

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 471: Lü Yang's Plan

When the thought came, he acted on it. High efficiency in action had always been one of Lü Yang's strengths.

However, before taking action, there was still one problem to solve: his main body had to remain in the Dao Court, ready to be summoned by the Emperor Jiayou at any time.

After all, power was like real estate—location was always of utmost importance.

The closer to the center of power, the greater the power. If you weren't in position today, you might never be again, and the result would only be a loss outweighing the gain.

“Looks like I'll have to refine another clone.”

Lü Yang took stock of his inventory. In his previous life, he had brought back most of his gains, but there were a few things he hadn't managed to bring back.

First was the Sword Dao Clone.

That clone had, in practice, already become independent, entirely operated through 【String-Pulled Puppet】 , and followed the rather dead-end path of a sword cultivator.

Second was the 【Heaven-Bearing Ascension Profound Mirror Fixed-View Sword】 —a complete accident. Lü Yang had originally intended to bring it back, only to find that the true treasure could neither be melted into the 【All-Embracing Heaven】 nor be recognized by the 【Book of a Hundred Lives】 as his possession.

‘Ownership of a true treasure doesn't lie in the hands of the holder,’

‘but in the Fruitional Rank.’

Lü Yang contemplated, ‘Even a True Lord with a Fruitional Rank is, strictly speaking, not the owner of a true treasure—merely a temporary possessor.’

In his previous life, the 【Heaven-Bearing Ascension Profound Mirror Fixed-View Sword】 had voluntarily submitted to him after he had falsely held the 【Wall Earth】 Fruitional Rank.

Obviously, true treasures pledge loyalty to whoever holds the Fruitional Rank. With that in mind, it was no wonder that Hong Yun had ended up with none.

Even **【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】** had one.

And Hong Yun? After fiddling around in the Biyang Cultivation Realm overseas for ages, he only managed to produce a half-true treasure—something truly unworthy of a True Lord’s methods.

At the time, Lü Yang had just thought Hong Yun was incompetent.

Looking back now—damn, the guy had fallen from his Fruitional Rank, and still managed to produce something that could be called a “half”-true treasure. That was already impressive.

Inside a quiet chamber, the young man sat cross-legged.

Crimson radiance interwove around his body. Lü Yang sat opposite him, four divine powers swirling around, gradually strengthening the youth’s aura.

【Secret Record of the Immortal Embryo Living Through the World】 !

This clone technique from the Holy Sect was still extremely effective even now. Its only downside was its cost—it required a high-grade spiritual treasure.

But this life’s Lü Yang was a True Dragon. Dragons were lavish. High-grade spiritual treasures were not hard to come by. Thus, Lü Yang effortlessly refined another Immortal Embryo Clone, which, when linked with his main body, could also exert the power of a Late Foundation Establishment Great True Person.

“Let this one take the trip.”

Lü Yang grinned, then formed a seal with his fingers. The Immortal Embryo Clone instantly shrank into a tiny figure, which he grasped in his hand and stored into his storage pouch.

Everything afterward was simple.

He sent word to Dongting Lake, summoned a True Dragon, used **【String-Pulled Puppet】** to control it, and handed over the Immortal Embryo Clone for delivery to Jiangbei.

Once it arrived in Jiangbei, Lü Yang’s main body entered meditative seclusion.

Immediately, the Immortal Embryo Clone in Jiangbei opened its eyes. Multicolored light flickered in its pupils, and its previously lifeless aura was instantly animated.

“Jiangbei... I’m back again.”

Lü Yang stretched his arms and began calculating the timeline in his mind: ‘At this point in time, the **【Profound Spirit Realm】** will appear in a few more years.’

In the normal timeline, Jiangnan and Jiangbei had joined forces to carve up the 【Profound Spirit Realm】. Neither the Pure Land nor the Dao Court got to eat meat—they didn't even sip the soup.

In his past life, the four-way split only happened because his identity as 【Ang Xiao】 had been exposed, which led to a trap being set for him during the division of the 【Profound Spirit Realm】.

‘This life, I'll change the strategy.’

Lü Yang plotted, intending to push Uncle-Master Chong Guang to start seeking the Golden Fruition as soon as possible!

‘In the previous life, the appearance of 【Boundless Heaven】 and then the 【Profound Spirit Realm】, plus the exposure of 【Ang Xiao】, delayed Uncle-Master Chong Guang's pursuit of the Golden Fruition.’

‘But in this life, I've interfered with Senior Sister Yu, so I can greatly delay the activation time of 【Boundless Heaven】.’

‘As for the 【Profound Spirit Realm】, it shouldn't be too affected.’

‘Regarding 【Ang Xiao】, his Fruitional Rank 【Great Forest Wood】 was still valuable. As long as I don't expose his identity myself, no one should discover it.’

Looking at past lives, what was the key turning point for Uncle-Master Chong Guang seeking the Golden Fruition?

‘Hong Yun!’

Two lives ago, although Uncle-Master Chong Guang had theoretically already reincarnated and was preparing to seek the Golden Fruition, he likely only resolved to do so after dealing with Hong Yun overseas.

‘So this life, if I want Uncle-Master Chong Guang to reincarnate and seek the Golden Fruition quickly, I must first eliminate his biggest concern—that is, Hong Yun!’

And now with the new 【Golden Nature of Great Fortune】, not only did Lü Yang gain another opportunity for false possession, but he could also pressure 【Ang Xiao】 at a critical moment.

No matter how he looked at it, Hong Yun was someone he absolutely had to take down!

And at this point in time, Hong Yun should still be far from recovered.

‘Back then, even the Mending Heaven Peak Master dared to shout at Hong Yun. I reckon Hong Yun's strength was, at most, at the peak of Mid-Foundation Establishment.’

Not even a Great True Person!

Among cultivators, status determined everything. Lü Yang estimated that with his Great True Person-level combat power, he would undoubtedly triumph in a cross-level fight against a Mid-Foundation Establishment peak-level Hong Yun.

‘But killing is easy; capturing alive is hard.’

Lü Yang rubbed his brows with a headache.

Because this life lacked 【Ang Xiao】's cooperation, once Hong Yun reincarnated, it would be difficult for Lü Yang to track him in the 【Underworld】 and then slay him in reverse.

To deny Hong Yun even the chance to reincarnate through suicide, he'd have to be at least Mid-Golden Core level like 【True Lord Qingchen Feixue】.

The old Dragon Monarch?

Lü Yang frowned slightly, but soon dismissed the tempting thought. After all, back when True Lord Feixue captured Hong Yun, she had swallowed all the Golden Nature for herself.

He didn't believe that the old Dragon Monarch would hand over the Golden Nature of Great Fortune to him intact. Giving him even a sliver would already be showing grandfatherly love.

‘Since that's the case, then I can only go somewhere where he can't reincarnate—Outer Heaven! 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】! That's it. No wonder Hong Yun never dared to go to Outer Heaven. Once there, far from the Underworld, if caught, he'd have no escape through reincarnation!’

Lü Yang's thoughts became increasingly clear.

‘Force Hong Yun together with Uncle-Master Chong Guang! Push him to the point of abandoning everything, fleeing to 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】, then ambush him on the way!’

‘Perfect—this sort of operation should also give Uncle-Master Chong Guang some sense of participation.’

‘After all, letting him personally deal with Hong Yun would make him more convinced that the matter is resolved, and thus more at ease to reincarnate in 【Qing Nation】 and seek the Golden Fruition.’

