

## Talisman 1661

### Talisman Emperor

#### Chapter 1661: Heavenshaker Nine Blaze

When they saw Chen Xi had been successfully prodded into action and had even leaped onto the platform, all of them were slightly stunned, and then they became excited.

“That’s how a man should act!”

“Haha, not bad. Even if you lose the spar with Brother Yuqiu this time, I’d still think more highly of you.”

“He has finally dared to accept the challenge. How rare.”

All of them sighed successively with praise, but all of their words carried a wisp of pleasure from Chen Xi’s impending misfortune. However, if one didn’t listen carefully, one might think that they were truly cheering for Chen Xi.

Le Wuhen smiled in response to all of this, and then his gaze descended onto Chen Xi who stood on the platform while he said in his heart, Please don’t disappoint me. Why can’t this fellow be a bit more forbearing? Shentu Yanran had suddenly walked out of her room as well, and when she noticed all of this, it was already too late to stop. So, she couldn’t help but frown because of this.

She was rather displeased by Yuqiu Jing’s actions. Similarly, she was slightly disappointed by Chen Xi’s inability to keep his calm and composure.

But in the end, Shentu Yanran didn’t say anything. The spar was already about to begin, and she only hoped that Yuqiu Jing wouldn’t go too far.

To her surprise, she suddenly noticed that Zhuanyu Shui had already arrived in the surroundings, and he stood silently like a rock in the distance while watching silently.

Interesting! Looks like this fellow thinks very highly of Chen Xi’s strength as well. That’s very rare. Shentu Yanran seemed as if she’d thought of something.

.....

On the enormous platform, Yuqiu Jing and Chen Xi stood in confrontation from afar.

“Not bad, merely your courage to stand out and accept my challenge is sufficient to make me take back what I said just now.” The corners of Yuqiu Jing’s mouth revealed a wisp of a smile.

But right after that, he revealed a serious expression, and a wisp of a fierce expression suffused his eyes. “Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, I have to remind you before the spar that if you’re powerless to resist during the battle, then please say something. Don’t try too hard because in that way, I would be in the wrong if I were to injure you.”

His words were filled with arrogance and confidence, and he seemed to be very frank and possessed peerless grace.

Chen Xi’s expression was indifferent as he nodded and said, “Fellow Daoist Yuqiu, please be careful as well. Fellow Daoist Cao Zhen lost to me that day precisely because he held contempt in his heart.”

Cao Zhen's face sank when he was publicly named by Chen Xi, and his expression was slightly unsightly. That damnable fellow. What a sharp tongue!

Yuqiu Jing felt a wave of anger in his heart as well. What does he mean by that? Could it be that he's taking me to be a piece of trash like Cao Zhen? How truly audacious!

"Hahaha! Then I'll thank Fellow Daoist Chen Xi for your reminder. Let's cut the chitchat. We're about to arrive at the Ancestral Root Grounds, so let us start this spar of ours." Yuqiu Jing roared with laughter while his face revealed undisguised delight.

"I like to fight and end battles quickly as well," said Chen Xi.

Yuqiu Jing's face froze while he erupted with rage in his heart. End me quickly? This fellow really is arrogant!

"Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, that was exactly what I was thinking." Yuqiu Jing had an expressionless face, and his voice carried a wisp of an oppressive and murderous tone.

An aura of confrontation filled their words, and it caused everyone in the surroundings to feel even more excited. They were clearly aware that Yuqiu Jing had been infuriated. So, this battle wouldn't be merely a spare, and it would definitely be unusually interesting instead!

Shentu Yanran couldn't help but feel slightly worried when she witnessed this, and then she glanced at Le Wuhen who was grinning at the side and said via voice transmission, "Wuhen, if Chen Xi is unable to persist in the battle later, then let's make a move together and stop the battle. We absolutely can't allow the harmonious relationship between everyone to be affected at this moment. Otherwise, it would be extremely disadvantageous to our operation after this."

"Of course." Le Wuhen nodded, and he agreed very readily.

Shentu Yanran felt slightly relaxed when she heard this.

"Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, please go ahead!" Yuqiu Jing made a welcoming gesture while his entire body emanated strands of divine radiance, and it caused him to seem even more arrogant and confident.

"Please go ahead." Chen Xi returned the courtesy with an indifferent and tranquil expression.

This action caused Yuqiu Jing's eyes to narrow while he felt insulted. He originally wanted Chen Xi to launch the first attack so as to display his impressive and dignified bearing, yet he'd never expected that Chen Xi actually didn't appreciate it.

"Haha! Then I'll do just as you've said!" Yuqiu Jing didn't hesitate any longer, and he suddenly roared with laughter. His white clothes fluttered while he suddenly stretched out his hand and grabbed, causing a wisp of sword qi to surge out.

Swish!

It tore through space as it slashed fiercely towards Chen Xi.

This attack was covered in blazing Divine Dao Laws, and its might was astounding. As soon as it appeared, it even emanated the sound of chanting and the resounding tune of nature, and it caused the hearts of everyone in the surroundings to feel extremely astounded.

This Sword Dao could be said to be peerlessly shocking!

This fellow really did utilize an ultimate move as soon as the battle began. A wisp of lightning arose in Le Wuhen's eyes, and he was clearly aware that this battle would absolutely not last for long.

He really isn't holding back. Ability at the Sword Emperor Realm, Divine Dao Laws at the Initial Realm, and coupled with the Yuqiu Clan's Heavenshaker Nine Blaze. Does he intend to defeat Chen Xi with a single strike? Shentu Yanran's pupils constricted abruptly, and she was extremely shocked in her heart.

No wonder he dared to act so arrogantly. So, it turns out that he possesses the ability of a Sword Emperor.... Chen Xi instantly determined how terrifying this strike was.

He had no choice but to admit that as a Spirit God Exalt ranked at the 15th position on the Domain Enlightened Chart, Yuqiu Jing did indeed possess sufficient ability to be arrogant.

While he thought like this in his heart, Chen Xi's reaction wasn't slow at all. Before the sword qi could approach him, his figure flashed and teleported through space, and he dodged up into the sky.

He intended to see exactly how great Yuqiu Jing's ability was, and then he would look for a superb opportunity to end the battle quickly and defeat Yuqiu Jing in one go.

Hmph! What're you dodging for? What an idiot! Yuqiu Jing couldn't help but sneer in his heart when he saw Chen Xi dodge, and then he stretched out his hand and grabbed once more, causing a wisp of blazing sword qi to whistle out once more.

Om!

The strange thing was that as soon as the second strand of sword qi appeared, it instantly caught up to the first sword qi and fused with it, causing its might to instantly rise explosively by a great deal before suddenly crushing down once more towards Chen Xi.

The fusing and overlapping of the Sword Dao? This sword technique is pretty formidable. Chen Xi's brows raised while his figure flickered repeatedly, and he dodged the attack safely.

He'll be in a bad situation if he doesn't face Yuqiu Jing's attacks head-on.... Le Wuhen frowned. Could it be that this fellow hasn't realized the strengths of the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze? He's finished. Shentu Yanran muttered in her heart. She was very clearly aware that the Yuqiu Clan's Heavenshaker Nine Blaze was extremely domineering, and its strength grew with every strike. Moreover, the sword qi emanated by it were entirely capable of fusing and overlapping, causing its might to multiply!

At the point nine sword strikes overlapped with each other, it would possess nine times its offensive strength, and it was capable of transforming into an absolute realm of the sword. Moreover, its might would be so formidable it was sufficient to destroy the stars, moon, and all things!

At that time, it would already be impossible avoid it because once the absolute realm of the sword was formed, all one's paths of retreat would be sealed, and it would be impossible to flee!

It wasn't just Shentu Yanran and Le Wuhen, all the other people in the surroundings understood the how terrifying the Yuqiu Clan's Heavenshaker Nine Blaze was, and they couldn't help but reveal a wisp of a strange expression when they saw Chen Xi dodging continuously. They took slight pleasure in his misfortune, and they also revealed pity and disdain.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Chen Xi's display caused Yuqiu Qing to feel even more reassured. Divine radiance seethed from his entire body, causing him to seem like a peerless exalt of the sword, and he successively executed strand after strand of terrifying sword qi.

As soon as these strands of sword qi appeared, all of them fused together, causing their imposing aura to multiply. The brilliant radiance emanated from the sword qi illuminated the heavens and the earth, and the imposing aura that swept out from it faintly formed a domain that was on the verge of enveloping the entire platform.

On the other hand, from the beginning until the end, Chen Xi had been constantly dodging as if he didn't dare to bear the brunt of this sword qi, and he seemed to be barely able to dodge away safely every single time.

This caused those cultivators in the surroundings to feel even more excited. Because the strongest attack of the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze was about to be formed, and they wanted to see how Chen Xi would dodge then!

It was even to the extent that the pitiable scene of Chen Xi being crushed by a single strike had appeared in their minds.

Le Wuhen's brows furrowed, and he was already accumulating force in secret. He was prepared to make a move and rescue Chen Xi as soon as Chen Xi lost.

What exactly is this fellow doing!? A wisp of anxiousness arose in Shentu Yanran's heart. She was unable to figure out what Chen Xi was thinking, but she was clearly aware that if this continued, then the consequences would be unimaginable!

Zhuanyu Shui puckered his lips, and a wisp of imperceptible disappointment arose in the space between his brows.

Om!

Suddenly, a strand of vast and terrifying fluctuation arose on the platform, and then a domain that was formed by sword qi and suffused with a murderous glow had confined this entire expanse of space!

At that instant, space seemed to have been frozen and was unable to fluctuate at all!

This was the absolute domain of the sword that was condensed by the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze after it attained its limits!

Le Wuhen sighed when he saw this, Shentu Yanran frowned, and Zhuanyu Shui shook his head and remained silent. On the other hand, all the other cultivators were extremely excited. They opened their eyes wide and were deeply afraid of missing the scene of Chen Xi's crushing defeat.

“Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, how will you dodge now?” At this moment, Yuqiu Jing’s entire body flower with sword qi, and he was arrogant and mighty. His handsome face was suffused with a wisp of a grin and a confident expression, and he seemed like an overlord that controlled the entire situation.

A wisp of peerlessly dazzling sword qi floated before him, and it emanated dazzling divine radiance while its imposing aura was terrifying and shocking to the extreme.

At this moment, a wisp of terror couldn’t help but arise in the hearts of all, and they were extremely horrified because the aura of this sword qi was too formidable.

Just as everyone had guessed, Chen Xi was finally unable to dodge when being locked onto by this wisp of sword qi, so he stood on the spot.

However, to everyone’s surprise, his expression was still calm and indifferent, and he didn’t seem to reveal even a trace of anxiousness. It seemed as if he’d given up on struggling and intended to admit defeat.

However, Yuqiu Jing obviously didn’t intend to give Chen Xi this opportunity.

Or perhaps, it could be said that he wouldn’t allow Chen Xi to admit defeat now even if Chen Xi had decided to admit defeat!

Bang!

Under the gazes of everyone present, that extremely dazzling and blazing sword qi suddenly circulated, and then a bang resounded as it smashed fiercely towards Chen Xi!

“Stay your....” Shentu Yanran couldn’t help but shout out to stop Yuqiu Jing, yet she stopped abruptly after speaking halfway.

Le Wuhen sighed in his heart and was just about to make a move to save Chen Xi, yet his entire body stiffened while divine radiance erupted from his eyes. Similarly, he stopped abruptly as well.

Zhuanyu Shui intended to turn around and leave. However, at this instant, his tall and robust figure seemed as if it had been frozen on the spot, and he was unable to move a single step.

At this instant, a wisp of incomprehensible coldness had even arisen in the hearts of all the other cultivators, and their pupils dilated.

All of this was because of a casual movement Chen Xi made. He pressed his fingers together into the form of a sword and flicked them lightly in an otherworldly manner.

### **Talisman Emperor**

#### **Chapter 1662: Nine Marks Of The Sword**

A wisp of sword qi soared through the sky.

It didn’t make a single sound, nor did it carry a dazzling and oppressive imposing aura. All it had was a form of calmness, and it was extremely ordinary.

However, when they laid eyes upon this wisp of sword, the hearts of Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, and Zhuanyu Shui were filled with shock, and they felt a wisp of deep terror.

It was an indescribable aura. It seemed like when that sword strike was executed, it didn't shock the heavens, it didn't shake the earth, yet it was capable of silently seeing through the heart, destroying the will, and slaughtering the Dao Heart!

What sort of Sword Dao was this?

No one was able to say for certain.

On the other hand, the other cultivators hadn't noticed this because their levels of strength were too low, and they were unable to understand how terrifying this sword strike was.

It was even to the extent that when they saw such an ordinary sword strike, they couldn't help but ridicule in their hearts. *Is this fellow really out of tricks?*

But in the next instant, their gazes froze while they revealed dumbstruck expressions.

.....

All of this took a long time to describe, yet it actually occurred in an instant. When Chen Xi pressed his fingers together into a sword and executed that extremely ordinary strand of sword qi, the entire platform suddenly fell into a form of deathly silence.

*Shit!* Yuqiu Jing's heart jerked while a strong bad feeling surged into it, and his expression changed abruptly.

He practically instinctively dodged backwards with full force.

Swoosh!

The sword qi of the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze that had attained its peak state was suddenly slashed into two at the center, and it was like a piece of catkin that was slashed apart. It seemed to be so weak.

This wasn't a collision, so it didn't emanate any rumbling or the sound of an explosion. On the contrary, it was like a piece of grass that had been accurately and swiftly reaped by a sharp blade.

If they didn't witness it with their own two eyes, they would absolutely be unable to describe how strange this scene was. There was no deafening sound of collision, there was no dazzling divine radiance created by an explosion, and everything seemed to be so clean, murderous, swift... and calm!

Swish!

Finally, a sound that sounded like a piece of cloth being torn apart resounded on the platform, and it was instead that absolute domain of the sword which enveloped the entire platform that had a rift easily torn open on it.

After that....

Rumble!

