Zhou Duly hadn't been receptive to his advances at all. Her lack of response left him secretly annoyed.

And now that he saw Qin Yu coming out of her room, the sinister fires in his heart began to burn.

You ignore me while raising this little piece of white meat in your room? East Zhou Duly, you really are something!

Jiang Yuanyi took a deep breath and was about to speak again, but Qin Yu's eyes suddenly fell on his body. His gaze was calm and without fluctuation, but for some reason Jiang Yuanyi felt his heart chill and all the vulgar words he was about to spout were caught in his throat.

After glancing at Jiang Yuanyi, Qin Yu no longer paid attention to him. He looked at the forceful and aggressive Yun Feng and the two black-robed people behind her. His lips curved up and he coldly said, "You two back there, we can more or less be considered as old acquaintances meeting again, so do you plan on continuing to remain silent?"

Jiang Yuanyi, Yun Feng, and the others glanced at each other, their complexions changing.

Listening to his words, Qin Yu actually recognized the two lords beneath the black robes? Although they didn't know if he was lying, they chose to remain quiet.

The air was deathly still.

Qin Yu's smile widened. "What? Do you two plan on me pulling down your black robes before you are willing to acknowledge me? Or perhaps..." He swept his eyes at the several people around him and disdainfully said, "Do you think these people can stop me?"

Their breathing came to a stop. Even though they guessed that Qin Yu might know these two black-robed lords, Yun Feng and the others still felt irritated at these words. Just how arrogant was he? It was simply outrageous!

Each of them had a great background. In terms of how noble their status was, they were far above East Zhou Duly. This was the reason they didn't worry about provoking trouble when they planned to steal her silver coins.

The group of people was tyrannically strong to begin with and had all sorts of hidden cards in hand. If they earnestly joined forces in battle then they wouldn't even need to fear an Origin God.

But now, as time silently passed, the anger in the eyes of Yun Feng and the others slowly faded away, replaced by restlessness...because the two black-robed lords continued to remain silent.

It seems...they tacitly agreed with Qin Yu's words.

In other words, in the opinion of these two black-robed lords, even if the several of them joined forces they might not be Qin Yu's match.

How was this possible!?

Yun Feng, Jiang Yuanyi, and the others were all left shaken. Awe flashed in their eyes.

In this world, only powerhouses could not be offended!

Finally, a black-robed figure spoke up, "Qin Yu, you are indeed strong, but so what if you can defeat them? What we control now is a strength you cannot imagine."

As the voice fell the two city guards stepped forward. Their icy gazes locked onto Qin Yu, revealing a dense threat.

"Anyone that dares offend the lords shall be severely punished!"

The auras of the two guards erupted with a shout. Although it wasn't too formidable, that was just in a person's perception. The auras of these two people were faintly intermingled with the entire city. Once anyone came into conflict with them, what they would face was the suppression of the whole city.

Qin Yu was without expression. With a thought the sun and moon force field exploded outwards, wrapping around the two city guards. Then, the power of the jade embryo egg broke free from his body.

The complexions of the two city guards changed. The icy cold looks in their eyes transformed into fear.

Because at this moment, they could feel the threat of death coming from Qin Yu...

It wasn't just this. They also had the impulse to fall onto their knees and beg for forgiveness. It seemed as if they had offended some truly great person!

The sun and moon force field retracted and the aura of the jade embryo egg vanished with it. The entire process lasted for less than a breath of time. From the outside, it seemed that Qin Yu simply looked up and locked eyes with the two city guards. It was that simple.

But it was this look that caused the faces of the two city guards to change. They couldn't conceal their fear...as well as their awe.

"Today, this is a private affair between us. I hope you two won't interfere." Qin Yu lightly said.

The two city guards bowed without hesitation, "Yes. We thank the lord for forgiving our offense. Goodbye."

With that, the two city guards marched away, not even turning back.

A man's loud roar came from one of the black-robed figures. But this didn't stop the two city guards and instead made their steps become much quicker.

The atmosphere fell silent.

Everyone stared at Qin Yu with wide eyes full of amazement.

He...he actually...how did he achieve this?

East Zhou Duly thought to herself, was this the true strength of a Ruler's disciple?

Gudong –

Jiang Yuanyi gulped. He suddenly thought that not speaking out the words he was going to say earlier was one of his life's best decisions!

Qin Yu had a serene expression. He lightly said, "I think we can have a good chat now." This time, no one doubted that Qin Yu really had the qualifications to decide how events were going to unfold here.

The courtyard was peaceful.

A black-robed figure coughed. He said, "Qin Yu, there are no grudges between us. River water does not interfere with well water, so let us both keep to our own business. We shall bid our farewells here!"

As the black-robed figure spoke he turned around to leave.

Yun Feng and the others were stunned...were the two lords going to admit defeat just like this? Just who was this Qin Yu that he was so terrifying?

"Hold on." Qin Yu narrowed his eyes, a bit impatient. "I think you didn't hear me clearly. Did I say...you could leave?"