‘Then I can stab Uncle-Master in the back later. Who knows—maybe I'll even gain a talent bonus!’

With that thought, the plan was finalized.

Next, he just needed to establish contact with Uncle-Master Chong Guang.

Sky-Reaching Cloud Sea, Sacred Fire Cliff.

Inside a spacious grand hall, a man not particularly handsome but with a soaring sharpness between his brows sat at the head seat.

Between his fingers, he held a flying message.

Lü Yang used the same method as in his past life—sending a flying message through Chong Guang’s private channel. The content of the letter was simple.

“Beneath the waters of Gantang Dao, in Jiangnan... a fragment of a cave heaven left behind by Hong Yun?”

It was an anonymous report.

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Chapter 472: Arresting Hong Yun!

In Lü Yang’s view, Hong Yun had prepared three escape routes for himself.

The first was naturally **【Seven Luminaries Heaven】**, the ultimate fallback, a path Hong Yun would only take if he deemed returning to his rightful place utterly hopeless.

The second was a cave heaven fragment.

In Jiangnan’s Gan Clan’s Sea-Combing lineage, beneath the waters of Gantang Dao, there remained a fragment of Hong Yun’s former **【Brilliant Luminary Radiance Cave Heaven】**. Hong Yun had long since located it.

However, in truth, it was a trap laid by **【Ang Xiao】**.

Going there meant death.

The last was the place where Hong Yun currently hid—secluded by layers of formations, concealed from the Heavenly Mechanism—even **【True Lord Qingcheng Feixue】** could not locate him.

Three escape routes, triple insurance. Unfortunately, **【Ang Xiao】** was far too cunning. Seizing upon Hong Yun’s unwillingness to let go, he used the cave heaven fragment as bait. If Hong Yun chose the second path and refined the fragment, death would be imminent. That was something Lü Yang could not allow to happen.

After all, Hong Yun was his target in this lifetime!

Thus, sending a report to Chong Guang had but one aim—to have Chong Guang destroy the cave heaven fragment in Jiangnan on his behalf, extinguishing Hong Yun’s hope once and for all.

‘This life is not the same as the last.’

‘In the previous life, not long after Uncle-Master Chong Guang received my report, 【Boundless Heaven】 emerged, followed by my exposure of 【Ang Xiao】’s identity.’

‘As a result, Uncle-Master Chong Guang didn’t have the strength to destroy the cave heaven fragment. Even 【True Lord Qingcheng Feixue】 ceased to support him. In the end, he even had to cooperate with 【Ang Xiao】. But this life is different. I haven’t leaked a single word in advance.’

Thus, this time, Chong Guang’s choice would also differ.

‘To the current Uncle-Master Chong Guang, his greatest enemy is Hong Yun. Destroying Hong Yun’s cave heaven fragment is an urgent priority.’

That was enough.

In Jiangbei, Lü Yang clasped his hands behind his back, gazing far into the direction of the Sky-Reaching Cloud Sea, firmly grasping Chong Guang’s mindset: “The cave heaven fragment, I entrust to Uncle-Master.”

The other escape path—he would handle it.

Only in this way could he force Hong Yun down the path of 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】, denying him reincarnation, and driving him into his own trap.

At this thought, Lü Yang suddenly looked to the side.

“Daoist Friend, you’ve come out with me this time, yet haven’t said a word.”

Beside Lü Yang stood a man, deferential and meek. Though his Qi was surging and his rank incomparably high, he strangely appeared small and insignificant. Upon hearing this, he gave a bitter smile:

“Forgive me for making you laugh, my lord...”

“No need to call me lord.” Lü Yang’s expression turned serious upon hearing this. “We both struggle to survive in this world. We should be fellow Daoists—there is no hierarchy between us.”

As his words fell, Suohuan quickly nodded in agreement—but made no move to change his form of address. After all, he was now a Banner Spirit, while Lü Yang was the master of the Myriad Spirits Banner. That title of “my lord”—Lü Yang could humbly reject it, but Suohuan could not refrain from using it. He understood this matter of stance all too well.

Lü Yang paused, then said directly:

“In this life, I wish to help you attain Golden Fruition, just as I did last time. I will give you two paths to choose from, freely. I will not interfere with your decision.”

“The first—wait for me to take another step forward.”

Lü Yang didn't state it plainly, but if he attained 【Heavenly Fire Above】 in this life, he would undoubtedly command the world. By then, granting Suohuan a golden position wouldn't be impossible.

But that was still a dream—far from reality.

So, he quickly offered a second path: “Though your 【Blessed Land of the Spirit Ruins】 was severely damaged, the hidden dangers are gone. I can help you repair it.”

“I possess a body of Daoist knowledge concerning 【Spring Well Water】 —it leads directly to the peak of Foundation Establishment. It even includes matching cultivation techniques and rituals capable of attracting the attention of 【Spring Well Water】 . Afterward, I'll secure for you a top-grade official position at the peak of Foundation Establishment, enabling you to refine your Golden Nature.”

“At that point, you will be able to pursue Golden Fruition.”

Lü Yang spoke gravely. The knowledge of 【Spring Well Water】 had naturally come from the Holy Sect's Xianghuo ceremony. It was sufficient to compensate for Suohuan's shortcomings in Dao cultivation as an outsider.

He had always valued his promises.

Perhaps his bottom line was flexible and he often adapted—but with the Book of a Hundred Lives in hand, if he had the ability to fulfill a promise, then fulfill it he would.

For a moment, Suohuan stood stunned.

He really is helping me attain Golden Fruition...

I thought he had forgotten. That he had merely tricked me before!

The long-bowed, humble great Daoist from beyond the heavens was now overwhelmed with emotion, speechless. He simply bowed deeply to Lü Yang.

“Thank you... Daoist Friend.”

Lü Yang waved his hand and smiled: “We still have a long road together ahead. We should unite in heart and effort—how else could we face the powerful enemies of the future?”

“True!” Suohuan nodded.

Seeing this, Lü Yang smiled—but inwardly sighed.

‘I’m actually a little hypocritical.’

After all the noble words, it didn’t change one fact: as the Banner Master, he held life-and-death power over Banner Spirits washed by the 【Book of a Hundred Lives】 .

So long as he willed it—be it Ancestor Tingyou or Suohuan—he could control them effortlessly.

But rather than exert that control, Lü Yang preferred sincerity in exchange for sincerity. Just like how he never forced Ancestor Tingyou to do anything.

Still, it wasn’t quite the same. Lü Yang knew this clearly. He dared to offer sincerity only because he could dominate life and death—he had the confidence.

If it were a total stranger, would he entrust them with anything? If you won’t even enter the Myriad Spirits Banner, why should I treat you as my brother?

‘Forget it.’

Hypocritical, then so be it. At this point, sincerity was beyond him. In this shattered world, this level of “hypocrisy” was the best he could manage.

As they spoke, the two arrived at a secluded mountain forest.

This was Hong Yun’s lair. It looked ordinary but was, in fact, shrouded by layered formations, severing cause and effect. Even True Lords would struggle to divine its existence.

Hong Yun’s survival this long owed much to this hideout.

‘Too bad... I’m cheating!’

No need to divine karma—Lü Yang had already calculated Hong Yun’s memories. He locked onto the exact location. The layered formations of the forest were like paper before him.

At the same time, deep within the mountain forest—

“Hiss!”