A strand of a terrifying and enormous bang resounded. Divine radiance exploded into pieces and swept though the platform, and the rumbling from the explosion seemed like a thunderclap that shot into the nine heavens, and it tore at the eardrums and shook the soul.

All of this happened in an instant. The battle on the platform transformed from a strange state of deathly silence to its current state of rumbling and disorder. It seemed like a reversal between motionlessness and movement, and the strong visual impact it revealed caused others to feel suffocated.

It was too terrifying!

Earlier, everyone including Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, and Zhuanyu Shui thought that when Chen Xi adopted the conservative strategy of dodging, it was equivalent to trapping himself within a web and causing himself to fall into a hopeless situation. So, he would absolutely be unable to withstand the ultimate attack of Yuqiu Jing's Heavenshaker Nine Blaze.

But no one had expected that such a shocking turn of events would actually occur!

A strand of extremely ordinary sword qi moved like a skillful butcher as it slashed the sword qi of the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze apart, destroyed the domain in an all powerful and crushing manner!

If they hadn't witnessed it with their own two eyes, they would have almost thought that they were seeing things.

*The Sword Emperor Realm? No, he has already walked onto the path to seek the Ultimate Path of the Sword!* Le Wuhen's gaze burned and flowed with a strand of divine light.

*This fellow....* Shentu Yanran's heart had risen and fallen like a wave. At this moment, she actually didn't know what to say about Chen Xi.

Zhuanyu Shui still remained silent. No one noticed this his hands had been imperceptibly clenched tightly before being relaxed once more.

On the other hand, the other cultivators opened their mouths wide while their eyeballs almost fell off. *How could this be possible? How could that kid possibly overcome the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze technique so easily!?*

This outcome was simply like an invisible slap that struck them to the point their faces burned with pain, and their minds were slightly dazed.

At this moment, even though Chen Xi was calm as before, his image in the eyes of everyone had instantly grown, and it carried an unfathomable and mysterious aura.

Yuqiu Jing was an existence ranked at the 15th position on the Domain Enlightened Chart, and he'd even utilized his strongest technique, the Heavenshaker Nine Blaze, during the battle just now. Yet Chen Xi had utilized such a casual strike of the sword to destroy Yuqiu Jing's strongest attack and completely suppress Yuqiu Jing. So, how could such combat strength be described with just the word terrifying?

"What sort of Sword Dao was that?" On the platform that was suffused with dust and dirt, Yuqiu Jing's voice that carried slight shock and rage resounded. At this moment, his clothes were snow white, his appearance was still rather handsome, yet his face was covered in disbelief.

There was even a wisp of horror in his heart. If he hadn't noticed the approach of danger and dodged in time just now, the consequences would simply be unimaginable.

Chen Xi's expression was indifferent, and he didn't answer Yuqiu Jing and just cupped his hands before he said, "It was a good battle."

As he spoke, he turned around and intended to walk off the platform. From the beginning until the end, he seemed as if he'd done an extremely ordinary thing, and he was neither arrogant nor haughty. He seemed extremely indifferent and clam like the surface of water in an old well.

However, at this moment, no one dared to question his strength again.

"Wait! The spar hasn't ended, yet you're leaving just like that?" Suddenly, Yuqiu Jing shouted in a deep voice, and then his figure flashed to block Chen Xi's path.

Chen Xi frowned. He raised his eyes to look at Yu Qiu Jing, and then he went silent for a moment before he said, "Fellow Daoist Yuqiu, you've already lost."

"I've lost?" Yuqiu Jing was unable to control the rage and shock within his heart any longer, and he cried out. "It was merely a single strike. How could I have possibly lost? Aren't I still standing here completely unharmed?"

Swish!

As if it was a reply to Yuqiu Jing, everyone suddenly noticed that the clothes on Yuqiu Jing's legs, knees, ribs, shoulders, and chest suddenly tore open. Shreds of his clothes fluttered in the air and revealed the skin beneath them.

If one looked carefully, one could notice that all those spots where his clothes tore open seemed to have been soundlessly slashed apart by a wisp of sword qi.

There were an entire nine spots, and if they were slightly sharper, then everyone could imagine that Yuqiu Jing's legs, knees, ribs, and shoulders would have been slashed through while a hole would have been pierced through his heart!

In an instant, the surroundings turned deathly silent.

Everyone stared fixedly at Yuqiu Jing while tempestuous waves arose in their hearts, and it was even more shocking than before. It was even to the extent that it was... slightly terrifying!

Because they'd actually not noticed the appearance of these marks of the sword at all!

So, didn't that mean that if Chen Xi wanted to kill Yuqiu Jing, then Yuqiu Jing would have died numerous times already?

"This...." Yuqiu Jing's mind droned, and he seemed as if he'd been struck by lightning. He opened his eyes wide as he looked at his bare skin, and his expression was blank while his body had stiffened completely on the spot.

He had lost!

At this moment, he finally realized that he'd been completely defeated this time!



Chen Xi wasn't dodging earlier because Chen Xi was afraid of him, and it was instead because Chen Xi had already attacked soundlessly. However, laughably, he'd actually not noticed anything since the beginning until the end, and he was still attacking in such a complacent, proud, and confident manner.

Suddenly, a strand of an extremely strong feeling of humiliation arose in Yuqiu Jing's heart, and he felt like an idiot. Because Chen Xi had played him for a fool since the battle began!

"How... how... how did you accomplish this?" Yuqiu Jing's expression changed indeterminately, and his voice was heavy and hoarse.

"I reminded you early on at the beginning of the battle. The reason Cao Zhen lost so quickly was because of carelessness." Chen Xi spoke calmly.

This time, Cao Zhen wasn't angry at all when Chen Xi mentioned him in public, and his heart was filled with extreme bitterness instead. Because he finally understood that they weren't existences on the same level at all, and the gap between them was too great.

On the other hand, when he heard Chen Xi compare him to Cao Zhen once more, tempestuous waves surged endlessly within Yuqiu Jing's heart, and the corners of his mouth twitched, yet he opened his mouth and found himself to be speechless in the end.

All the other cultivators in the surroundings couldn't help but feel dejected in their hearts. Because it was truly slightly pitiable that Yuqiu Jing had challenged Chen Xi successively yet faced such an outcome.

.....

This spar ended here.

Yuqiu Jing seemed as if he'd become a completely different person. He remained silent from the beginning until the end, and he just drank wine by himself and seemed to be extremely quiet.

No one disturbed him. Because everyone was clearly aware that Yuqiu Jing definitely felt horrible after suffering such a blow.

On the other hand, the spar from before caused all of them to completely change their views of Chen Xi, and none of them dared to doubt and reject him again.

It was even to the extent that the gazes many cultivators shot at Chen Xi carried a trace of reverence.

"Amazing! Now, I even slightly wonder if you're the same type of person as that Sword Demon, Wang Jianchen, from 8,000 years ago." Le Wuhen grinned as he looked at Chen Xi, and he didn't conceal the praise within his voice at all.

"Fellow Daoist Wuhen is too kind." Chen Xi smiled. He hadn't had the intention to embarrass Yuqiu Jing during the spar just now, and he'd attacked a long time ago with the Vorpall Strike technique and left numerous marks of the sword on Yuqiu Jing's clothes while refraining from injuring Yuqiu Jing. So, he'd already given Yuqiu Jing a great deal of face. Unfortunately, Yuqiu Jing hadn't noticed it at all.

"I'm very curious about whether you or Young Master Wuhen is more formidable." Shentu Yanran spoke from the side, and she had a tender gaze that revealed traces of extraordinary splendor.

Le Wuhen instantly laughed bitterly, and then he waved his hand and said, "Yanran, don't compare me to Fellow Daoist Chen Xi because I can't compare to him at all. In my opinion, Fellow Daoist Chen Xi's combat strengths is sufficient to go against Gongye Zhefu, Jia Nan, and even Luo Shaonong."

Shentu Yanran grinned from ear to ear and said, "Isn't that even better? With Fellow Daoist Chen Xi's assistance, our group will definitely be in an even more advantageous position while fighting for the Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root later."

"Hahaha! Yanran, you're right indeed." Le Wuhen roared brightly with laughter.

On the other hand, Chen Xi was slightly unable to endure their praise, and he smiled bitterly and said, "I've already told the both of you, it was only a spar just now. I was just lucky."

"Oh you! Everything about you is great, and you just have a single flaw. You're too modest!" Le Wuhen feigned anger and pointed at Chen Xi before he suddenly roared with laughter. "Could it be that you're unaware? Excessive modesty is a form of arrogance as well."

Shentu Yanran puckered her lips and chuckled without end.

Chen Xi was completely speechless.

The other cultivators noticed all of this, and they felt rather complicated emotions in their hearts. Many of them even felt slightly regretful in their hearts for being unable to keep an open mind and maintain a good relationship with Chen Xi.

As for Yuqiu Jing... he'd been constantly drinking wine in a depressed manner, and he seemed to be extremely quiet. It seemed as if he couldn't be bothered to pay attention to everything in the surroundings.

Swish!

Suddenly, everyone felt the ground beneath their legs shake lightly, and then the entire Soulsever Bottle Gourd seemed as if it had left a swamp and suddenly sped up.

"Haha! We've finally arrived!" Le Wuhen was stunned, and then he gazed out towards the outside world. After that, a wisp of delight couldn't help but suffuse his face while he roared with laughter.

### [Talisman Emperor](#)

#### **Chapter 1663: Ancestral Root Temple**

Everyone looked over along Le Wuhen's gaze, and then their spirits were refreshed while they become excited.

It wasn't grey and hazy anymore outside the Soulsever Bottle Gourd. The Desolate Manku Qi that enveloped the bottle guard had gradually thinned, and their fields of vision had gradually become clearer.

It was even to the extent that they could see an extremely ancient temple standing towering in the distance!

Swoosh!

The Soulsever Bottle Gourd suddenly stopped moving.

“Fortunately, we aren’t late, and the door to the Ancestral Root Temple hasn’t been opened.” Le Wuhen smiled as he led all of them out of the Soulsever Bottle Gourd.

Meanwhile, everyone clearly noticed that it was an extremely desolate open field that surrounded them. The surroundings were filled with grey and hazy Desolate Manku Qi, and only a single temple stood towering at the center.

The temple was extremely ancient and covered in moss, and it was even to the extent of being in a sorry state. It had stood here for countless years, and it seemed to have experienced the passage of countless years.

“That’s the entrance to the Ancestral Root Temple, and it’s called the Ancestral Root Temple. According to rumor, it was born from within the Chaos of the Manku period, and its mysterious and unfathomable. Since the ancient times until now, it has drawn countless experts over.” Le Wuhen sighed casually with emotion, and then he led all of them forward. “Come, if I’m not wrong, then it won’t be long before the guardian of the temple will probably make an appearance....”

*The guardian of the temple?* Chen Xi’s slanted brows raised while he revealed a contemplative expression.

He’d heard that since the day that this Ancestral Root Temple existed here, there had always been a guardian that guarded the temple. No one knew the guardian’s origins, and in the same way, no one knew exactly how long the guardian had lived for. He seemed to be extremely mysterious.

If one wanted to enter the Ancestral Root Temple, then one had to pass the guardian’s test. Otherwise, even if one had arrived here, one would return empty handed.

The heavens and the earth were boundless, the open plain was deathly silent, and the surroundings were filled with grey and hazy Desolate Manku Qi. The atmosphere in the surroundings seemed extremely deathly silent and desolate.

Flying amidst this area was like returning to the absolute beginning of the Manku period, and it caused a wisp of respect to arise uncontrollably in the hearts of all.

In next to no time, everyone arrived before the Ancestral Root Temple.

When looked at from a short distance, the temple seemed to be even loftier and ancient. It was completely constructed from ordinary limestone, yet it emanated an ancient and heavy aura that caused one’s heart to palpitate.

There were two doors before the temple, and it was extremely conspicuous.

The door on the left had the character ‘生’ which meant life written on it. The character seemed as if it had been immersed in a pool of blood. It was scarlet red, unrestrained, and revealed a terrifying and ghastly aura.

The door on the right had the character '死' which meant death written on it. Yet the character was written in a simple, powerful, and balanced manner instead, and it surged with an aura that calmed the heart.

One was life and the other was death. Two ancient characters were respectively branded on two different doors. Coupled with the ancient aura possessed by the temple, it emanated a form of indescribable impact to others.

It was like those two doors were doors that led to two different worlds, and eternal life or damnation would be decided with a single thought.

Something especially unique was that there was actually an ancient altar at the center of those two doors. Its surface was mottled, and it was suffused with the marks of time. Yet there wasn't anything unusual about it.

However, when such an extremely ordinary altar appeared before the temple and stood between the doors of 'life' and 'death', it seemed to be extraordinarily unusual.

At this moment, numerous figures had already gathered before the Ancestral Root Temple. They were divided into various groups, and all of them stood at different positions. They didn't disturb each other, yet they also stood in confrontation from afar. So, even though the atmosphere was calm, it imperceptibly revealed a confrontational aura.

When Chen Xi's group arrived here under Le Wuhen's lead, it instantly caused a wave of agitation.

"The Imperial Region's Le Wuhen!"

"Look quickly, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and Zhuanyu Shui are there as well!"

"Looks like they've formed an alliance...."

"The competition is getting greater and greater. This group of theirs has converged the Spirit God Exalts at 11th, 13th, 15th, and 21st position on the Domain Enlightened Chart. Coupled with the assistance of those other cultivators, this force is sufficient to rival Luo Shaonong and Gongye Zhefu!"

"Everyone be careful. We must not offend Le Wuhen's group. Their strength is too formidable, and they're far from something that we can go against."

The crowd discussed animatedly, and the gazes they shot at Chen Xi's group mostly carried a wisp of fear and reverence.

Of course, their gazes mostly lingered on Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and Zhuanyu Shui. As for Chen Xi, he didn't even draw much attention.

It couldn't be helped, he was an unfamiliar face, and he wasn't a figure that was ranked on the Domain Enlightened Chart, so it was impossible for them to be aware of his identity.