Another awkward silence filled the air.

One couldn't see the faces of the two people beneath the black robes. But judging from their stiff bodies and the slight shaking of their robes, their expressions likely weren't good.

"What do you want?" The black-robed woman spoke up for the first time.

Qin Yu said, "East Zhou Duly is my friend. Since you affected her mood today, you must pay recompense. For instance, some money would be a good choice."

"Of course..."

“Don’t be in a hurry, that is only the first point. Another is that I hope to find a quiet place to have a talk with you two, because there are several matters that I hope to receive an explanation for.”

“Qin Yu!” The woman’s voice was filled with indignation, “Don’t push things too far!”

Qin Yu said, “You may refuse.”

Okay, while she did want to refuse, she also knew that the consequences of doing so wouldn’t be pleasant at all. This Qin Yu, just how was he able to deter the natives of this city? If not for that, they wouldn’t have been restrained here!

“Very well. I am also curious about fellow daoist Qin Yu.” The black-robed man spoke up, agreeing to everything.

East Zhou Duly obtained ten silver coins; these came from Yun Feng, Jiang Yuanyi, and the others. While they had ugly expressions as they did so, they didn’t dare to go against the orders of the two black-robed lords.

Because they weren’t Qin Yu!

“Miss East Zhou, remember the words I said to you before. Please leave now.” Qin Yu said.

East Zhou Duly bit her lips and looked deeply at him. “You must be careful.” She turned and left, soon vanishing into the stream of people outside.

Now, she firmly believed Qin Yu when he said this city was dangerous. However, even Qin Yu would be under attack. Even though he was formidable and possessed mysterious and inconceivable abilities, he absolutely couldn’t just sit back and relax.

She hoped he could be a little more discreet and that nothing would happen to him!

Qin Yu didn’t know about East Zhou Duly’s heartfelt prayers for him. He looked away and said, “Although this courtyard is peaceful, I think we should find a different place as soon as possible. Otherwise, if we attract other troubles here, don’t blame me for not warning you.”

Since the inspector from last night had been killed, the abyssal being would definitely sense it. He would likely come here to investigate it.

Although they had no idea what Qin Yu was referring to, the expressions of the two black-robed figures changed. Through a certain vague connection with the city beneath their feet, they could feel something unpleasant.

They looked deeply at Qin Yu. The black-robed man said, “If that’s the case, then I ask fellow daoist Qin Yu to please come with us.”

The group quickly left, soon entering another courtyard.

Whether it was in terms of construction quality or living environment, it was much better than the place where Qin Yu and East Zhou Duly had been staying.

The black-robed man waved his hand. Yun Feng and the others respectfully bowed and waited outside. But looking at their eyes, they were curious about what the ensuing conversation would be like.

After entering the hall and taking a seat, Qin Yu faced the two black-robed figures and said, "I believe that fellow daoists Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun should be curious as to how I was able to determine your identities."

The two people were startled. They pulled down their hoods, revealing that they were the two people Qin Yu spoke of.

"Indeed, the two of us had completely isolated our auras. With fellow daoist Qin Yu's cultivation, you shouldn't have been able to see through it."

Qin Yu said, "Things like cultivation cannot be limited to their purest definition alone. For instance, in this city, the cultivation levels of you two can only be considered ordinary. In fact, compared to those people outside there is a considerable disparity. Yet you two are able to command them and force them to feel awe, right?"

Pure Summer smiled, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu is absolutely right." He paused for a moment, his eyes flashing, "But for now, let's get down to business. What would fellow daoist Qin Yu like to ask us?"

Qin Yu said, "There are many things I am curious about. For instance, how were you two able to appear here? My apologies. Perhaps it might seem a bit blunt, but with your strength the two of you shouldn't have been able to pass the Three Mountains Test."

"...Fellow daoist Qin Yu is correct. In terms of strength we are inferior to you, but when it comes to passing the Three Mountains Test, it involves secrets that we cannot inform you of." Pure Summer awkwardly said.

Qin Yu nodded. "I understand. Then let me ask another question. For what reason did you two lead people around to steal silver coins?"

"Uh...this matter also isn't convenient to explain..."

"No problem." Qin Yu raised a finger. "I have always been a reasonable person. Then, let me ask a third question instead. How did you two manage to control the city guards?"

Before Pure Summer could speak, Qin Yu's lips curved up. "Just because I am speaking nicely doesn't mean I won't lose my temper. These are the only questions I have. If you still insist on using words such as 'that is difficult to say' or 'that involves secrets' then everyone here will lose face."

Peaceful Nun lowered her voice and said, "Qin Yu, we aren't trying to deceive you. But we made oaths upon our bloodline concerning these matters. If we reveal anything at all then we will die without a grave! You forcing us to speak is the same as forcing us to our deaths!"

Qin Yu was expressionless, unmoved by her words. "You made a bloodline oath to not speak, yet you aren't afraid that I will kill you? Or, do you believe that I cannot kill you? Or that I wouldn't dare to kill you?"

The temperature in the hall rapidly fell!