Suddenly, Hong Yun, who had been meditating in seclusion, jolted. Instinctively, he lifted his head, eyes gleaming as he looked above.

“Bad luck is pressing down on me?”

To be named “Hong Yun” (Great Fortune), naturally he possessed hidden trump cards. One such method was a secret art for observing fortune and sensing calamity.

This was no simple karmic divination but a high-ranked sensory technique that let him perceive danger and avoid it. It was this very technique that had allowed him, in his reincarnated True Lord body, to operate beneath the very nose of 【True Lord Qingcheng Feixue】 . It was crucial. Few could ever pinpoint his location.

But now, he sensed danger.

‘Crisis... not too great, not Qingcheng Feixue-level... but not small either. Could it be a late-stage Great Daoist?’

Hong Yun showed no panic.

Late Foundation Establishment, that was all. Though he was at mid-stage Foundation Establishment, his surrounding formations were more than enough to handle one Great Daoist.

He even felt a bit of greed arise. A late-stage Foundation Establishment Great Daoist would be brimming with fortune. If he could seize that, he’d no longer need to scramble with mere Qi Refining disciples for scraps. He could abandon the Holy Sect’s so-called Merit Pool entirely.

“Let’s see what’s going on first...”

Cautious as ever, Hong Yun used his secret technique to sense several more times, divining karma. Only after confirming that he could handle the crisis did he abandon the thought of fleeing.

The next second—

“Boom!”

As formations were forcefully broken one after another, Hong Yun soon saw the two intruders. But in the very next moment, his expression stiffened.

His gaze locked directly onto Lü Yang.

‘Strange... this person seems very familiar with this place?’

Clearly this was his own territory, yet the other acted like he had foreknowledge—effortlessly disabling the various traps Hong Yun had set within the formations.

Before Hong Yun could finish thinking—he was struck with shock. For Lü Yang, who had been surveying other directions, suddenly tilted his head—unerringly looking straight toward his hiding spot:

“Found you.”

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“Boom!”

As Lü Yang spoke, his divine ability had already launched—or rather, he had acted before speaking; the words merely served to distract Hong Yun.

However, Hong Yun was a battle-hardened veteran. He didn’t bother listening to what Lü Yang said. The moment he was discovered, what remained at his original spot was already a substitute body. His true form had swiftly retreated into a nearby formation, intending to first pull some distance, then reassess the situation.

Yet he still miscalculated one thing.

That was—when it came to this formation, Lü Yang’s understanding was in no way inferior to his.

“Trying to run.”

Lü Yang formed a hand seal, and his divine sense swept forth like a howling wind. Everywhere it passed, Hong Yun was shocked to find the formation he had meticulously arranged was shattered in an instant.

‘Impossible.’

In that split second, no formation shielded Hong Yun any longer. His heart was filled with shock—this speed of breaking formations... even he himself couldn’t have done it better!

How was this possible?

In that flash of lightning and fire, Hong Yun dared not hesitate for even a moment. His lips parted, and from his throat erupted a thunderous roar that shook the world, as if a fire had ignited at the point of origin. Thunder crashed, flames roared, and a storm surged forth, aiming to smash down upon Lü Yang.

‘【Thunder Draws Back】!’

Thunder is the exhalation of yang qi. It sounds in mid-spring and draws back in bright cities. It shares the nature of the spring-born wood. Thus, it was a most yang, most rigid divine ability of 【Jia Wood】 .

Hong Yun had great confidence in this ability. At the very least, he expected it to buy him some time.

But in the very next moment, a brilliant light like the sun burst forth from the back of Lü Yang’s head, cascading like mercury, spreading without end. In an instant, it filled the heavens and earth.

‘【Palace of Returning Origin】!’

Within the sunlight, jade towers and crystal pavilions, grand halls and lofty palaces rose from the ground, completely encompassing Hong Yun and the surrounding formations!

Hong Yun's face changed drastically at the sight.

'Noon Fire divine ability!?'

And not just any ordinary Noon Fire divine ability! To be able to reflect the radiance of the sun itself meant that this technique was extremely orthodox among Noon Fire abilities—perfectly aligned with the imagery of Noon Fire!

“Boom!”

The next second, 【Palace of Returning Origin】 collided with the storm conjured by 【Thunder Draws Back】. Yet the divine ability upon which Hong Yun had pinned his hopes now reacted like a mouse meeting a cat—shattering instantly. The thunder vanished, the yang fire withered, and the blazing light disintegrated into fragments scattered across the sky.

'A natural nemesis!'

Hong Yun gritted his teeth. If he had known earlier that his opponent wielded such a pure Noon Fire divine ability, he would never have opened with Jia Wood.

Jia Wood meets Noon Fire: fire flourishes, wood burns. There lies the danger of being turned to ash!

Let alone the fact that Noon corresponds to Li Fire, and fire lives off wood. Wood is the mother of fire; fire the child of wood. When the child flourishes, the mother weakens—how could this not end in destruction? Jia Wood is destined to perish under Noon!

Even more terrifying—divine ability interactions between Jia Wood and Noon Fire involve the very principles of heaven and earth. Cultivators lacking sufficient Dao attainment couldn't even perceive the intricacies, let alone manifest the suppressive imagery. Thus, such suppression relied on the Dao attainment of both sides.

In other words:

'This man's attainment in Noon Fire... might not be inferior to mine in Jia Wood!'

But how could that be possible?

He was a True Lord! Though reborn, the foundation of a True Lord's Dao attainment remained. How could an ordinary Foundation Establishment True Person possibly compare?

This thought sparked countless speculations in Hong Yun's mind, finally settling on the most likely answer:

'Dao Court?'

Across the four regions of the world, only the Dao Court's **【Immortal Nation Dao Law】** could allow a Foundation Establishment True Person to rival a True Lord in a single attribute's Dao attainment.

Even within the Dao Court, such individuals were as rare as phoenix feathers. Only members of the Tian Wu royal family, capable of independent cultivation and unrestricted access to the **【Immortal Nation Dao Law】**, could accomplish this.

Then... could this man be of the Tian Wu royal family? But he held no grudge with the Dao Court—why would he be targeted?

At that moment, Hong Yun was riddled with confusion.

Even worse, due to not anticipating the counter, he fell behind from the very first move. And one step behind meant every step behind—defeat loomed!

'Must escape!'

His mind spun rapidly. All thoughts of greed were gone—things had become far too bizarre. He only wanted to escape now and reconsider later.

But would Lü Yang let him go so easily?

His trip to Jiangbei wasn't just to drive Hong Yun away from **【Heaven of the Seven Luminaries】** — he also wanted to test the strength he gained after switching to **【Heavenly Fire Above】** !

At that thought, Lü Yang promptly formed another hand seal.

'Let me show you what I'm capable of.'

【Commanding Mountains and Seas Diagram of Double Li】 !

Hong Yun raised his head, only to see the scenery around him rapidly receding. Before his eyes stretched an expansive landscape of mountains and rivers, and above it all blazed a scarlet sun.

In that instant, the four layers of mystery within his natal divine ability were all activated by Lü Yang.

'People Without Guile!'

The first layer established laws. Like an emperor pronouncing the heavenly mandate, his words became law. When spoken by Lü Yang, each word visibly manifested:

【Do not move!】

The more words a law contained, the more divine mystery it consumed. Lü Yang kept it concise—just three words—stopping Hong Yun for an instant.

Next second—

‘ **【Merit Self-Cultivates】** !’