When the other cultivators in Chen Xi's group noticed this, all of them looked over in succession, and then they raised their chests and revealed a wisp of a prideful expression. They seemed to be extremely proud and conceited.

They did indeed have the grounds to be proud. Because amongst all the other groups in the surroundings, only a few of them could compare to the forces of their group.

Suddenly, the crowd automatically opened up a path for Chen Xi's group. Le Wuhen seemed to be accustomed to this, and he directly led them past the ground and arrived right at the front.

This position was already the closest to the Ancestral Root Temple. At this moment, there were comparatively few cultivators standing here.

Obviously, it wasn't just anyone who possessed the qualifications to occupy such a superb location.

Chen Xi stood within the crowd, and he sized up the situation in the surroundings without drawing attention to himself.

Compared to when they entered the God Burial Ocean, the number of cultivators capable of arriving here was obviously much lesser, and there were only a mere 300 plus people here.

Moreover, if Chen Xi wasn't wrong, there was a few thousands of cultivators who'd set out from Phoenix Perch City.

This meant that after they entered the God Burial Ocean, there was definitely a portion of cultivators that weren't able to arrive at the Desolate Manku Ruins.

Similarly, after they entered the Desolate Manku Ruins, a portion of the cultivators were bound to be unable to traverse the Chaos Beast Boundary, so they would naturally be unable to arrive at the area enveloped by Desolate Manku Qi and arrive here in the end.

Actually, it was very easy to understand. A large portion of the cultivators who'd entered the Desolate Manku Ruins this time were clearly aware that they were unable to fight the Sprit God Exalts for that ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root. Moreover, it was even to the extent that out of consideration for their own lives, they didn't even intend to head to the Ancestral Root Grounds.

Because they knew their own limits. So, their objective was very simple, and it was to find some fortuitous encounters in the Desolate Manku Ruins that they could obtain.

For example, when Chen Xi had just arrived at the Desolate Manku Ruins, he'd obtain three extremely rare divine herbs from the cracks in the rocks on a precipice.

This meant that merely the fortuitous encounters scattered around the Desolate Manku Ruins was sufficient to satisfy the needs of those cultivators.

Now, those that were able to arrive before the Ancestral Root Temple were definitely the top-rate existences in the Domain Enlightened Spirit God Realm, and there was no lack of Spirit God Exalts amongst them.

In other words, these 300 plus cultivators before his eyes were absolutely the best Domain Enlightened Spirit Gods in the various regions of the Ancient God Domain, and all of them were peerless geniuses.

Moreover, they weren't acting by themselves, and they'd all formed alliances since a long time ago. So, once they everyone entered the Ancestral Root Grounds, all of these cultivators would definitely

become their group's most terrifying competition when fighting for the ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root.

At that time, it would absolutely impossible to prevent intense conflict from arising.

Of course, with the current height Chen Xi had attained, there weren't many amongst the people in the surroundings who could make him take them seriously.

*Hmm?* Suddenly, Chen Xi's eyes narrowed imperceptibly because he noticed a familiar beautiful figure standing at the left.

She wore a black dress, had a graceful and slender figure, and pretty and tranquil appearance, and her entire body was suffused with a beautiful aura. Shockingly, it was Zhen Liuqing.

Sure enough, it was naturally Gongye Zhefu who stood by her side. He had a tall figure, violet pupils, silver hair, skin that was fair like jade, and wore a black robe. As he stood there casually, he naturally emanated an extremely oppressive and sharp aura.

Both of them stood side by side while surrounded by a group of cultivators. They seemed like bright moons that were surrounded by a host of stars, and they seemed especially conspicuous.

Chen Xi sighed in his heart before he withdrew his gaze.

Since he'd met Zhen Liuqing by chance in Phoenix Perch City, his emotions had constantly been rather complicated. From the excitement and happiness he felt at the beginning to the rage and disappointment he felt later on, and then the dejection and calm he felt now. It was like experiencing a cycle of life, and it was a truly indescribable feeling.

*Zhen Liuqing.... Her name sounds like she would retain her feelings, but she's already heartless now.... Nevermind, if she has already decided to forget me, then she can do as she pleases.* Chen Xi took a deep breath, and then he shook his head and discarded the distracting thoughts in his mind. [1]

He didn't dare continue thinking about it because he was worried that he would be unable to control his emotions and charge over, and then question Zhen Liuqing once more about exactly why she was acting in this way.

Suddenly, a feminine and low voice that carried a lazy tone resounded in the surroundings. "Young Miss Yanran, I never expected that you'd really come here as well. It really is a slight pleasant surprise to me."

The surroundings instantly became perfectly silent.

The gazes of everyone glanced over successively towards the person that stood right at the front. That person had a lazy bearing, dense long hair that hung loosely on his shoulders, an extremely handsome appearance, and revealed a wisp of an evil yet charming aura.

Especially the spot on his shoulder, there was a flaming red divine beast, Vermillion Bird, standing there, and it was gorgeous, wild, and peerlessly arrogant.

This person was exactly Luo Shaonong that was ranked at the 3rd position on the Domain Enlightened Chart, a peerless figure of the younger generation that came from the ancient Luo Clan in the Imperial Region, and his reputation was renowned even throughout the entire Imperial Region.

Such an effect could only be accomplished when Luo Shaonong spoke, and it instantly drew the attention of everyone.

Especially when they noticed that Luo Shaonong was actually speaking to Shentu Yanran, it even caused many of them to be shocked.

Shentu Yanran was a peerless beauty in the entire Imperial Region, and countless cultivators had taken her to be the woman they admired.

“What ability do I have to actually make Brother Shaonong remember me like this. I’m slightly overwhelmed by this unexpected favor.” Shentu Yanran was obviously slightly surprised. She was stunned for a moment before she spoke in a clear and melodious voice that was moving, pleasant to the ear, and tinkled like a stream.

Coupled with her unsurpassed beauty, it caused the eyes of everyone to light up. Moreover, many cultivators even didn’t disguise a wisp of admiration in their eyes.

“Haha! Yanran, you know my character, so why be so courteous?” A wisp of a brilliant smile suffused Luo Shaonong’s handsome and charming face, and he stared at Shentu Yanran with a burning gaze and said, “Yanran, if you come over and work together with me, then I guarantee to bring you smoothly into the Genesis Ancestral Root. As for the Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root there, so long as you agree to be my Dao Companion, then I’ll definitely seize it for you!”

Everyone instantly exploded into an uproar. No one had expected that Luo Shaonong would actually make such an invitation to Shentu Yanran in public.

No, this wasn’t an invitation any longer because it was obviously no different from professing his love to her!

1. I tried to explain it in the sentence, but just for clarification, besides ‘showing mercy’ which I explained numerous chapters in the past, Liuqing can be transliterated in Chinese to ‘retain feelings’ as well.

### [Talisman Emperor](#)

#### **Chapter 1664: The Temple Guardian**

Besides feeling shocked, everyone couldn’t help but feel envious.

Luo Shaonong was simply domineering to the extreme. For the sake of pursuing Shentu Yanran, he was even willing to seize the ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root for her. How many women in the world could obtain such favor from him?

Perhaps only a peerless beauty like Shentu Yanran could obtain such a profession of love from him.

When some women heard this, they even felt slightly envious of Shentu Yanran. Because if they were able to obtain such words from Luo Shaonong, then even if they had to be his servant or slave, they would probably agree without the slightest hesitation.

Unfortunately, this was obviously impossible.

Because even they had to admit that no matter if it was in terms of identity, status, or their own cultivations and reputation, all of them were far inferior to Shentu Yanran.

There were also some that felt very uncomfortable in their hearts, like the members of Chen Xi's group. At this moment, all of them were slightly displeased because Luo Shaonong was obviously trying to take Shentu Yanran away from their group while right before their very eyes. Isn't he a little too arrogant!?

If Shentu Yanran left, then it would be equivalent to their group losing the assistance of a Spirit God Exalt, and such a loss was too severe.

Especially because there was no lack of cultivators who'd admired Shentu Yanran since a long time ago. So, when they heard Luo Shaonong, it was simply no different from forcefully taking away the woman they admired.

This was the influence of a mere sentence from Luo Shaonong, and this obviously showed how great his power and influence were.

Le Wuhen frowned, and he seemed slightly displeased. However, he didn't say anything in the end. Because Luo Shaonong had invited Shentu Yanran over while Shentu Yanran wasn't his subordinate, so it wasn't good for him to say anything.

The corners of Yuqiu Jing's mouth twitched, and he couldn't help but glance at Shentu Yanran as if he was worried that she would agree.

On the other hand, at this moment, Shentu Yanran had suddenly sent a voice transmission to Chen Xi. "Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, do you think I should agree to his invitation?"

Chen Xi had been constantly watching coldly from the side because he felt that this matter wasn't related to him at all. So, he couldn't be said to feel anything because of it.

However, when he heard Shentu Yanran asking for his opinion at this moment, he couldn't help but be stunned, and then he laughed bitterly and said via voice transmission, "I don't have any suggestions. Miss Yanran, don't make it difficult for me."

Shentu Yanran pursued an answer and said, "Then what if I bring you over along with me to work together with Luo Shaonong. Would you agree?"

Chen Xi's brows raised as he said, "That would probably be inadvisable, right?"

"I think so too." Shentu Yanran smiled. "Then I'll listen to you."

Chen Xi was instantly stunned. Listen to me? But I clearly didn't give you any suggestions.

Both of them had conversed via voice transmission, and it had occurred in an instant, so no one had noticed it.

Only Le Wuhen seemed to have noticed something. He couldn't help but glance at Chen Xi with surprise, and then he smiled in a seemingly encouraging manner.

At the same time, Yuqiu Jing that stood by Shentu Yanran's side seemed to have noticed something as well, and he frowned imperceptibly while his expression was slightly gloomy.



“Sorry, I’ll strive myself to obtain the things that I want. I appreciate Brother Shaonong’s good intentions.” Thank you.” Meanwhile, Shentu Yanran had already smiled lightly, and her red lips parted lightly as she declined in a tactful manner.

This wasn’t really unexpected .However, when they obtained a confirmed answer, Le Wuhen and the others still heaved sighs of relief in their hearts.

Chen Xi remained indifferent towards this. Because no matter what choice Shentu Yanran made, it would affect him at all, and he refused to admit that Shentu Yanran had listened to his suggestion and acted in this way.

But it was very obvious that Le Wuhen and Yuqiu Jing were slightly suspicious. However, the former felt rather appreciative while the latter felt slightly gloomy.

When he heard Shentu Yanran refused him, not only did Luo Shaonong not become enraged, he roared with laughter instead and said, “Yanran, do you know that this is what I admire the most about you? Don’t worry, once we enter the Ancestral Root Grounds, then I won’t stand idly by so long as you have any request of me.””

Everyone else felt another wave of envy when they heard this. They were clearly aware that only a peerless beauty like Shentu Yanran could enjoy such treatment, and all of them could dream of obtaining such treatment.

Shentu Yanran smiled and didn’t speak any further.

Her gaze glistened. She glanced at Chen Xi who stood at the side yet noticed that Chen Xi still revealed a calm and indifferent expression, and it seemed as if Chen Xi was completely unconcerned and indifferent towards everything that occurred in the surroundings. She couldn’t help but bite her moist and plump red lips before she sent a voice transmission with a pitiable tone. “Look, I’ve already refused a such a gift granted by the heavens. So, once we enter the Ancestral Root Grounds, you can’t ignore me when I’m in trouble.”

Chen Xi was instantly stunned. What exactly is wrong with this woman today?

“What? You refuse?” Shentu Yanran’s voice became even more pitiable, and she blinked her clear eyes. If it was anyone else that heard these words, that person would have definitely been overwhelmed by impulse and blurt out words of agreement.

However, Chen Xi sighed and said, “Miss Yanran, I don’t have the mood to joke right now.”

Shentu Yanran nodded and said, “I know. Your mood seems to have become slightly unusual after you saw that Young Miss.”

As she spoke, she glanced imperceptibly at Zhen Liuqing that stood in the distance.

Chen Xi was shocked in his heart. What acute powers of observation! She was actually able to notice such a minor detail!

“Is she a woman that you like?” Shentu Yanran asked curiously.

“Miss Yanran, can you please not mention this matter?” Chen Xi’s face sank while a trace of incomprehensible agitation surged from within his heart.

Shentu Yanran smiled, and then she said with a gentle voice, “I already understand.”

She didn’t speak anymore after this.

When Chen Xi and Shentu Yanran were speaking, they’d utterly not noticed that a wisp of gloominess, envy, and hate had flashed in Yuqiu Jing’s eyes as Yuqiu Jing gazed at him.

.....

After Chen Xi’s group arrived, another 10 plus cultivators arrived successively, and as time passed, it was practically a rare occurrence for someone to arrive.

“When exactly will the door open? We’ve already been waiting here for an entire day. How long more to we have to wait?”

“Soon. According to the deductions, the guardian will probably make an appearance in the next two days. Just wait a while longer.”

“Now that we’re speaking about the guardian of the temple, I wonder if he’s as formidable as the rumors say.”

“It’s best not to question the guardian’s strength. I heard from my Seniors that the guardian has always been guarding this place since the Ancestral Root Temple existed. It has already been countless years until now, and he had experienced innumerable storms and tempests. Yet now, he’s still safe and sound, and this obviously shows that his strengths is unfathomable.”

“Exactly. On the way here, the seniors of my sect kept instructing us that we shouldn’t offend the guardian no matter what. Otherwise, the consequences would be horrifying.”

Along with the passage of time, and when the guardian didn’t make an appearance after so long, all the cultivators in the surroundings couldn’t restrain themselves from engaging in discussions.

“After the guardian makes an appearance, we’ll choose to take the test of the Life Door.” Suddenly, Le Wuhen stared at the two doors before the Ancestral Root Temple in the distance as he sent a voice transmission to Chen Xi and the others.

All of them nodded successively, and none of them objected.

Because they were clearly aware that since Le Wuhen chose this test so confidently, then he’d definitely made sufficient preparations a long time ago.