The second mystery empowered **【Palace of Returning Origin】** , encasing Hong Yun in searing solar fire, burning his magical power and body alike. His brows furrowed in pain.

But Lü Yang’s assault hadn’t ended.

‘ **【Rise and Fall Affairs】** !’

The third mystery could be used on allies or foes. On oneself, it promoted **【Rise】** , helping avoid danger. On the enemy, it imposed **【Fall】** , entangling them in tribulation!

At that moment, Hong Yun was still attempting to cast divine abilities and perform Dao techniques—but shockingly, he misstepped the spell gestures, failed to channel enough magical power, and couldn’t trigger the ability! When he looked up to examine his fate, he saw a massive **【Fall】** character looming like a portent of doom!

This cascade of interference made him lose his final chance to fight back.

Lü Yang’s natal divine ability, the fourth layer of **【Commanding Mountains and Seas Diagram of Double Li】** , landed on him in tandem with his innate divine ability **【Emperor of Life Command】** .

‘ **【Sage-King Governance】** !’

It was a dazzling golden radiance. When it swept across Hong Yun’s body, his expression froze in place.

Only then did he finally realize:

“ **【Heavenly Fire Above】** ... No!”

Next second, he watched helplessly as his original innate divine ability **【Thunder Draws Back】** was forcibly stripped from him and floated into Lü Yang’s hand!

All under heaven belongs to the King; all within the seas are his ministers!

【Sage-King Governance】 , as the name implied, governed **【Rule】** .

This divine mystery could seize another’s divine abilities, magical treasures, magic power, or even Dao body—and place them under his own **【Rule】** . As Lü Yang’s status rose, **【Rule】** could extend even further—to fate, thoughts, lifespan, space, time... even all things in existence!

“This is mine.”

The second divine ability was seized as well—it was an Earth of the Chen aspect divine ability, called **【Root of All Things】** . Hong Yun had tried to use it to escape.

“This too is mine.”

Hong Yun's magic power surged outward, but what should have obeyed him now bowed completely under the golden light of 【Sage-King Governance】 .

It even turned to attack him instead!

“All of it is mine!”

Hong Yun flicked his sleeve, sending over ten spiritual treasures flying out in a last-ditch effort to stall Lü Yang—only for them to be instantly swept away, like sheep thrown into a tiger's jaws.

Hong Yun: “...”

Beast!

What Tian Wu royal family? Could this man be a True Person of our Holy Sect!?

Meanwhile, Lü Yang cradled the two innate divine abilities he had seized from Hong Yun, alongside over ten spiritual treasures. His own magical power had also fully recovered, thanks to stealing Hong Yun's.

In that moment, he was utterly pleased with his natal divine ability.

【Heavenly Fire Above】 —truly worthy of being a supreme Fruitional Rank.

Tyrannical to this degree!

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Chapter 474: Chong Guang's Decisiveness

Why was Hong Yun shocked by 【Heavenly Fire Above】 ?

The reason was simple. Just like 【City Head Earth】 , 【Heavenly Fire Above】 had almost no corresponding cultivation methods circulating in the world, and thus remained hidden from the world.

However, the logic behind this was completely different.

【City Head Earth】 went into seclusion because the Zouyu Royal House that once controlled it had physically destroyed all cultivable techniques.

This was a man-made disaster.

Whereas 【Heavenly Fire Above】 naturally faded into oblivion.

Because the conditions for seeking Golden Fruition with 【Heavenly Fire Above】 were simply too harsh — "to govern the world" — such an absurd requirement was no different from a severed Dao path.

So, as time passed, fewer and fewer Foundation Establishment True Persons cultivated 【Heavenly Fire Above】 , the methods gradually became lost, and eventually, they were completely extinct in the present age. After all, what Foundation Establishment cultivator didn't harbor some hope of attaining Golden Fruition? Without the chance to seek it, no matter how powerful, it was just a flower in a mirror, a moon in the water.

Yet one undeniable truth remained: 【Heavenly Fire Above】 was truly powerful!

Boundless mountains and seas, sun and moon in the same sky — Lü Yang formed a seal with one hand, and a point of dazzling light shone at his fingertip, like the axis of heaven and earth, with all things revolving around it.

‘ 【Sage-King Governance】 .’

Lü Yang’s innate divine ability was rooted in this profound principle, and the derived 【Radiance of Domination】 stripped away all phenomena. With the empowerment of 【Emperor Command of Destiny】 , it became even more mysterious.

After merely four rounds, Hong Yun had already lost two innate divine abilities, all his spiritual treasures, and vast magical power. His entire being was utterly drained, while conversely, Lü Yang reached peak state. With a focused thought, a divine ability landed on him.

‘ 【Thunder Draws Back】 !’

Divine ability activated — lips parted, teeth moved — like Hong Yun before him, Lü Yang burst out thunderous sound from his throat, and blazing Yang fire surged forward like a storm.

Seeing this, Hong Yun nearly shattered his own teeth from clenching them.

That was his divine ability!

It got stolen!

Despite this, he dared not hesitate. With a single thought, his Dharma body exploded, instantly transforming into a brilliant crimson pillar of blood that shot into the sky.

He had self-detonated.

A soul bathed in radiant golden light instantly fled into the 【Netherworld】 . Unless a mid-stage Golden Core True Lord was present, no one could intercept it.

Seeing this, Lü Yang was unsurprised. He simply stood in place, empowered himself with 【Rise and Fall Affairs】 , and dispersed all residual explosion shockwaves into nothingness.

Strictly speaking, had Lü Yang not used 【Tribulation-Pass Wave】 to elevate his position to late Foundation Establishment, and fought Hong Yun with equal cultivation, while he could still win, it would certainly not have been this easy. This time's smooth success came mainly from catching Hong Yun off guard.

‘He didn’t know I cultivated 【Heavenly Fire Above】 .’

Precisely because of that, he had used a Jia Wood divine ability against Lü Yang – only to be countered by his Noon Fire 【Palace of Returning Origin】 , and once falling into disadvantage, he had no chance to recover.

It was a pity that Lü Yang could win, but couldn't stop Hong Yun from committing suicide.

Without 【Ang Xiao】 ’s help, even if he sent a 【String-Pulled Puppet】 to follow Hong Yun into the Netherworld, it would be difficult to locate him or lock onto his reincarnation.

‘Still, it can be considered a major success. From now on, Hong Yun shouldn’t dare return to this old lair. That retreat path is now cut off by me.’

Lü Yang withdrew his thoughts and looked at his own hand.

Under 【Sage-King Governance】 , amid the golden radiance, the divine abilities, magical power, and spiritual treasures stripped from Hong Yun had fallen into a state of stillness.

As long as he didn’t release the mystery, these things would not escape.

‘However, the quota for 【Sage-King Governance】 ’s stripping is limited. Once full, it can no longer be used. Holding onto these would only waste my quota.’

‘Unless I truly attain Golden Fruition in 【Heavenly Fire Above】 . Only then might there be no limit.’

At that thought, Lü Yang immediately released his grip on Hong Yun’s magical power and spiritual treasures, and also dispelled 【Thunder Draws Back】 , leaving only one: 【Root of All Things】 .

“Spiritual treasures don’t matter. Even if I release the mystery, with Hong Yun already reincarnated, these treasures are ownerless and will eventually fall into my hands. Magical power is even more meaningless. As for 【Thunder Draws Back】 , this Jia Wood divine ability is decent, but I can counter it – it's not worth worrying over.”

The only thing of value – was 【Root of All Things】 .

This was a Star-Earth divine ability. More importantly, unlike the current Star-Earth divine abilities of the world, as Hong Yun’s divine ability, this one had not been reversed!

It remained Yang Earth!

‘I’ll keep it. It may be of great use later. What remains now is that cave heaven fragment in Jiangnan.’

Lü Yang put away the divine ability and turned his gaze toward the direction of the Holy Sect.

He believed Uncle-Master Chong Guang would not let him down. He hadn’t forgotten how ruthless Chong Guang had been when he blood-sacrificed the entire 【Qing Nation】 with a single word.

Lü Yang even guessed what Chong Guang would do next.

After all, he had used the 【Book of a Hundred Lives】 to calculate Chong Guang. No one understood Chong Guang in this world better than he did – all it took was a bit of projection to figure it out.

‘The opportunity... must be the Mass Grave!’

In less than a month, the news arrived.

The Demon-Suppressing True Person of the Sword Pavilion personally went to the Mass Grave and expelled all Jiangbei cultivators, causing a massive fluctuation in the price of substitute death puppets within the Holy Sect.

Soon after, the Holy Sect responded.

Acting Sect Master Chong Guang took action personally. 【True Lord Qingcheng Feixue】 emerged from seclusion with great momentum, clearly signaling the onset of a righteous-demonic war between the North and South.

However, just as everyone thought the Holy Sect’s goal was to reclaim the Mass Grave, Chong Guang, upon entering Jiangnan, suddenly shifted course and went straight to Gantang Dao. In the next moment, the long-prepared True Lord Qingcheng Feixue struck forcefully – a stream of clear radiance abruptly descended from the heavens.

No one anticipated this upheaval.

Mass Grave? Jiangbei cultivators? Holy Sect disciples? Chong Guang ignored all of them, treating them as pawns – all to conceal his true objective!

Originally, the True Lords of the Sword Pavilion had long been prepared. This time, their layout at the Mass Grave was aimed at monopolizing the heretical Fruit Positions within the 【Profound Spirit Realm】 .

If True Lord Qingcheng Feixue acted, they would act together to stop her.

Thus, all their attention was focused on the Mass Grave. When Qingcheng Feixue suddenly changed targets, they were half a beat too slow to respond.

Adding to that, another True Lord from the Holy Sect — 【True Lord of Brocade Radiance and Colored Silks】 — also made a move to hinder them, successfully creating a brief window for Qingcheng Feixue.

“Boom!”

In the next instant, the clear radiance descended into Gantang Dao. The massive Ganhai Li Clan didn't even have time to react before being instantly vaporized.

“ 【World-Cleansing Light】 !?”

A True Lord in the Sword Pavilion showed shock. For that beam of clear radiance descending in that moment was, in essence, the fundamental image of 【Water Beneath the Ravine】 !

【Water Beneath the Ravine】 favored clarity — thus this radiance, as its name implied, could purify all worldly filth, restoring the turbid to clarity. As for what was considered turbid or clear, it all depended on the Fruit Position holder's personal view. In Qingcheng Feixue's eyes, naturally, enemies were turbid, allies were clear.

As the radiance poured forth, all phenomena fell silent in an instant.

The entire Gantang Dao — the first to vaporize were the people and items of the Ganhai Li Clan. In a blink, all buildings and formations on the ground vanished.

As if no such family had ever existed here.

Next, the vast sea water within Gantang Dao evaporated. A port transformed into a deep pit in a flash, revealing the true face beneath the waters.

Under the shining brilliance, the fragment of 【Changyao Radiant Cave Heaven】 could no longer stay hidden and was forced to appear. Yet even back when Hong Yun was still a True Lord, he couldn't defeat today's Qingcheng Feixue — let alone a mere Cave Heaven fragment. In moments, the fragment dissolved inch by inch!

Such a sudden turn naturally alarmed 【Ang Xiao】 .

After all, this Cave Heaven fragment had been a trap he prepared for Hong Yun. And now, under Qingcheng Feixue's indiscriminate assault, it was ground into powder.

【Ang Xiao】 : “...Huh?”

What just happened?

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 475: The Fierce Feixue!

All along, Lü Yang had held a question in his heart.

Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng – the undisputed pillar of the Holy Sect after 【Ang Xiao】 , the notorious madwoman known throughout the world – just how powerful was she really?

‘This time, I’ll finally witness it!’

Lü Yang strained his vision, gazing toward the direction of Jiangnan, and saw several Fruitional Stars ignite all at once – the spiritual atmosphere of the world cleared in an instant.

“Demon... you’ve got guts.”

“Do you truly think we’re afraid of you?”

In an instant, three fierce shouts rang out from within the Sword Pavilion, accompanied by the sudden appearance of three Fruitional Ranks – Fruitional Lords that even Lü Yang had never seen in his past life within the Sword Pavilion.

【Earth on the Roof】 !

【Fire in the Furnace】 !

【Earth on the Wall】 !

‘Aside from 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 , and that late-Golden Core stage 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 , the remaining two True Lords of the Sword Pavilion are also here!’

Just from this alone, Lü Yang could deduce a great deal.

‘No wonder 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 didn’t seem highly regarded within the Sword Pavilion. Turns out, there’s already a True Lord here who achieved Fruitional Rank with the Earth element!’

‘That 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 cultivates 【Gold in the Sand】 . I remember 【Ang Xiao】 once told me that to reach the late-Golden Core stage, one must either possess all five elements or refine three. So, he likely collaborated with the True Lords of 【Earth on the Roof】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 , the three of them achieving late-Golden Core together through three elements.’

In such a scenario, 【Earth on the Wall】 became redundant.

The result was that the three True Lords of the Sword Pavilion formed a clique, pushing 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 to the sidelines, never inviting him to anything.

Yet soon, an even greater mystery emerged.

‘【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 ... a proper late-Golden Core stage cultivator. Compared to him, without 【Ang Xiao】 , the Holy Sect actually has no one of that level holding down the fort.’

From this perspective, the Sword Pavilion clearly held the advantage.

Especially with Pure Land and Dao Court also involved – even if Pure Land wavered between sides – with such a blatant disparity in power, how was the Holy Sect able to stand toe-to-toe with them?

Very quickly, Lü Yang learned the answer.

“Hahaha! You came well!”

From above the heavens, the hearty laughter of Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng echoed far and wide – not the slightest hint of fear in her voice. Though a woman, her heroic spirit at this moment rivaled any man’s.

Immediately after, she didn’t retreat but advanced. Her Fruitional Rank formed from 【Water Beneath the Ravine】 collided head-on with the three Fruitional Ranks from the Sword Pavilion. From her Fruitional Rank burst forth the radiant light of 【World-Cleansing Light】 , sweeping across all existence, invincible wherever it went. Alone against three – yet she gained the upper hand!

“That madwoman is too vicious!”

“She actually dares to fight for real...”

“Ha! What wouldn't she dare? Back then, even when someone from the Dao Court made a move against her, she still fought back. More importantly, she could win. That’s real capability!”

At that moment, many True Lords were watching the battle.

Meanwhile, Lü Yang found within 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 ’s memories the reason Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng had reigned supreme in duels for five thousand years.

This anecdote had been regarded by 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 as mere unreliable gossip, buried in the farthest recesses of his memory – thus, he had overlooked it back then.

Now, digging it back out, he was utterly shocked:

‘Heavens above!’