Only Chen Xi was slightly curious, and he asked Shentu Yanran who stood by his side. “Could it be that there’s something special about these two doors?”

Shentu Yanran glanced at him and said, “You’re not angry anymore?”

Chen Xi was stunned, and then he instantly understood that she was speaking about that moment from before when she spoke about Zhen Liuqing. He couldn’t help but smile bitterly and speak in a helpless manner. “Am I that petty?”

Shentu Yanran combed the strand of hair behind her ear, and then she said with a smile, "It's good that you aren't angry anymore. Now that I speak of it, you were truly scary when you were angry just now. It truly terrified me just now."

Chen Xi sighed and said, "Don't speak in that way. If others find out that I terrified you, then they'll definitely skin me alive. At the very least, that Young Master Luo Shaonong would be the first to make a move against me."

"I never expected that you know how to joke as well." Shentu Yanran chuckled, and then she glared in a seemingly angry manner at Chen Xi. Only after that did she reveal a serious expression and said, "Those two doors of life and death are the tests of the guardian...."

According to Shentu Yanran, there was a grand path of ascension that spanned a distance of 54,000km behind the door of life, and the path was filled with an inexhaustible amount of the ancient corpses of gods.

The strength of these corpses was roughly comparable with a top-rate Domain Enlightened Spirit God. This wasn't the main point; the main point was the amount of corpse was enormous and inexhaustible. It could be described as endless.

When cultivators accept this test, they could only rely on their own strength to walk through this path, and only then would they be considered to have passed the test.

On the other hand, the door of life similarly had a grand path that spanned a distance of 54,000km standing behind it. However, this path was something cultivators had to search for themselves.

There were no opponents within there, yet it was filled with boundless killing intent. There were spatial storms, chaotic torrents of space, spatial rifts, various natural disasters.... It could be said that every single step one took was filled with killing intent. Once one took a wrong step and was unable to find that single path to success, then that person would be eliminated!

Comparatively speaking, no matter if it was the door of life or the door of death, even though the tests behind them were different, the level of danger was on par and each had its own merits.

"So, in this way, when we accept the test later, we have to face the inexhaustible corpses of gods that lay behind the door of life?" After he found out about all of this, Chen Xi was instantly shocked in his heart. This exam couldn't be said to be difficult, yet it could be said to be simple as well. Because the slightest moment of carelessness would cause one to be eliminated and be unable to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds.

"Yes. According to the strength of our ground, it wouldn't be difficult to pass through the door of life so long as we act slightly carefully." Shentu Yanran smiled as she spoke.

Chen Xi nodded, and he couldn't help but sigh with emotion in his heart. For the sake of fortuitous encounter, thousands of cultivators were willing to traverse to God Burial Ocean and enter the Desolate Manku Ruins. After that, they experienced difficulties in the form of successively traversing the Chaos Beast Boundary and the area covered in Desolate Manku Qi. Now, they have to face a test.

This obviously showed

how difficult it was to obtain this fortuitous encounter.

This was the path of cultivation. One fought with the heavens and the earth for fortune, and it just happened to be like thousands of boats setting sail on a long stretch of the river. Competition was everywhere!

Om!

Right at this moment, a wave of strange fluctuation suddenly swept out like a ripple from the Ancestral Root Temple. In an instant, it caused the surroundings to go silent, and then everyone's gazes shot towards the same direction successively.

There was an extremely ordinary and ancient limestone altar there, and it stood in between the doors of life and death.

Yet at this moment, a wisp of ethereal and illusory light had suddenly appeared on the surface of the altar, and then a figure that was seated cross-legged was gradually formed there....

### Talisman Emperor

#### **Chapter 1665: Feelings**

The altar glowed while ethereal light seethed from it, and then a figure that sat cross-legged was far while its appearance gradually grew clearer.

It was an old man that wore a black robe of unknown material. His figure was extremely emaciated like an air dried piece of bamboo. The wrinkles on his face crisscrossed like ravines, and the snow white hair at his temples fluttered lightly with the wind.

He was truly too old. No matter if it was his skin or the hair at his temples, they revealed the heavy traces of age, and he emanated an aura of ancientness and experience that assaulted the face.

However, his eyes were black and shiny like the most brilliant star in the sky. It was clear, calm, tranquil, and seemed to be able to peer into all the secrets in the deepest depths of one's heart.

He didn't seem to possess any aura, and he seemed like an extremely ordinary old man. However, when everyone shot their gazes over to the old man, a strand of reverence couldn't help but arise in their hearts.

It was like they were facing a monument that had stood towering while withstanding the elements for countless years, and it was extremely shocking.

The Temple Guardian!

In practically an instant, everyone instantly recognized the old man's identity, and they didn't doubt it at all.

Because he sat cross-legged on the altar, because his entire body was covered in an ancient and mysterious aura, and all of this was the best proof.

No one spoke, and all of their gazes converged on the old man. At this moment, the atmosphere in the surroundings seemed to be silent and solemn.

The old man's gaze was clear and serene, and it carried a strand of wisdom and indifference from seeing through the affairs of the world. He seemed to have already experienced too many scenes like the one before him, so as soon as he appeared, he said, "All of you're probably already clearly aware of the rules. If you want to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds, then start undergoing the test."

His voice was hoarse, low, and distant. It seemed to resound through the horizon, yet it clearly resounded in the ears of all.

All of their spirits were refreshed when they heard this, and their gazes suddenly emanated a wisp of blazing anticipation.

The old man's shriveled lips couldn't help but curl into an arc of recollection when he saw this. In the boundless years of the past, he'd seen numerous gazes like this, but he still couldn't help but sigh with emotion every single time he saw it.

"Senior, then I'll be the first to receive the test." Suddenly, Luo Shaonong who stood at the front roared with laughter, and then his entire body emanated a strand of a mighty and wild aura.

"So, it's a little kid from the Luo Clan. No wonder." The old man's eyes were filled with wisdom and experience, and he nodded and said, "Which test do you choose?"

Luo Shaonong's heart shook. He seemed to have never expected that the old man would instantly see through his identity, and his originally unruly and wild expression became serious. He pointed at the door of life and said, "That one."

"Go on, you have the time for an incense stick to burn." The old man waved his hand.

Om!

The blood colored door before the temple that was branded with the '生' character opened abruptly. Behind it was deep darkness, and it caused others to be utterly unable to see the scene behind it clearly.

Luo Shaonong immediately led the group that stood behind him to swiftly step foot into the door of life and vanish.

Om!

The door closed once more, and it isolated everything within it from the outside world.

"The door of life has already opened. Who's willing to accept the test of the door of death?" The old man spoke slowly.

Everyone glanced at each other. Compared to the unfathomable and mysterious door of death that was filled with killing intent with every step, most of them would rather choose the door of life.

After all, even though the door of life was filled with an inexhaustible swarm of ancient corpses, it didn't contain any uncertain dangers. So, they just had to work hard to charge their way out of it.

"This humble monk is willing to give it a try." Right when everyone was hesitating, a calm voice resounded.

Along with this voice, the Buddhist Sect's Jia Nan who wore a moon white monk's robe, straw sandals, and held a cane made from withered wood passed everyone and moved forward.

His expression was calm and tranquil as usual, and his entire body carried a firm aura and a Buddhist aura that was unlike the aura any other cultivator possessed.

Everyone felt surprised. However, when they noticed that it was Jia Nan, all of them revealed expressions of understanding. Jia Nan was an existence at the 7th position on the Domain Enlightened Chart. So, no matter if he chose the door of life or door of death, it was still a matter of course.

As expected, said Chen Xi in his heart. Based on his intuition alone, Chen Xi knew that Jia Nan who cultivated in the path of true self would definitely not fear the test of 'death'.

"Persisting in self to return to one's original state. Seeking the truth and Buddha.... Hah! I never expected that after so many years, the Buddhist Sect finally has a Holy One that had comprehended this path towards the Dao. This heart of yours can be said to be extraordinary." The old man glanced at Jia Nan before a wisp of surprise flashed in his clear eyes, and then he recovered his composed and tranquil expression as he waved his hand and said, "Go on, you have the time for an incense stick to burn."

Jia Nan pressed his palms together, and then he swiftly entered the door of death and vanished.

"Everyone else wait calmly. More time to prepare isn't disadvantageous at all." The old man swept the others with his gaze before he closed his eyes, and he seemed to have fallen into deep sleep.

At this point, there were people undergoing the test behind both the doors, so if the others wanted to undergo the test, they had to wait for Luo Shaonong's group and Jia Nan to complete the test.

"How long do all of you think Young Master Shaonong will take to smoothly pass through the test?"

"It definitely won't be the time for an incense stick to burn."

"Isn't that obvious!? In my opinion, 10 minutes would be sufficient."

"Haha! 10 minutes? Aren't you underestimating Young Master Shaonong's ability? I'm sure that Young Master Shaonong will definitely pass through smoothly within an eighth of an hour!"

"Then what about Jia Nan?"

"Jia Nan? I don't know. The members of the Buddhist Sect have always been mysterious. However, since Jia Nan was able to ascend to the 7th position on the Domain Enlightened Chart, he definitely won't be much inferior."

The crowd discussed animatedly, and all of them were guessing exactly how long Luo Shaonong's group and Jia Nan would take to pass through the test. No one felt that these two people would be eliminated.

Chen Xi didn't have the mood to pay attention to this, and he seized this opportunity to continue contemplating the Mysterious Sword of the Heart.

Presently, along with the transformation of his cultivation in the Dao Heart, and his attainment of the first forging, even his Sword Dao had broken through once more, allowing him to attain the first level of the Sword Emperor Realm.

Even though it was still the Sword Emperor Realm, it was a completely different realm when compared to the past. Moreover, the might of his Sword Dao couldn't be compared to the past as well.

For example, when he fought Yuqiu Jing in the Soulsever Bottle Gourd earlier, the reason Chen Xi was able to easily destroy the strongest attack of Yuqiu Jing who'd attained the Sword Emperor Realm as well was because of his breakthrough in the Sword Dao.

This caused Chen Xi to have an even deeper understanding of how formidable the Mysterious Sword of the Heart was. For the sake of improving his combat strength, he'd practically made use of every single shred of time he could utilize to comprehend and contemplate the Mysterious Sword of the Heart.

"Eh, I never expected that Fellow Daoist actually arrived here as well. This is truly slightly surprising to me." Suddenly, a voice resounded by Chen Xi's ears, and it jolted him awake from his deep contemplation.

He raised his eyes and look over, and then he saw that Gongye Zhefu had suddenly brought Zhen Liuqing over to where he stood.

At this moment, Gongye Zhefu was looking at Chen Xi with surprise while Zhen Liuqing was looking somewhere else instead. Her expression was tranquil as before, yet she gave others the feeling that her mind was preoccupied with something else.

On the other hand, many cultivators in the surroundings gazed at Chen Xi with slight surprise. Even Le Wuhen, Yuqiu Jing, and the others were no exception. They seemed to have never imagined that a renowned figure on the Domain Enlightened Chart like Gongye Zhefu would actually recognize Chen Xi.

The atmosphere was slightly strange, and too many gazes had shot over here from the surroundings. This caused Chen Xi to instantly frown, and his expression became indifferent as he said, "Are you? I'm very surprised to see Young Master Gongye here as well."

These words alone caused everyone in the surroundings to instantly and acutely noticed a trace of confrontation in the air, and all of them couldn't help but be surprised. Could it be that there's enmity between this fellow and Gongye Zhefu?

Le Wuhen revealed a pondering expression.

Shentu Yanran's black brows raised instead. She glanced at Zhen Liuqing that stood by Gongye Zhefu's side before she glanced at Chen Xi, and then she faintly guessed something in her heart.

Yuqiu Jing felt slightly happy from Chen Xi's misfortune, and a wisp of a faint arc had appeared on the corners of his mouth.

As for the others, all of them had various different expressions.

"Haha." Gongye Zhefu laughed, and then he suddenly placed his arm around Zhen Liuqing's shoulder and said, "Fellow Daoist, I advise you not to have any ideas about Liuqing, and it's best if you give up. Otherwise, I won't let you off like I did that day."

His voice was indifferent, yet it was filled with an arrogant and domineering tone.

From the beginning until the end, Zhen Liuqing remained silent, and it was utterly impossible to notice even a trace of emotions from her expression.

On the other hand, the others in the vicinity erupted into an uproar when they heard Gongye Zhefu.

“My ears still work fine right? That fellow is actually trying to fight Gongye Zhefu for a woman?”

“Who’s that fellow? Could it be that he doesn’t know who Gongye Zhefu is? He actually dared to act in that way? He’s simply willing to risk everything for the sake of satisfying his lust.”

“If I’m Gongye Zhefu and someone dared to try and seize my woman.... Haha! I wouldn’t be so nice.”

Even Le Wuhen, Yuqiu Jing, and the others were shocked in their hearts, and they felt slight disbelief that Chen Xi had actually done such a thing.

At this moment, Chen Xi was disdained upon, ridiculed, and even vilified by all of these voices and discussions.

However, his expression was still calm as if he didn’t hear them at all. He just glanced calmly at Zhen Liuqing that remained silent, and then he sighed in his heart and moved his gaze towards Gongye Zhefu before he said, “You came here just to warm me?”

Gongye Zhefu laughed lightly, and then he shook his head and with a bearing of superiority before he said, “No, don’t misunderstand. I didn’t come to look for you.”

As he spoke, he shot his gaze towards Shentu Yanran that stood by Chen Xi’s side, and then a wisp of a brilliant smile that was extremely charming suffused the corners of his mouth. “Young Miss Yanran, can we speak somewhere else?”

He seemed as if he’d completely disregarded Chen Xi.

This caused a wave of roaring laughter to instantly arise in the surroundings, and they looked at Chen Xi as if they were looking at a clown while their gazes were filled with pity and ridicule.