As everyone knew, in this messed-up land, challenging foes above one's level was all the rage. Foundation Establishment slaying Qi Refining was routine; Golden Core fighting Foundation Establishment was hardly worth mentioning.

But over time, exceptions were bound to occur.

Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng was precisely that exception — the first ever, in recorded history, to pull off a true cross-realm challenge at the Golden Core stage.

A genuine leap-over challenge!

'When Xue Feihong had just achieved True Lord status, she hadn't even been in closed-door cultivation for a hundred years. At that time, the Holy Sect was weak, and Dao Court tried to strike while the iron was hot — the then-current Grand Preceptor personally exerted pressure over the Sky-Reaching Cloud Sea.'

'That Dao Court Grand Preceptor was mid-Golden Core stage!'

'While the Holy Sect's 【Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng】 , 【True Lord of Brocade Radiance and Colored Silks】 , and 【True Lord of Floating Light and Containing Radiance】 were all early-Golden Core stage.'

Without question, that was the Holy Sect's weakest moment.

The Dao Court even intended to stomp them while they were down!

'And yet, it was then that 【Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng】 , freshly a True Lord for just a century, emerged from seclusion — and shocked the entire world by single-handedly driving back the Dao Court's Grand Preceptor!'

Only those who were Golden Core True Lords themselves could comprehend how utterly exaggerated and unbelievable this feat was. A mid-Golden Core cultivator possessed an undying Cave Heaven — essentially granting eternal dominion over a Fruitional Rank. Even if killed, as long as the Cave Heaven remained intact, they could reincarnate and reclaim their True Lord status instantly.

By contrast, what about early-Golden Core cultivators?

Their Cave Heaven only lasted a thousand years. Once that time expired, it crumbled alongside the True Lord. Restarting from scratch carried tremendous risk — just look at how much trouble Hong Yun had!

The disparity was obvious.

A battle between them meant the mid-Golden Core could afford to die countless times, while the early-Golden Core could not afford even one misstep.

Not to mention, mid-Golden Core cultivators were stronger and more seasoned.

And yet, despite such a disparity... Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng won.

Before her, there had been a few rare prodigies at early-Golden Core who could briefly contend with mid-Golden Core opponents.

But over time, the fundamental superiority of the latter always prevailed. No early-stage cultivator could withstand it – they would inevitably lose, retreat in disgrace. Even if a few teamed up, it only dragged out the inevitable.

But Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng changed all that.

In one battle, she never made a single mistake. With one life, she killed the Dao Court Grand Preceptor over fifty times – each time faster, each strike more precise!

Originally, the Dao Court Grand Preceptor was fully heated up, prepared for prolonged combat.

After all, his Cave Heaven guaranteed infinite revival. He didn't believe Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng could outlast him – he figured even a century of fighting would still end in his victory.

But on the fifty-third clash, everything changed.

She seemed to catch a flaw in his defense, and not only slew him – she struck his Cave Heaven directly!

That was fatal.

Dao Court True Lords were unlike others – especially the Three Dukes. Their Cave Heavens weren't individually forged, but passed down over generations – they were Dao Court property!

Now that the Cave Heaven was damaged...

No matter how unwilling the Grand Preceptor was, he could no longer fight. He could only swallow his defeat in bitter silence.

After that battle, Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng's fame exploded.

As for the Dao Court Grand Preceptor – for the grave sin of damaging the Cave Heaven, he was ousted by the newly enthroned Emperor Jiayou and sent to reincarnate.

So, when all was said and done, it practically meant Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng had killed a mid-Golden Core cultivator in a leap-over challenge!

How utterly astounding was that?

Only after understanding this sequence of events did Lü Yang comprehend why Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng was so fierce – even when fighting three-on-one, she remained utterly fearless.

However...

‘Where’s the Sword Pavilion’s late-Golden Core guy?’

【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 – he had once held sway over the seas, silencing even the old Dragon Monarch at mid-Golden Core, who could only watch helplessly as his own son, White Chi, was devoured by many families.

With Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng already this wild...

Where had this major True Lord gone?

Come out and help, won’t you?

Lü Yang’s question was shared by many True Lords secretly observing the battle. In fact... 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 hadn’t appeared in a long time.

Could he be dead?

Impossible. Mid-Golden Core cultivators could permanently occupy Fruitional Ranks. Unless a Dao Lord acted, how could a late-Golden Core cultivator possibly die?

“Hahahaha!”

Another burst of laughter rang out – still Clear Snow True Lord Qingcheng. At this moment, the madwoman’s face bloomed with a devastatingly beautiful smile.

Lü Yang – and many other True Lords – had such doubts due to their lack of cultivation.

But she was different.

Her cultivation had long since reached the late-Golden Core stage. She had only remained at mid-stage because there was no Fruitional Rank compatible with her – thus she had stayed put.

Therefore, she could guess the current state of that 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 .

“Your cultivation wasn’t enough, yet you forced your way into the late stage. You succeeded, sure... but at what cost? Heh. 【Fire in the Furnace】 and 【Earth on the Roof】 ? Not a comfortable pairing, huh?”

As those words fell, the two True Lords of the Sword Pavilion instantly turned pale!

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 476: Yet Again, Ang Xiao!

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue did not deliver these words via transmission, but—as was her style—openly and righteously declared them to the entire world.

In that instant, the four domains of the world all rippled with Qi fluctuations.

【Soil on the Rooftop】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 .

What did that mean?

【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 had attained 【Gold in the Sand】 , taking 【Soil on the Rooftop】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 , forming a Three-Line Union, and ultimately achieving the Late-stage Golden Core Realm.

This was common knowledge—yet now, uttered with such scorn by True Lord Qingcheng Feixue, it instantly evoked suspicion among all the True Lords under heaven. Could there be an issue with such an attainment? But hadn't there been no signs in earlier years? It was only recently that 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 had secluded himself from the world.

“Silence!”

The ones who reacted the most strongly, naturally, were the two True Lords of Sword Pavilion who cultivated 【Soil on the Rooftop】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 . At this moment, both shouted in reprimand.

Each of the two had a Dao title.

One was called 【True Lord Gai Shuang Ling Feng】 , and the other was 【True Lord Teng Guang Ye Hui】 . Now both took action—sword cries roared across heaven and earth.

“Hmph.”

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue, however, sneered at the sight. Sword Intent might be a killing weapon at the Foundation Establishment stage, but to her level, it was of little threat.

Unless a 【Sword Dao Fruitional Rank】 had emerged—only when Sword Intent was bolstered by Fruitional Power and transformed into something miraculous—would she consider it worth a second glance. Otherwise, it was merely a mundane technique. What truly gave her pause was a divine sense hidden within the sword cries, faintly locking onto her from deep within Sword Pavilion—biding its time.

‘You want to forcefully kill me?’

A surge of intense danger washed over her heart, yet True Lord Qingcheng Feixue showed not a trace of panic. On the contrary, she curled her lips in eagerness.

“Come and try!”

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE!

A sky-filling burst of **【World-Cleansing Light】** exploded, as if a sun had ignited in the heavens, instantly suppressing the resounding sword cries.

“Madwoman! Deranged hag!”

At that moment, all the True Lords of Sword Pavilion cursed inwardly. **【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】** even quietly used **【Wall Earth】** to make himself less noticeable.

But just then—

“Clang! Clang!”

At last, a sword cry rang out from the depths of Sword Pavilion. In an instant, within every True Lord’s sea of consciousness, a sword shadow appeared naturally.