Chen Xi puckered his lips and fell into silence while a wisp of seething killing intent had arisen in his heart. He was very clearly aware that Gongye Zhefu was doing just as he’d done in Phoenix Percy City, and Gongye Zhefu had intentionally brought Zhen Liuqing over to humiliate him in public!

Even though Chen Xi didn’t know the reason, it was already not important.

Suddenly, he felt his palm being held by a warm and soft palm, and then Shentu Yanran’s pleasant and melodious voice resounded by his ear. “I’m sorry but I’m busy now.”

Chen Xi’s figure shook while he glanced at Shentu Yanran with slight astonishment. Yet he noticed her turn around to gaze at him with her starry eyes that were soft like water and glistened with tender feelings.

What... is she doing?

“Why? You wouldn’t act like this in the past.” Before Chen Xi could recover from his shock, Gongye Zhefu had frowned while his violet pupils suddenly constricted when he noticed Shentu Yanran and Chen Xi’s hands that were held together.



“Could it be that you haven’t noticed...?” Shentu Yanran didn’t even spare a glance at Gongye Zhefu, and she just stared at Chen Xi as she spoke in a gentle and melodious voice. “I have to accompany him.”

### Talisman Emperor

#### **Chapter 1666: Circumstances Change With The Passage Of Time**

I have to accompany him.

It was merely a single sentence that was spoken in a gentle and tender tone by Shentu Yanran’s voice that was pleasant and melodious like the sound of nature. It was so natural and so proud that it caused everyone in the surroundings to be stunned, and they almost didn’t dare believe their ears.

Especially because she possessed a gorgeous appearance and starry eyes that were bright and tender like water. She possessed unsurpassed beauty and a graceful bearing yet at this moment, she actually spoke such warm and tender words in public. So, it almost caused all of the people in the surroundings to go mad.

Who was Shentu Yanran?

She was a peerless beauty that countless young men of the Imperial Region admired to the extreme. She was of noble birth, possessed peerless wisdom, and was even an existence ranked at the 13th position on the Domain Enlightened Chart!

Even a peerless figure like Luo Shaonong didn’t conceal his admiration towards her at all, and he’d even expressed his true feelings in public. Moreover, he was even willing to seize that ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root for her. But in the end, he was still refused by her.

Yet now, she’d actually... publicly expressed her feelings for a young man that possessed no reputation. So, how could they not be shocked?

Who exactly is that young man? Why would Miss Yanran be with him? Dammit! Truly damnable! The hearts of many cultivators in the surroundings were on the verge of shattering and they wished for nothing more than to swallow Chen Xi alive.

Some were extremely envious. What heaven defying fortune in romance! This kid actually plucked a peerless flower like Shentu Yanran!

Some female cultivators were curious. Shentu Yanran was even able to refuse Luo Shaonong, yet it turns out that she has taken a liking to this young man. Who... exactly is he? Why was he able to capture Shentu Yanran’s heart?

For a time, the entire surroundings exploded into an uproar because of a single sentence from Shentu Yanran, and it obviously showed how great her charm was.

Even though Le Wuhen and the others were clearly aware of Chen Xi’s origins and knew that Chen Xi and Shentu Yanran had only known each other for a short while, they still couldn’t help but be stunned when they witnessed this scene.

Perhaps Shentu Yanran couldn’t bear the sight of Gongye Zhefu humiliating Chen Xi in public. But she actually paid such a price for the sake of helping Chen Xi. Isn’t this price a bit too huge? No matter if it

was true or false. At the very least, once knew of this spread, then it would simply cause an earthquake in the Imperial Region!

Especially Yuqiu Jing, when he saw Shentu Yanran hold Chen Xi's hand and seem to be filled with tender affection, the flames of envy in his heart were simply on the verge of going out of control, and his expression turned gloomy.

Yes, he admired Shentu Yanran as well, and it was even to the extent that his admiration was much deeper. So, when he saw Chen Xi and Shentu Yanran arrive side by side on that day, he felt a wave of discomfort in his heart. This was the reason why he'd intentionally gone against Chen Xi and been hostile against Chen Xi all along the way here.

Yet now, he saw the woman he adored showing such favor to a fellow she'd just met not too long ago. So, the rage and envy Yuqiu Jing felt in his heart was obvious.

However, no matter what, the protagonists at this moment wasn't Yuqiu Qing, nor were Lu Wuhen or those cultivators in the surroundings.

It was Gongye Zhefu, Chen Xi, and Shentu Yanran, and perhaps Zhen Liuqing had to be included as well.

.....

When he saw Shentu Yanran hold Chen Xi's hand and speak those words in such a proud and natural tone, Gongye Zhefu wasn't shocking, and he felt that this was extremely absurd instead.

He'd known Shentu Yanran for a very long time. So, he was naturally clearly aware that Chen Xi wasn't amongst Shentu Yanran's past pursuers.

So, when he heard these words, he instantly felt that Shentu Yanran was merely using Chen Xi as an excuse to refuse his invitation.

"Yanran, if you're unwilling to speak with me, then be frank. Why use this Fellow Daoist as an excuse?" Gongye Zhefu smiled, and he seemed as if all of this wasn't able to affect him at all.

"An excuse?" Shentu Yanran sighed faintly. She stared at Chen Xi with her starry eyes, and she bit her cherry lips with slight bitterness as she said, "Look, they don't believe us."

Her voice carried a trace of complaint that was like the wife of a reunited couple that was acting in a spoiled manner to her husband.

When had all the people in the surroundings seen Shentu Yanran reveal such an expression? So, all of them couldn't help but be stunned by this scene.

Yuqiu Qing gnashed his teeth with hatred to the point his teeth almost shattered.

This damnable fellow! Miss Yanran has already spoken to such an extent, yet he actually isn't showing any reaction to it at all. He simply deserves to be sliced into a thousand pieces!

At this moment, after he experienced the initial shock and astonishment he felt, only bitter laughter remained in his heart.

He was naturally clearly aware that there was absolutely not relationship between him and Shentu Yanran. It was even to the extent that he was sure that Shentu Yanran had acted in this way to help him vent his anger by intentionally embarrassing Gongye Zhefu. On the other hand, she intended to utilize this method to refuse Gongye Zhefu's invitation.

Under such circumstances, Chen Xi would naturally not naively think that Shentu Yanran had really taken a liking to him.

However, since Shentu Yanran was willing to put on this show for everyone to see, then Chen Xi was happy to cooperate with her. So, he didn't speak out and deny it.

Thus, he'd maintain silence until now. He held Shentu Yanran's hand in silence and silently listened to Shentu Yanran 'put on this show' with her tender and affectionate voice and expression.

It was even to the extent that when he heard what Shentu Yanran said at this moment, Chen Xi cooperatively stretched out his arm to hold her slender and smooth waist.

His movements were natural, yet Chen Xi acutely noticed that Shentu Yanran's delicate figure stiffened imperceptibly when his fingers touched the skin on her slender waist. But right after that, she followed along this motion and leaned closely onto Chen Xi's shoulder while her delicate figure stiffened momentarily again.

This caused Chen Xi to be unable to help but feel amused in his heart. Perhaps this is the tiny price she has to pay for putting on such a show?

Actually, Chen Xi had overlooked something. With Shentu Yanran's identity, on what basis would she have to make such a sacrifice? And it was even to the extent that she didn't hesitate to offend Gongye Zhefu?

Moreover, even if all of this wasn't mentioned, with Shentu Yanran's identity, reputation, and cultivation, why would she put on a show with a fellow that she'd just got to know?

Perhaps this was a show she was putting on, but what would the people of the outside world think about her? Everyone else wouldn't think that this was a show!

When he saw Chen Xi's hand wrap around Shentu Yanran's slender waist while the latter seemed to be happy and slightly embarrassed, Gongye Zhefu's expression finally turned gloomy.

If he wasn't wrong, then Shentu Yanran had never been so intimate with any man since she'd started cultivating!

When the others in the surroundings witnessed this, they were extremely shocked in their hearts. They felt rather doubtful before this, but this doubt had vanished when they witnessed this scene.

"Haha! Not bad! Not bad!" Gongye Zhefu's violet pupils were suffused with a cold glow. He glanced deeply at Chen Xi before he turned around and led Zhen Liuqing away.

"We seem to have made Young Master Zhefu slightly unhappy." Shentu Yanran spoke in a light voice.

"It seems to be like that," said Chen Xi.

Chen Xi didn't feel even a trace of happiness in his heart. Because from the beginning until the end, Zhen Liuqing had constantly remained silent as if she was completely indifferent towards all of this.

On the other hand, when they saw Gongye Zhefu leave, all the spectators in the surroundings had complicated feelings in their hearts. No one had expected that this fellow who Gongye Zhefu had threatened and ridiculed, this fellow that they'd looked down upon would suddenly transform into the one and one man that Shentu Yanran had personally acknowledged until now.

The matters of the world are unpredictable! Everyone sighed in their hearts.

"This fellow is simply too detestable. He clearly already possesses a peerless beauty like Miss Yanran, yet he's still thinking about Gongye Zhefu's female companion. He deserves death!"

Many people felt indignant.

"Alas, I feel envious of that kid. He was able to win Miss Yanran's heart, and he can die without any regrets."

Some people were extremely envious.

Another thing that caused others to be on the verge of going mad was after some female cultivators witnessed all of this, it aroused a strong sense of curiosity and interest towards Chen Xi in them....

Le Wuhen and the others had complicated feelings as well. They never expected that after this minor disturbance passed, Chen Xi would have gained a great benefit because of Shentu Yanran, and it simply caused them to feel speechless.

No matter how all the others discussed it or how they thought in their hearts, Chen Xi had already withdrawn his hand that was around Shentu Yanran's slender waist, and he said in a low voice, "No matter what, thank you for that."

"You... though I was putting on a show?" Shentu Yanran revealed a bitter gaze while her voice carried a slight sense of loss.

Chen Xi was instantly stunned. This woman wouldn't have gone too deep into the part she was playing, right?

After that, he saw Shentu Yanran explode with laughter, and a wisp of cunning and complacency flashed in her starry eyes.

Chen Xi immediately shook his head helplessly when he saw this. After getting along with Shentu Yanran for so long, he was able to clearly notice that while she possessed unsurpassed beauty, her disposition was difficult to figure out. She was sometimes modest and dignified, noble, and refined; sometimes lively, playful, and beautiful even when she seemed angry; sometimes bitter yet tender, weak, and pitiable. Her disposition and image simply took on a myriad of forms.

It caused others to be utterly unable to distinguish exactly which was her true self.

"Chen Xi!" Suddenly, Yuqiu Jing walked over with a gloomy expression.

Chen Xi's brows instantly raised. What does this fellow want now?

Shentu Yanran restrained her smile as well, and she recovered her usual refined bearing.

“When you formed an alliance with us, why didn’t you mention that there’s conflict between you and Gongye Zhefu?” Yuqiu Jing spoke in a low voice, and it carried a questioning tone.

As soon as these words were spoken, it caused all the members of their group to look over.

“This seems to be my own private business. So, there no reason for me to tell you about it, right?” Chen Xi’s eyes narrowed. This fellow failed on the last time he tried. Could it be that he still hasn’t given up?

“But you must realize that we’re part of the same group now. If some conflicts arise because of you in the Ancestral Root Grounds, and it implicates us, then what should we do?” Yuqiu Qing pressed down aggressively.

“Then what do you think we should do?” Chen Xi replied with a question.

Yuqiu Jing was instantly stunned. He opened his mouth yet didn’t know how to answer. Kick Chen Xi out of the group? That would definitely be impossible because Le Wuhen and Shentu Yanran would be the first to object.

After all, even if he was unwilling, he had no choice but to admit that Chen Xi’s combat strength was extremely formidable, and he was capable of playing a role of vital importance in the group.

But he was extremely unwilling to let it go just like this. In the end, he grunted coldly and said, “Even though we’re in the same group, if it’s related to some private enmity of yours, then please deal with it yourself. We have no obligation to help you.’

Chen Xi said with a smile, “Of course. Do you have any other questions?”

Yuqiu Jing gnashed his teeth with hatred when he saw Chen Xi’s indifferent expression, yet he was helpless. In the end, he could only glare furiously at Chen Xi before turning around and leaving while seeming as if he wasn’t willing to be associated with Chen Xi.

As it was said, circumstances change with the passage of time.

Chen Xi had already proven his strength, and he’d become a core member of the group. So, if Yuqiu Jing wanted to look for trouble with Chen Xi, it wasn’t as easy as it was in the past.

### [Talisman Emperor](#)

#### **Chapter 1667: Slapped Again**

The curtains to the small disturbance between Chen Xi and Gongye Zhefu had been drawn. No matter what everyone thought in their hearts, and no matter how envious and resentful Yuqiu Jing was, everyone in the surroundings had at least remembered Chen Xi’s name from this moment onwards.

After an eighth of an hour passed.

Om!

Strands of fluctuation swept out from the blood red door that was branded with the character ‘生’, and then it fell into deathly silence.

It was also at this moment that the old man who sat cross-legged on the ancient altar seemed to have awakened from his deep slumber, and he opened his eyes that were filled with age and experience.

“Next.” He spoke in a concise manner.

The cultivators in the surroundings were instantly shocked. Because they’d finally confirmed that Luo Shaonong’s group had already passed smoothly through the door of life’s test in an eighth of an hour.

“Let’s go!” Le Wuhen was prepared since a long time ago. So, when he witnessed this scene, he immediately led Chen Xi and the others to flash out in order to accept the test of the door of life.

But unexpectedly, there was someone that was even swifter than them, and that person arrived a step before them!

It was Gongye Zhefu. He’d similarly brought a group of people along with him, and it was even to the extent that for the sake of being able to accept the test without any delay, he didn’t even notify the old man before he strode swiftly into the door of life.

Le Wuhen instantly shook his head helplessly when he saw this, and then he sighed and said, “We can only wait for the next round.”

The others were slightly disgruntled, yet it couldn’t be helped because it had already occurred.

Om!

Right at this moment, the door of death at the side emanated a strand of strange fluctuation. This caused everyone to be slightly stunned, and then they immediately determined that Jia Nan had passed the test!

Sure enough, the old man on the altar said once more, “Next.”

Everyone instantly became slightly hesitant.

Chen Xi’s group had already decided to choose the test behind the door of life, so they naturally wouldn’t change their minds now.

However, it wasn’t long before a group of people stood out and entered into the door of death.

“There’s no need to be impatient. There ought to be no one that would dare compete with us later.” Le Wuhen swept the surroundings with his gaze, and then he spoke while smiling.

The others nodded. They understood that besides Luo Shaonong and Jia Nan that had already passed the test, there wasn’t any group in the surroundings that could go against their group.

If a group dared to compete with them, then they wouldn’t mind teaching that group a lesson. Of course, the chances of such an incident was extremely small.

After all, there weren’t any idiots amongst the people in the surroundings. So, they were naturally clearly aware of the serious consequences they would face if they dared to compete with Le Wuhen’s group.

After a short while, a wave of strange fluctuations suddenly effused out from the door of death, and it caused everyone to be stunned. That fast?

But right after that, they saw numerous figures suddenly being blasted out from the door of death, and they fell scattered on the ground.

The faces of all of these cultivators carried a wisp of terror and lingering fear, and it was like they'd encountered something horrifying.

"Eliminated." The old man spoke calmly. He didn't seem to move at all, yet a strand of obscure Manku Aura suddenly effused out from the altar and instantly enveloped them.

"No!!!"

"Senior, Senior, please show mercy. We're willing to give it another try. Please give us another opportunity!"

Those cultivators instantly started imploring loudly with unwillingness to be eliminated.

But in merely an instant, they were teleported away, and they vanished into thin air. Only their voices still reverberated through the air.

The cultivators in the surroundings felt horrified when they witnessed this, and they became even more vigilant. They were clearly aware that they would be teleported out of the Desolate Manku Ruins once they were eliminated, and they wouldn't be able to step into it again!

The atmosphere couldn't help but become much quitter, and it was slightly oppressive.

From this moment onward, everyone seemed to have formed a type of tacit understanding, and there actually wasn't a single person that chose the door of death again.

It wasn't long before a wave of strange fluctuation arose from the door of life. Fortunately, no cultivators were eliminated this time.

This meant that Gongye Zhefu's group had passed the test and arrived at the Ancestral Root Grounds.

"Next," said the old man.

Before his voice finished resounding through the air, Le Wuhen had already led Chen Xi's group and flashed out. The other cultivators seemed to know that it was impossible to compete with Le Wuhen's group, so no one tried to compete with Le Wuhen's group.

However, right at this moment, the old man on the altar seemed to have noticed something, and he suddenly exclaimed and said, "Wait!"

While his voice resounded, the door of life suddenly closed, and it refused the entrance of Le Wuhen and the others that were just before it.

Everyone instantly felt astounded. What's going on?

"Senior, what's the meaning of this?" Le Wuhen frowned and spoke in a low voice.

Chen Xi, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Qing, Zhuanyu Shui, and the others were puzzled as well.

The old man didn't answer Le Wuhen. His ancient and experienced eyes were calm and tranquil any longer, and they were suffused with a strand of a terrifying dim glow. It emanated a terrifying pressure that assaulted everyone in the face, and it caused all of them to feel suffocated and reveal grim expressions.

It felt like they were facing a god of the Manku period that had awakened after countless years, and it was terrifying.

At this instant, even Le Wuhen and the others were shocked in their hearts, and they felt a form of extremely heavy pressure descend upon them. What exactly is going on? Could it be that the guardian of the temple intends to stop us from entering the Ancestral Root Grounds? Right amidst this atmosphere of deathly silence, the old man's gaze swept past Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and the others....

In the end, the old man's gaze descended onto Chen Xi.

At this instant, everyone clearly noticed the old man's eyes suddenly erupt with a wisp of extremely shocking light, and it caused them to feel a piercing pain from their eyes.

However, all of this couldn't compare to the shock in their hearts because they'd faintly guessed that the guardian seemed to have done all of this because of Chen Xi!

Even Le Wuhen and the others were surprised and bewildered. All of this happened because of Chen Xi? But why?

No one knew the answer.

On the other hand, when the old man stared at Chen Xi, Chen Xi even felt a strand of almost suffocating pressure. His entire body stiffened while he couldn't help but feel astounded in his heart. What does this old fellow intend to do?

Fortunately, all of this merely lasted for an instant before the glow in the old man's eyes vanished, and they became calm and tranquil once more. However, it carried a wisp of a complicated expression that wasn't there in the past.

"Little Fellow, come over here." The old man spoke in a hoarse voice, and he gestured at Chen Xi.

It really is because of him!

Everyone felt shocked in their hearts. They'd confirmed that Le Wuhen's group were stopped because of Chen Xi!

Could it be that there's something wrong with that fellow?

"Young Master Wuhen, Miss Yanran. Do both of you see now? I'd said there was something wrong with his origins since the beginning. Now, we've been implicated because of him, and we're unable to enter the door of life to receive its test in a timely manner." Yuqiu Jing's face was gloomy while he spoke in a low voice via voice transmission.

The other cultivators felt a wave of discomfort as well when they heard the old man. Since Chen Xi joined their group, unexpected events had constantly occurred. Now, they'd even been stopped from



entering the door of life and were unable to accept the test. This caused all of them who were already displeased with Chen Xi to feel even more displeased.

“Don’t come to conclusions too soon.” Shentu Yanran frowned and glanced at Yuqiu Jing.

“Let’s observe the situation first.” Le Wuhen spoke from the side.

“Hmph! If there’s really something wrong with this Chen Xi, then we’ll absolutely not agree to form an alliance with him for any longer!” Yuqiu Jing grunted coldly.

“Right, Big Brother Yuqiu is right. We’ll still be able to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds without Chen Xi.” Many other cultivators spoke successively.

A wisp of anger arose in Shentu Yanran’s heart, and she was just about to say something when she was stopped by Le Wuhen. “Calm yourself. I have a feeling that Chen Xi will be fine.”

.....

Chen Xi fell silent when the old man called him over. After a short moment, Chen Xi walked over to the altar, and then he cupped his hands and said, “May I know what instructions Senior has for me?”

At the same time, he became vigilant in his heart, and he was prepared to immediately launch a counterattack if the situation turned south.

He was unable to see through the old man’s thoughts, so he had no choice but to prepare for the worst.

The old man didn’t do anything. He just stared at Chen Xi and sized Chen Xi up carefully. His complicated expression in his wise and experienced eyes grew more and more dense, and then he seemed to have thought of something, causing him to sigh endlessly in his heart.

The atmosphere was slightly strange.

No one spoke. The gazes of everyone had converged onto Chen Xi, and they seemed to intend to see exactly what the guardian intended to do Chen Xi.

But in the end, the old man didn’t do anything. He just moved his gaze onto Le Wuhen and the others, and then he asked Chen Xi. “Kid, are those your companions?”

His voice had just resounded when Yuqiu Jing couldn’t help but cry out. “No....”

He’d just said a single word when he was restrained by Le Wuhen. “Shut your mouth!”

At this moment, Le Wuhen wasn’t unrestrained and wild smile any longer, and he revealed an icy cold expression and an oppressive imposing aura. It actually terrified Yuqiu Jing to the point Yuqiu Jing’s heart trembled, and he didn’t dare speak another word.

On the other hand, the other cultivators around Yuqiu Jing originally intended to speak, yet they instantly turned silent like cicadas in the winter when they noticed Le Wuhen’s reaction.

Chen Xi noticed all of this, yet there wasn’t even a fluctuation of emotion on his face. He just nodded lightly and said, “Yes.”

The old man glanced at Chen Xi, and then he glanced at Yuqiu Jing who had a gloomy expression in the distance. After that, a rare wisp of a smile appeared on his extremely aged face, and it contained deep meaning behind it.

But in the end, he didn't say anything, and he just waved his hand and said, "All of you don't have to undergo the test. Go on in."

When he spoke the first sentence, the hearts of everyone shook, and even Le Wuhen and Shentu Yanran's hearts couldn't help but twitch.

However, when they heard the three words that he'd spoken in his second sentence, all of them were instantly stunned and almost didn't dare believe their ears.

We don't have to take the test in order to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds?

It wasn't just everyone else in the surroundings, even Chen Xi himself couldn't help but be stunned.

Bang!

Suddenly, another door actually floated up into appearance in between the two doors that stood behind the altar. The door was suffused with lustrous light, and it was extremely mysterious.

The hearts of everyone shook once more. They'd utterly never imagined that there was actually a third door. Could it be that it's the passageway that others pass through after passing through the tests?

"If you still don't leave, then this door will close." The old man gazed at Chen Xi who was slightly stunned, and he couldn't help but remind Chen Xi.

At this moment, everyone firmly believed that the old man was telling the truth. He'd actually allowed Chen Xi's group to pass smoothly through into the Ancestral Root Grounds without undergoing the test!

"How... how could this be?" On the other hand, when he witnessed this scene, Yuqiu Jing simply felt as if he'd been slapped fiercely on the face, and he was in a terrible state.

### [Talisman Emperor](#)

#### **Chapter 1668: The Ancestral Roots**

Yuqiu Jing was embarrassed and enraged to the point of wishing for nothing more than to find a hole to hide himself in.

It was truly a humiliation!

Just moments ago, he'd been screaming about how Chen Xi's origins were fishy, and Chen Xi had led their group into a trap. Moreover, it was even to the extent that he'd almost refused to admit that Chen Xi was a companion of theirs.

In the next moment, it was precisely because of Chen Xi that their group was able to obtain the qualifications to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds without undergoing and passing the test!

When these two situations were compared, Yuqiu Jing simply seemed as if he'd taken the initiative to get Chen Xi to slap him in the face, and it was extremely painful.

Yuqiu Jing even felt like crying, yet he found himself to be without tears.

Before they'd arrived at the Ancestral Root Temple, he'd provoked Chen Xi repeatedly yet was crushed in one go, and he'd lost all face then.

Now, his face had been slapped forcefully in public, and this caused a genius from the Imperial Region like him to simply be furious to the point of going mad.

Why? Why is this fellow like my unlucky star?

.....

It was like a storm was roiling in Yuqiu Jing's heart, yet Chen Xi couldn't be bothered to pay any attention to him. When he heard the old man's reminder, he didn't hesitate to nod while he cupped his hands. "Thank you, Senior."

Even though he didn't know the reason, how could he be willing to allow such luck to slip by?

"Go on." The old man wasn't willing to speak any further, and he waved his hand.

Under the gazes of disbelief and extreme envy that came from the surroundings, Chen Xi, Le Wuhen, and the others immediately walked through the third door.

Yuqiu Jing had naturally followed them as well. However, he seemed to emanate a dejected aura.

In next to no time, the figures of Chen Xi's group had vanished behind the door.

Along with their departure, the third door that had been opened between the doors of life and death had vanished as well.

If they hadn't witnessed this scene with their own two eyes, everyone would even doubt that the third door actually existed.

Finally... his path, isn't lonely. The old man let out a long and slow sigh in his heart as he watched Chen Xi and the others leave, and his thoughts seemed to have returned to countless years in the past, causing him to sigh endlessly with emotion.

"Senior, may I ask on what basis they were allowed to enter the Ancestral Root Grounds without passing the test?" The eyes of a cultivator had turned red from envy, and he spoke indignantly.

Yeah! Why!?

All the other cultivators recovered from their shock, and they shot their gazes towards the temple guardian in succession.

The old man seemed as if he hadn't noticed all of this, and he directly disregarded everything. He said indifferent. "Continue taking the test."

Everyone was stunned, and they felt even more disgruntled in their hearts. He even refuses to give us an explanation. Isn't he going a bit too far?

"Senior, why can't we do the same?" That cultivator that spoke indignantly earlier had spoken once more, and his voice carried a questioning tone.

“Why?” The old man raised his eyes, and he glanced indifferently at that cultivator. “Some things need no reason.”

“But we refuse to accept it as it is!” That cultivator summoned up the courage to speak loudly.

“Then leave.” The old man spoke casually. In the next moment, a strand of the obscure aura of the Manku period effused out from the altar, and it enveloped that cultivator. That cultivator didn’t even have the chance to struggle before he was instantly taken away and vanished.

All of this happened before the eyes of all. It caused all their hearts to feel cold, and they didn’t dare question this matter again.

At the same time, they recalled that this extremely skinny old man who sat before them was the guardian of the temple that had lived for countless years and experienced innumerable storms!

Moreover, they finally realized why the seniors of their respective sects and clans had repeatedly instructed them not to offend this guardian no matter what.

Because... the guardian didn’t need any reason to expel a person from the Desolate Manku Ruins!

.....

The boundless earth beneath the vast sky was covered in the marks of desolation, collapsed sects, broken walls, crumbled stone statues, ruins covered in mottled stones....

Everywhere that met the eye was a scene of desolation and covered in ruins, and they’d existed for countless years and were suffused with a desolate and tragic aura.

It was even to the extent that it was extremely easy for one to notice shattered corpses, bones, and fragments of divine artifacts that were suffused with a dim glow.

Wu~ Wu~ Wu~

The wind was blowing, yet I sounded like sobs and cries, and it caused this expanse of the heavens and the earth to seem even more deserted and desolate. It caused others to feel as if they’d returned to the Manku period from countless years ago.

The Heaven Dao Laws here were filled with Ancient Manku Qi. It was unfamiliar yet formidable, and it was sufficient to make the hearts of gods palpitate.

This was the true Desolate Manku Ruins.

The Ancestral Root Grounds that all cultivators dreamt of reaching!

Swish!

Space fluctuated before a group of people flew out from within it.

“The Ancestral Root Grounds is extremely vast. According to legend, Ancestral Root Secret Treasures had once emerged from here during the Manku period, and it caused countless great figures to fight intensely amongst each other. Countless extraordinary figures perished during that time, and these ruins were created during that time.