It was a sword of pure golden hue, yet covered in dense, fine cracks.

【Sword Intent】 !

And a true treasure refined from a Heaven-and-Earth Fruitional Rank!

In her heart, True Lord Qingcheng Feixue subconsciously recalled its name: 『Divine Qi Sword of Heavenly Talisman, Rigid Radiance, Advancing Spirit Mastery』 . ‘That old fossil is getting serious!’

The Sword Intent on its edge was known as **【Champion Seizing】** !

A Sword Intent in no way inferior to the **【No Killing Sword Intent】** of the Demon-Suppressing True Person—now unleashed under the full power of a Late-stage Golden Core True Lord—burst forth with peerless might!

Almost simultaneously, in the heavens above, the Fruitional Light of **【Gold in the Sand】** blazed bright.

“Slash!”

That ultimate sword strike—fully charged and accompanied by a crisp shout—whipped the heavens, darkening even celestial light.

All was illusion.

Throughout heaven and earth, there was only that one sword edge slashing forth from the depths of Sword Pavilion—blindingly bright, dazzling to the extreme, and faster than thought!

By the time you saw it, it had already struck.

Puchi!

The long blade pierced air; the sword light entered the body. The 【World-Cleansing Light】 unleashed by True Lord Qingcheng Feixue was, in that moment, like paper, easily shredded.

A second later, her graceful figure was split at the waist. Boundless Sword Qi, Fruitional imagery, and Sword Intent poured out in torrents, ready to utterly annihilate True Lord Qingcheng Feixue—but what greeted them instead was loud laughter and a burst of dazzling blood light!

She had resolutely self-detonated!

The erupting blood light mixed with the 【World-Cleansing Light】 , pushing that imagery to its limit, nullifying the sword's power, and extinguishing all visions.

Immediately afterward, a soul plunged into the 【Netherworld】 .

One second later, in the Jiangbei region, a baby girl was born. As soon as her eyes opened, she reclaimed her Fruitional Rank and matured instantly—still bearing the appearance of True Lord Qingcheng Feixue!

“Hahahaha!”

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue laughed toward the heavens. On her delicate jade-like face, countless cracks spread with each laugh, from which faint golden light shone through.

A sword from a True Lord—and not just any sword, but one long-prepared and murderous—could not be escaped merely by self-detonation. Especially that 【Champion Seizing Sword Intent】 —as the name implied, it had the power to claim first place and dominate. Anyone struck by it would forever be overshadowed by its wielder.

Its effect was akin to a 【Weakling's Mark】 .

With the Sword Intent clinging to her, she was marked. From now on, in any confrontation with its wielder, her divine abilities could only be exerted at most to thirty percent. In terms of imagery, defeat was certain!

“But... that was your only sword.”

Her smile turned cold. Though she had been slain once and marked by the Sword Intent, her Cave Heaven was intact, and her combat strength remained undiminished.

‘Compared to me, you're not the same!’

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue stood proud, gazing toward Sword Pavilion like she was staring at a sick tiger—both cautious and eager for more.

‘To forcibly wield a True Lord's power... for him, it must have added injury to injury. He concealed it well, likely borrowing the imagery of 【Wall Earth】 . Hard to gauge his exact state... better not push too hard. If truly cornered, it would be counterproductive.’

With that thought, True Lord Qingcheng Feixue withdrew her divine powers.

‘In any case, the purpose of this trip has been achieved. I’ve already destroyed that Cave Heaven fragment belonging to Hong Yun. Hm? Did I forget something?’

Her movements suddenly paused.

Her beautiful eyes blinked, a hint of doubt flickering within. No matter how she pondered, nothing came to mind—as if it were all just her imagination.

In Gantang Path, a faint light lay deeply buried underground, having evaded the cleansing of the 【World-Cleansing Light】. It remained hidden right under the noses of the True Lords.

“Whew... that was close.”

【Ang Xiao】 let out a breath of relief.

He had taken advantage of this great battle to use 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 to preserve this final fragment of the Cave Heaven—ensuring his connection to the present world was not severed.

Next, 【Ang Xiao】 stroked his chin, admiration flickering in his eyes: “...Interesting. That shrew’s cultivation was far greater than I expected. She even saw through that old undead thing from Sword Pavilion. Good thing she hasn’t discovered me—otherwise, there’d be endless trouble.”

Before the grand goal was achieved, he absolutely could not be exposed.

With that, he glanced once more toward Sword Pavilion, then sneered: “ 【Gold in the Sand】 ... hmph. That level of cultivation reaching Late-stage Golden Core? Consider him lucky!”

What True Lord Qingcheng Feixue could see, he naturally saw as well.

Why was 【True Lord of Rigid Form Dao-Preaching】 in such poor condition, unable to act? Because when he broke through to the Late-stage Golden Core, he used 【Fire in the Furnace】 and 【Soil on the Rooftop】 !

‘ 【Gold in the Sand】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 —that’s a good match.’

‘However, the problem is that 【Soil on the Rooftop】 is countered by 【Fire in the Furnace】 —a most ominous pairing. To seek Late-stage power through this? The lack of hidden dangers would be the true oddity!’

Ultimately, it came down to insufficient Dao understanding.

He had seen the synergy between 【Gold in the Sand】 and 【Fire in the Furnace】 , but failed to see that 【Soil on the Rooftop】 was restrained by the latter—resulting in self-sabotage.

To reach the Late stage, he likely relied on some supreme treasure.

But that was all. Not only had he left behind a great hidden danger, but his Dao path was blocked. Now he was trapped within Sword Pavilion, practically reclusive.

“In the end, still no match for me!”

【Ang Xiao】 laughed proudly. By reversing 【Star-Earth】 to achieve Five-Elemental Perfection, attaining the Supreme Fruitional Rank to break into the Late-stage Golden Core—this was his proudest accomplishment.

Heroes of the world? Who could rival him?

None were worth mentioning.

The next moment, a divine sense from 【Ang Xiao】 took root. The fragment of Cave Heaven preserved with great effort via 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 was suddenly gripped tightly by a large hand.

Lü Yang sighed in awe: “As expected of Senior Ang Xiao... he really had it.”

【Ang Xiao】 : “...???”

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 477: The Water Element’s Deficiency

At this moment, 【Ang Xiao】 was more than a little surprised.

Because the present Gantang Dao had long since been shrouded and hidden by him using 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 , in theory, no one should be able to notice it.

‘This person is actually unaffected by the 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 .’

This was actually understandable. After all, his true body resided in the underworld, and casting a spell across realms had limited effect. If someone was wholeheartedly convinced that there was something wrong with Gantang Dao...

Then it would be normal for them to remain unaffected.

But the problem was that, in 【Ang Xiao】 ’s perception, the person before him was merely at the Foundation Establishment stage—not even at perfection—now that was truly surprising.

‘For a Foundation Establishment cultivator to escape the effects of my current power's 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 , they would need at least a high-grade spirit treasure specifically meant to purify divine sense and dispel illusions, and their cultivation must not be low. Interesting. Who is this person? Could they be an incarnation of some True Lord?’

In an instant, countless thoughts ran through 【Ang Xiao】 ’s mind.

Meanwhile, Lü Yang tucked that small piece of Cave Heaven fragment into his pouch and, not daring to linger, disappeared in a flash.

“Hmm?”

Almost simultaneously, within Gantang Dao as well, a man brimming with sharpness suddenly felt a ripple of intuition and looked toward the spot where Lü Yang had just vanished.

He caught Lü Yang’s qi in an instant, but the next moment, that qi dissipated into thin air, as if someone had hidden it, making it impossible for him to track further. Not long after, a vast and mighty power descended from the sky, revealing the graceful figure of a woman.

“How interesting.”

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue looked around, her gaze like torches as she swept her eyes across the vast expanse of Gantang Dao. She suddenly remembered what she had forgotten earlier.

She had forgotten about Chong Guang!

Earlier, when she came to Gantang Dao, she had come with Chong Guang. But after a fierce battle, she had indulged herself in the fight and forgotten Chong Guang in Gantang Dao.

This was clearly abnormal.

And not just her—even the other True Lords from the Sword Pavilion seemed to have forgotten Chong Guang's existence, and no one had even glanced at Gantang Dao.

‘So it’s not just my problem—someone has tampered with all of Gantang Dao. Chong Guang was simply caught in it because he happened to be there. This divine ability... why does it feel so familiar? I seem to have read about something similar in the sect’s classics.’

‘But which classic exactly... I can’t remember.’

This was undoubtedly suspicious—especially since even someone of her cultivation was affected. It meant that the one behind the scenes could possibly be even stronger than her.

‘Hong Yun... impossible.’

‘Then who could it be?’

True Lord Qingcheng Feixue wanted to investigate further, but as she returned to Jiangnan, a qi fluctuation from the Sword Pavilion demanded her attention, forcing her to leave.

“...I’ll go for now.”

With those words, True Lord Qingcheng Feixue immediately scooped up Chong Guang and vanished from the scene. Though she had gained much from this battle, she was also heavily injured and needed to recover. As for Gantang Dao—well, it was within Jiangnan anyway, so she might as well leave it to the Sword Pavilion to worry about.

Meanwhile, in a remote mountain forest...

Lü Yang descended leisurely into the forest with his hands behind his back. He first carved out a temporary cave-dwelling and then took out the Cave Heaven fragment within it.

“Many thanks for the senior’s assistance.”

Lü Yang cupped his fists with a sincere smile. If not for 【Ang Xiao】 masking him with the 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 , he would have already been discovered by Chong Guang.

The next second, a soft radiance emanated from the Cave Heaven fragment, and a figure shrouded in smoke, gender and age indiscernible, emerged from the glow. Though the aura was extremely faint, every gesture exuded a calm and composed manner of controlling heavenly secrets.

“Daoist friend... you are quite bold.”

【Ang Xiao】 looked at Lü Yang, betraying no emotion in his heart but lightly smiling on the surface. “How could you be so certain that I would help conceal your presence?”

This was merely one of 【Ang Xiao】’s doubts.

There was another he did not voice: How could Lü Yang be so sure that the Cave Heaven fragment he was hiding in hadn’t been completely destroyed in Gantang Dao?

If Lü Yang had failed to find him, or if he refused to help, Lü Yang would have been immediately exposed before Chong Guang. Though the final result turned out well, the process was undoubtedly a gamble. And it was this very attitude that made 【Ang Xiao】 curious—the other party seemed to understand him quite well?

Faced with 【Ang Xiao】’s question, Lü Yang only smiled faintly:

“I have faith in you, senior.”

He didn’t believe that someone like 【Ang Xiao】 would be so easily destroyed by True Lord Qingcheng Feixue, and thus dared to risk coming to Gantang Dao.

Similarly, he believed 【Ang Xiao】 would see the situation clearly.

After all, if 【Ang Xiao】 didn't help him, he would merely lose a clone. But 【Ang Xiao】 would be exposed and wouldn't even be able to keep this last fragment of the Cave Heaven.

On the contrary, by helping him remain hidden, there was still hope of preserving it.

So 【Ang Xiao】 would definitely act.

'After all, this isn't the first time I've coerced him. How could I not know him? This man is a classic True Lord of the Holy Sect—driven purely by profit.'

Thinking of this, Lü Yang didn't waste words and directly brought out a dazzling divine ability. The moment 【Ang Xiao】 saw it, a flicker of astonishment crossed his eyes—because within that divine ability, flowed a qi that should have long since vanished from this world!

That divine ability was precisely the 【Root of All Things】 that Lü Yang had stolen from Hong Yun.

Yang-aligned Chen-Earth!

Yet ever since he reversed the yin-yang properties of Chen-Earth, only yin-aligned Chen-Earth should have remained in the world. Where had this yang-aligned Chen-Earth come from?

"...Hong Yun?"

【Ang Xiao】's thoughts spun rapidly, and he already guessed the origin of Lü Yang's divine ability. With eyes like torches, he also discerned Lü Yang's Dao foundation and background.

"【Heavenly Fire Above】?"

Now this truly surprised 【Ang Xiao】.

No one had ever attained the Fruitional Rank of 【Heavenly Fire Above】—that much was certain. In fact, throughout all ages, no one had ever successfully proven this path.

The requirements were simply too harsh—even more so than his own 【Great Forest Wood】.

Its related cultivation methods were absurdly rare, and the path forward was severed, making it not worth the effort to cultivate. As a result, it gradually faded into extinction over time.

Thinking this far, 【Ang Xiao】 came to a conclusion:

'This person is no True Lord.'

'Foundation Establishment... but with a rich foundation and strong background. Otherwise, he couldn't possibly possess a third-grade true art pointing to 【Heavenly Fire Above】, let alone succeed in cultivating it.'

Among the Five Supreme Fruitional Ranks, only 【Heavenly River Water】 was in poor condition.

Because the water element once belonged to the True Dragon Clan of old and was the only one among the five elements whose Supreme Fruitional Rank had been altered. After the great upheaval, it suffered immense damage.

This was something Lü Yang knew as well—he had discovered it from Heavenly Jiao’s memories. After all, if not for the deficiencies in the imagery of 【Heavenly River Water】 , which affected all cultivators under its dominion, then as a Foundation Establishment cultivator training in a Supreme Fruitional Rank with perfected divine abilities, Heavenly Jiao's combat strength would not have been so lacking.

“You are quite the daring young man.”

Upon seeing Lü Yang’s true cultivation level, 【Ang Xiao】 immediately shifted his tone—from “Daoist friend” to “young friend”—while scrutinizing Lü Yang:

“It’s just... I wonder, young friend, how you came to recognize me?”

His 【Obstruction of Knowledge and View】 had deceived the entire world—even True Lords weren’t spared—yet a mere Foundation Establishment cultivator had significant insight into him?

The mystery behind this intrigued him greatly.

“Senior flatters me.”

Lü Yang chuckled softly and said calmly, “It is only thanks to an elder in my family that I recognized you—not through my own merit.”

An elder in the family?

【Ang Xiao】 quickly cycled through a few names in his mind. He was an old-generation True Lord of the Holy Sect, having existed for tens of thousands of years!

Even five thousand years ago, when he struck down Hong Yun, he had already been in a state of feigned death for a long time.

Few people in the present had lived longer than him.

And even fewer had seen him in person and understood his power. Most didn’t have the cultivation to even remember him. Eliminating possibilities one by one—

“...Old Dragon Monarch?”

【Ang Xiao】 fell silent for a moment before suddenly uttering a name.

‘As expected of you!’

Lü Yang praised inwardly. This was the advantage of speaking to someone clever—with just a hint, they could guess exactly what you wanted them to.