"I heard that this place was once the brilliant kingdom where formidable gods born from within the Chaos resided. Yet now, all of it has been washed away along the river of time, and it has transformed into an expanse of ruins.

"However, it's definite that the Ancestral Root Grounds is a hundred times more dangerous than the God Burial Ocean and Chaos Beast Boundary. It's even to the extent that some monsters comparable to the Universe Enlightened Ancestral God Realm exist here. We must be careful."

All along the way, Le Wuhen swiftly explained everything he knew to the others in the group.

Chen Xi's slanted brows raised. Monsters comparable to the Universe Enlightened Ancestral God Realm? That's truly quite troublesome.

The others revealed a wisp of a solemn expression as well. Even though they were top-rate existences amongst Domain Enlightened Spirit Gods and there was no lack of Spirit God Exalts amongst them, they still seemed extremely weak when compared to existences at the Universe Enlightened Ancestral God Realm.

"There's no need to worry. Those monsters were formed from the incomplete souls of the gods that perished here, and their strengths are unable to compare to true Universe Enlightened Ancestral Gods. At the very least, Spirit God Exalts are sufficient to go head-on against them." Shentu Yanran spoke slowly, and her words allowed everyone to instantly heave a sigh of relief in their hearts. However, they didn't dare be careless. After all, they only had four Spirit God Exalts in their group, and the others hadn't attained such a level of cultivation.

"Where are the Ancestral Dao Roots situated?" asked Chen Xi abruptly.

Everyone felt stunned, and the gazes they shot at Chen Xi carried a wisp of a complicated expression. Up until now, they were unable to figure out why the temple guardian would think so highly of Chen Xi, and it was even to the extent that they were even exempted from the test because of Chen Xi.

This caused Chen Xi's image in their hearts to become even more mysterious.

No one dared to question Chen Xi again, including Yuqiu Jing. He seemed to have become quiet after he'd suffered numerous heavy blows in succession, and he hadn't said a single word since they entered the Ancestral Root Grounds.

"According to past experience, the Genesis Ancestral Root will only appear one month from now, and that ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root is hidden in the Genesis Ancestral Root." Le Wuhen smiled as he explained.

It turned out that there were numerous 'Ancestral Roots' within the Ancestral Root Grounds. For example, the Ancestral Dao Roots beneath the ninth-grade were scattered within the 'Ancestral Roots' that resided in various different areas of the Ancestral Root Grounds.

However, there was an extremely special existence amongst these 'Ancestral Roots', and it was the Genesis Ancestral Root.

According to legend, it was the first Ancestral Root to be formed when the Chaos of the Manku period was split open, and it was an extremely mysterious existence that had existed for countless years until now.

Since the ancient times until now, a ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root would be born within the Genesis Ancestral Root after a long period of time, and it drew over countless extraordinary figures that fought over such a fortuitous encounter.

But even then, no one was able to determine exactly where the Genesis Ancestral Root was hidden, and it seemed to be extremely mysterious.

So, after the cultivators arrived at the Ancestral Root Grounds, they could only wait for the Genesis Ancestral Root to emerge.

Fortunately, even though they were unable to determine its exact location, they were able to utilize their past experience to roughly determine the approximate time that the Genesis Ancestral Root would appear.

The reason Le Wuhen knew so much was because of the guidance he received from the seniors of his clan. If it was the other cultivators, then not to mention knowing when the Genesis Ancestral Root would emerge, then wouldn't even know what the Genesis Ancestral Root was.

This was the resources and ability of an ancient power from the Imperial Region. These great powers had existed for too long, and the information they possessed was naturally not something someone ordinary could compare to.

"Our time here is rather sufficient this time. So, let's seize this opportunity to search for Ancestral Dao Roots of other grades within the Ancestral Root Grounds." Le Wuhen smiled as he suggested. Because assisting the other cultivators to obtain Ancestral Dao Roots was part of the agreement they'd come to before they'd set out.

The others naturally didn't have any objections.

Unlike the outside world, even if the ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root was disregarded, the Ancestral Root Grounds could be said to be a place filled with great fortune.

There weren't just numerous Ancestral Dao Roots of other grades here, there was even no lack of seventh-grade Monarch Rank and eighth-grade King Rank Ancestral Dao Roots that could only be chanced upon by luck. This was something that was absolutely impossible to occur in the 1,000 plus regions and countless universes of the Ancient God Domain!

Of course, compared to the Ancestral Dao Roots at the first to the seventh grade, the seventh-grade Monarch Rank and eighth-grade King Rank Ancestral Dao Roots were naturally rather rare.

All the other cultivators in Chen Xi's group had set their sights on Ancestral Dao Roots at the sixth-grade or above, and even a slightly inferior fifth-grade Ancestral Dao Root was somewhat sufficient for them.

On the other hand, the five Spirit Gold Exalts, Chen Xi, Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and Zhuanyu Shui had set their sights on eighth-grade King Rank Ancestral Dao Roots and the ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root.

With different realms of cultivation and levels of strength, the fortune one could pursue was naturally different as well.

It wasn't long before an emerald green beam of light shot into the sky extremely far away in the distance, and it drew the attention of Chen Xi's group.

The emerald green beam of light seemed like a pillar that held up the sky and was suffused with emerald green divine radiance. It seemed to be extremely dazzling. When looked at from afar, a dense ancestral aura assaulted the face.

"It's a sixth-grade Ancestral Root!" Le Wuhen's eyes lit up, and he said with a smile, "Our luck isn't bad. A sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root has definitely been born there."

The others were excited as well, and their eyes burned with desire. It was a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root, and it was extremely rare in the Ancient God Domain.

Even if it was in the Imperial Region, only the extremely ancient and top powers were able to possess an Ancestral Root Ground that was capable of nurturing and growing an Ancestral Dao Root of such quality.

### Talisman Emperor

#### **Chapter 1669: The True Appearance Of The Dao Roots**

As they conversed, their group had arrived before an Ancestral Root.

It was a caved-in gorge, and the center of the gorge was covered in rocks and desolation. On the other hand, the emerald green beam of light had surged out from amidst the rocks.

Divine radiance surged while it emanated strands of ancestral qi.

The ancestral qi had a color that was translucent like glass, and they were filled with extraordinary divinity. Even though they were merely in strands and extremely faint, all the cultivators here were clearly aware that while they seemed to be inconspicuous, a mere strand of ancestral qi was capable of destroying a myriad of mountains!

The Ancestral Root was where the ancestral qi was produced, and Ancestral Dao Roots were born within it.

Bang!

Suddenly, an expanse of ruins in the gorge shook and exploded apart, and then a completely pitch black, three-legged horned ferocious beast that was large like an elephant charged out from within.

Roar!

The ferocious beast's entire body was suffused by violent divinity, and its aura was monstrous. A single roar from it shredded the wind and clouds in the surroundings, and it caused even the heavens and the earth to dim down.

"Haha. Our luck isn't bad. It's only a Three-legged Crow that's guarding this sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root." Le Wuhen wasn't shocking but delighted instead.

As he spoke, the Three-legged Crow had already roared and crushed through space as it charged towards them. Moreover, a circle of divinity suddenly arose on its horn, and it was jet black and terrifying.

“Animal! Just give up!” Le Wuhen roared with laughter.

Clang!

He stretched out his hand and grabbed, and a bronze short spear on his back entered into his palm before he swung it lightly.

Rumble!

The short spear surged with powerful Divine Energy, and it even crushed space into a torrent of chaotic energy.

Bang!

This attack was extremely domineering. It didn’t just crush the jet black ring of light, this strike had even forcefully crushed the Three-legged Crow’s body into pieces, causing blood and flesh to spray into the air while it didn’t even have the chance to let out a shrill cry.

Clang!

Le Wuhen put the short spear away, and then he patted his hands together and said casually, “Who needs a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root? Go get it yourself.”

From the beginning until the end, he seemed as if he’d done an extremely ordinary thing, and he seemed to be extremely carefree.

This fellow’s combat strength is pretty extraordinary, and it isn’t just a little bit stronger than Yuqiu Jing. Chen Xi seemed to be lost in thought.

As far as he was concerned, amongst the members of his group, Le Wuhen and Shentu Yanran possessed roughly equivalent strengths, Yuqiu Jing was slightly inferior to them, and the person that was most difficult to see through was Zhuanyu Shui. Zhuanyu Shui kept an extremely low profile and was an expert in the School of Fiendgod Body Refinement, so his combat strength could absolutely not be underestimated.

The cultivators in the group hesitated because this was merely a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root. It wasn’t that they looked down upon it, and it was instead because they held hopes in their hearts and felt that they might be able to find even better Ancestral Dao Roots later. Thus, they hesitated slightly.

According to the agreed upon method of distribution, once one obtained an Ancestral Dao Root, it would be the next person’s turn according to order. Unless everyone had already obtained an Ancestral Dao Root, then perhaps one would have the chance to obtain a second opportunity. However, the chances of that was extremely slim.

Moreover, they probably wouldn’t have enough time to accomplish that.



Actually, such thoughts weren't difficult to understand. If there was only this single Ancestral Dao Root within the Ancestral Root Grounds, then they would probably not hesitate to fight for it.

Yet now, they had too many choices, and it caused various other thoughts to arise in their hearts instead. They kept thinking that the next Ancestral Dao Root they encountered would possess a higher quality, but no one dared to confirm the actual final outcome.

So, this was the reason why they hesitated and acted so cautiously.

In the end, someone stood out and said, "Thank you for your help, Young Master Wuhen. I'll take this sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root."

This person wore black colored clothes, had an upright appearance, and a steady and experienced bearing. He was called Wei Zifu.

"Zifu, there's no need for that. We're all part of the same group. Quickly go on and get it." Le Wuhen smiled lightheartedly, and he really admired Wei Zifu's choice.

Even though they'd found an Ancestral Root with extreme ease, but as more and more cultivators entered into the Ancestral Root Grounds, it wouldn't be so easy to seize another Ancestral Dao Root of the same quality.

Even though the decision Wei Zifu made at this moment seemed extremely safe, it was undoubtedly very wise as well.

Swoosh!

In the next instant, Wei Zifu had flashed into the gorge and arrived before the area covered in rocks that was suffused with ancestral qi and emanated divine radiance.

He took a deep breath and carefully bent down before he crushed the pile of rocks there, causing an extremely dazzling and resplendent ball of emerald green light that was like a little emerald green sun to be instantly exposed.

At this instant, even Chen Xi couldn't help but look over carefully because it was the first time that he'd seen an Ancestral Dao Root, so he was naturally extremely curious.

The emerald green ball of light was around the size of a fist and extremely dazzling. Moreover, it was enveloped in dense and pure ancestral qi, causing it to be divine and extraordinary.

With Chen Xi's current ability of discernment, he'd practically instantly noticed that even though it was said to be a Dao Root, it could be said to be a force that contained powerful ancestral qi. Moreover, it faintly seemed to contain boundless vitality. So, it seemed like a seed that would instantly root itself to the ground and grow into a towering tree.

On the other hand, the 'ground' mentioned here was naturally the Foundation in the Divine Dao possessed by cultivators.

Om!

Wei Zifu suddenly flicked his sleeve, causing a torrent of crimson red divine light to surge out before sweeping the emerald green ball of light away and into a jade box that he'd prepared a long time ago.

After that, Wei Zifu utilized a divine restriction to seal the jade box before he heaved a sigh of relief, and then a wisp of a smile appeared on the corners of his mouth.

With this Ancestral Divine Root, he wouldn't be a floating piece of duckweed any longer when he charged into the Universe Enlightened Ancestral God Realm, and he would possess the most basic requirement to advance into the Universe Enlightened Ancestral God Realm.

"Alright, let's set out. The competition we face will be even greater as time passes." Le Wuhen immediately instructed before he led the group away.

"Fellow Daoist Wuhen, how do we determine the quality of the Ancestral Dao Roots?" Chen Xi couldn't help but ask this question on the way.

Le Wuhen said with a smile, "It's very simple. Dao Roots of different quality emanate different colors. They're roughly divided into black, white, crimson, orange, yellow, green, azure, blue, and violet, and they respectively correspond to the nine grades of Ancestral Dao Roots.

"Black is the most inferior, and it's extremely muddy. Violet is the strongest, and it carries an imperial aura.

"Actually, Ancestral Dao Roots of the same grade have a difference in quality, and they are roughly divided into ordinary, superb, and top levels. For example, this sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root was emerald green in color, pure, and translucent. Moreover, the ancestral qi within the glow it emanated was thick. So, it can already be considered to be a top level sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root."

After Chen Xi heard all of this, he came to an understanding. He finally understood that the ninth-grade Emperor Rank Ancestral Dao Root would definitely emanate violet divine radiance.

.....

With Wei Zifu as an example, the hearts of the other cultivators burned with extreme desire as well, and they rubbed their palms and were filled with anticipation towards their search after this.

However, to their disappointment, their group had actually not found a single Ancestral Root after an entire day. This outcome caused many people to arouse a trace of regret, and they started to feel slight envy towards Wei Zifu's choice from that day.

Fortunately, the time they had was still sufficient, so they didn't feel anxious.

Le Wuhen knew that this would happen, yet he didn't say anything. Because he was clearly aware that as they got closer and closer to the core area of the Ancestral Root Grounds, the amount of areas they could find Ancestral Dao Roots in would increase more and more.

The only troublesome thing was that the number of cultivators there at that time would definitely be numerous, and they wouldn't be able to avoid conflict and friction with other groups.

On the other hand, Chen Xi had been constantly thinking about a single thing throughout this process, and it was the temple guardian's attitude towards him.

Why did he exempt us from the test and allow our entire group to enter safely into the Ancestral Root Grounds? Could it be because he noticed something from me?

Chen Xi practically instinctively related all of this to the River Diagram fragments, the diagram of the bloodied damaged sword, and the inheritance from the owner of the iron sword.

The ancient characters ‘荒’ and ‘墟’ that represented the words desolate and ruin had appeared on the River Diagram fragments, and the clues faintly led to the Desolate Manku Ruins.

After he entered the Desolate Manku Ruins, the diagram of the bloodied damaged sword had awakened unexpectedly, and it allowed him to coincidentally obtain the inheritance of the iron sword’s owner. Moreover, he’d comprehended the True Heart Sutra and Mysterious Sword of the Heart techniques from within it, allowing him combat strength to advance by leaps and bounds now.

Moreover, a trace of a feeling had floated up into appearance within his heart before he’d even arrived at the Ancestral Root Grounds, and he’d sensed that there was a faint summon calling out to him from the north.

The Ancestral Root Grounds were precisely at the north that he’d determined that day.

So, when the temple guardian suddenly exempted them from the test because of him, Chen Xi instantly felt that the change in the temple guardian’s attitude was probably related to all of this.

However, Chen Xi was unable to determine if it was because of the River Diagram fragments or the inheritance from the iron sword!

All along the way, he’d been constantly pondering about this, yet he was unable to obtain a certain answer until now.

“That’s... a seventh-grade Monarch Rank Ancestral Dao Root!” Suddenly, an exclaim of surprise resounded, and it jolted Chen Xi awake from his deep thoughts.

Chen Xi raised his eyes to look over, and he noticed a vast and brilliant azure beam of light towering into the sky in the distance.

“A Monarch Rank Ancestral Dao Root!” The breathing of all the cultivators in the group became heavy while their eyes brightened, and they didn’t conceal their burning desire to take possession of it at all.

This was a precious treasure that could only be chanced upon by luck. Even though it was only a grade higher than a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root, the difference in the benefits they provided was like the difference between the heavens and the earth!

Even Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, and the others were stunned and slightly surprised. Isn’t our group’s luck a bit too good?

Even they were extremely tempted by an Ancestral Dao Root of such quality.

Their group didn’t hesitate at all, and they whistled through the air as they swarmed over towards that beam of azure light.

It was a mountainous area, and the azure beam of light had surged out from here.

However, when Chen Xi's group arrived here and saw the scene there clearly, they instantly felt as if they'd been doused with a pail of cold water, and the hopes and excitement in their hearts vanished without a trace.

An enormous ferocious beast that was completely covered in blood laid there. Obviously, it had just perished not too long ago, and the scars of battle covered an area of 500km in the surroundings.

So, how could Chen Xi's group not understand that someone had arrived here before the?

One of the cultivators refused to give up, and he charged over to the azure beam of light and searched carefully. However, he returned in vain in the end, and his expression had instantly turned gloomy.

"Dammit! We were a step too late. That was a Monarch Rank Ancestral Dao Root we missed!" Someone sighed with indignation and was extremely disgruntled.

The other cultivators were extremely disappointed as well, and they felt dejected.

"Looks like we have to change our strategy." Le Wuhen spoke abruptly after pondering deeply for a moment.

### [Talisman Emperor](#)

#### **Chapter 1670: Insufficient Popularity**

Change our strategy? Everyone was stunned and slightly puzzled.

Le Wuhen explained. "When we set out as a group, we're only able to search for a single target at a time, and if we split up, then we would undoubtedly be able to obtain an Ancestral Dao Root for everyone as soon as possible."

This suggestion was undoubtedly tempting to many, but they were clearly aware that doing this would cause their forces to be split up. So, the dangers they faced would be greater as well. It could be considered as having its advantages and disadvantages.

Le Wuhen seemed to have discerned the worries in their hearts, and he said with a smile, "There's no need to worry. Even though we'll be splitting up, we can utilize Mindnet Shells to communicate. No matter who encounters danger, we'll be able to head over and provide support at the first possible moment."

As he spoke, he flipped his palm, and then a string of crystalline and translucent shells that seemed like green leaves floated up into appearance.

Mindnet Shells were a rare treasure produced in the Imperial Region. Once worn, even if people were at different ends of the world, they would still be able to obtain information about the other at all times.

Le Wuhen passed the Mindnet Shells to Chen Xi, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and Zhuanyu Shui while he left one for himself.

After that, he said, "We five Spirit God Exalts will lead the teams, and we'll help Fellow Daoists seize an Ancestral Root each. In this way, even if a team encounters danger, it would be able to persist until the others arrive to offer support. So, it would undoubtedly be much safer."

When they realized that Le Wuhen had made such sufficient preparations, all of the worries in their hearts instantly vanished greatly, and no one made an objection against this suggestion.

“Now, let’s start dividing up into teams. How about we each bring a few Fellow Daoists alone?” Le Wuhen swept his gaze past everyone before he spoke with a smile on his face.

Chen Xi, Shentu Yanran, Zhuanyu Shui, and Yuqiu Jing naturally didn’t have any objections.

Besides the five of them who were Spirit God Exalts, their group still had another 14 cultivators.

In next to no time, their groups had already been split up completely.

Le Wuhen, Shentu Yanran, Yuqiu Jing, and Zhuanyu Shui had three cultivators in each of their teams, whereas, Chen Xi had two.

This wasn’t because they were making allowances for Chen Xi. It was because those cultivators had been rather hostile and averse towards Chen Xi earlier, and they’d offended him. Even if they’d already acknowledged Chen Xi’s status, they were worried that Chen Xi held a grudge against them. Because it would be bad if he tried to get even with them while they were searching for Ancestral Dao Roots.

This was pure overthinking of things. With the way Chen Xi looked at things and his own breadth of mind, how could he possibly make a fuss about it with them?

Moreover, no matter how much he disliked them, out of consideration for the overall situation of the group, Chen Xi wouldn’t do something like leading his allies into a trap.

However, it was very obvious that those cultivators didn’t think in this way, so they would rather follow Le Wuhen and the others than be in the same team as Chen Xi.

As for these two companions that were distributed to Chen Xi, one of them was called Tao Dong, and he was from the Imperial Region’s Tao Clan. He was really against being in the same team as Chen Xi, but it couldn’t be helped because he was a step slower and wasn’t quicker than the others. So, he could only follow reluctantly by Chen Xi’s side in the end.

The other person was Wei Zifu. Since Wei Zifu had already obtained a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root, he didn’t have to worry at all about whether Chen Xi would intentionally make things difficult for him.

After the teams had been divided, Le Wuhen said with a smile, “Everyone, I have a suggestion. Why don’t our teams compete with each other? How about we compete on the quality of Ancestral Dao Roots that our respective teams are able to obtain in the end?”

The eyes of the other cultivators lit up when they heard this suggestion, and they were clearly aware that this suggestion was extremely beneficial to them.

“This suggestion isn’t bad. However, Chen Xi only had two people by his side, and one has already obtained a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root. If we compete in this way, then it would be slightly disadvantageous to him.” Shentu Yanran smiled lightly as she spoke softly.

“Haha! Yanran! Oh! Yanran! Just look at you, you’re constantly protecting Fellow Daoist Chen Xi. Could it be that you’ve really taken a liking to him?” Le Wuhen roared with laughter and teased.

Shentu Yanran sighed faintly and said, "Alas, while falling flowers yearn to be loved, they're washed away heartlessly by the babbling stream."

Chen Xi smiled bitterly and shrugged. He knew they were joking, so he didn't take it seriously.

Yuqiu Jing who'd remained silent at the side since the beginning grew even quieter. As for how envious and hateful he was in his heart, only he himself knew the answer.

As for the other cultivators, they could only feel jealous and envious. Even though they knew that it was only a joke, it wasn't just anyone that could possess the qualifications to enjoy such treatment and be linked to Shentu Yanran!

Le Wuhen said, "Yanran, don't forget that if we have the chance, then we'll each be able to obtain more than one or two Ancestral Dao Roots. Even if we can't use such precious treasures ourselves, it'll be extremely good to be taken back and given to our respective clansmen."

Shentu Yanran was stunned, and then she said with self-ridicule. "Looks like once women have sincere feelings in their hearts, they really do become muddleheaded." She utilized this moment to tease Chen Xi casually.

Le Wuhen couldn't help but roar with laughter when he heard this.

Chen Xi sighed helplessly instead, and he hurriedly said, "Alright, let's set out."

The others knew that time was of the essence as well. So, they immediately stopped delaying, and their five teams flew towards five different directions.

.....

Swish!

Space fluctuated as Chen Xi teleported in the lead while Tao Dong and Wei Zifu followed closely behind.

They'd chosen the north.

Chen Xi had been constantly thinking about the identity of that faint summon that he felt, and he was trying hard to sense it and locate that mysterious summon, yet he gained nothing in the end.

But no matter what, continuing north wouldn't be wrong at all.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Along with the passage of time, numerous streaks of light gradually started to appear ahead, and they flickered through space before vanishing in the blink of an eye.

This caused Chen Xi to be shocked in his heart. He was clearly aware that those streaks of light were the other cultivators that had entered the Ancestral Root Grounds.

In other words, it wasn't just their group that was searching for Ancestral Dao Roots, and the other cultivators were doing the same as well. This meant that the competition and conflicts between them was starting to intensify!

“Please follow closely behind me. We’ll probably encounter a great deal of danger during the operation we’re about to carry out.” Chen Xi instructed swiftly.

“Don’t worry Fellow Daoist Chen Xi.” Wei Zifu was steady and experienced. Moreover, because he’d obtained an Ancestral Dao Root at beginning and had witnessed Chen Xi’s formidable ability, he would naturally not choose to go against Chen Xi now.

“Oh.” Tao Dong didn’t speak more than that.

In his heart, he was slightly depressed instead. Because he’d been constantly following by Yuqiu Jing before this, and he’d rejected and scoffed at Chen Xi at all times. So, he was truly worried that Chen Xi would make things difficult for him.

If this fellow really dares to act in that way, then I’ll just leave. I’ll absolutely not suffer humiliation from this fellow! Tao Dong sword in his heart.

Chen Xi was able to faintly sense Tao Dong’s thought, and he couldn’t help but shake his head to himself. Even though the strengths of these disciples from the Imperial Region far exceed their peers, most of them are extremely haughty, refuse to put down their pride, and have an extraordinarily excessive sense of superiority. They truly are boring.

He was naturally clearly aware that the reason was because he’d come from Snow Ink Region, so no matter how formidable his strength was, his status was something they looked down upon.

This was like the nobles of the mortal world. No matter how stronger others were when compared to them, they would still look down upon others.

Ruins and dilapidated walls and buildings were everywhere. This place was once the residence of a clan of gods that were born from within the Chaos, yet it had been reduced to ruins because of a world shaking battle that had erupted here.

Shattered corpses and pieces of divine artifacts could be frequently noticed on the ground. They were mottled, dim, and had long since been corroded by the elements to the point of being in a wreck. It was an extremely desolate scene.

The further they went, the more ruins they saw, and the aura of desolation in the heavens and the earth grew more and more thicker.

After the time for an entire incense stick to burn, Chen Xi suddenly stopped moving while he gazed into the distance. Within his senses, there was an extremely dazzling yellow colored beam of light that towered into the sky.

A fifth-grade Ancestral Root.... Chen Xi’s figure flashed as he led Tao Dong and Wei Zifu to speed up and instantly teleport over.

This was a shallow area that had already dried up a long time ago, and numerous cracks had split open on the ground. At this moment, a dazzling yellow colored beam of light had charged out from between the rifts.

After travelling for so long and finally finding another Ancestral Root now, there wasn’t much happiness in Tao Dong’s heart instead.

"It's only a fifth-grade Ancestral Dao Root, isn't it a little too substandard..." He spoke with disappointment because even Wei Zifu had obtained a sixth-grade Ancestral Dao Root, and he felt that he wasn't inferior to Wei Zifu at all.

Chen Xi's slanted brows raised. What high sounding sentiments. A fifth-grade Ancestral Dao Root is rare even in the Ancient God Domain, and it's rare even in those top powers. Yet it has actually become something substandard when Tao Dong speaks of it.

"Fellow Daoist Tao Dong, you're unsatisfied?" asked Chen Xi.

"I am a little unsatisfied. Fellow Daoist Chen Xi, can I take this Ancestral Dao Root first, and if we're able to come across a better Ancestral Dao Root after this, then I'll exchange this one for that one from you, alright?" Tao Dong spoke bluntly.

"Tao Dong, isn't doing that slightly inappropriate? Fellow Daoist Chen Xi doesn't have any obligation to help us do all of this." Wei Zifu spoke from the side. He was rather worried that Tao Dong would infuriate Chen Xi and drag him into trouble as well.

Chen Xi's eyes narrowed. In the end, he said with a smile, "Alright, but we must establish a rule."

Tao Dong's eyes lit up, and he said excitedly, "Tell me about it."

"I can give you and Fellow Daoist Zifu two chances to choose an Ancestral Dao Root, and if you're still dissatisfied after these two chances, then you can strive to obtain one yourselves. Forgive me for being unable to continue helping after that." Chen Xi swept the two of them with his gaze and spoke in a low voice.

"Alright!" Tao Dong agreed without the slightest hesitation because such a condition was better than anything he'd expected. So, how could he not agree to it?

"Thank you, Fellow Daoist Chen Xi." Wei Zifu was slightly stunned before he cupped his hands and thanks Chen Xi in a serious manner. He'd never imagined that Chen Xi would actually provide him with such a chance that allowed him to choose an Ancestral Dao Root.

Chen Xi smiled and said, "However, both of you must take note that I'm only able to help the both of you obtain one Ancestral Dao Root each."

The meaning behind his words was that if they were able to obtain even more Ancestral Dao Roots all along the way, then those Ancestral Dao Roots would have nothing to do with the two of them.

This caused Tao Dong's heart to jerk, and the happiness in his heart vanished without a trace. He forced out a smile and said, "This seems to be... slightly inappropriate, right? We're a team, so the Ancestral Dao Roots we obtain naturally has to be divided equally. At the very most, you can have a slightly larger share. Fellow Daoist Zifu, what do you think?"

As he spoke, he looked at Wei Zifu who stood at his side.

Wei Zifu didn't even spare a glance at Tao Dong, and he nodded to Chen Xi and said, "That's a matter of course."

Tao Dong was instantly stunned on the spot, and his expression changed indeterminately.