

Talisman 321

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 321: The Reason For The Ambush

Chen Xi was extremely furious, and his thoughts became slightly chaotic as well.

The sudden appearance of Zhen Liuqing and Ya Qing, and the news they brought him was too enormous, causing him to be unable to take it in for some time.

Under the astonished gazes of the two young women, Chen Xi stood up abruptly before moving to arrive before the table, and then he opened up the ink before spreading out a piece of white paper. After that, Chen Xi took a deep breath before lifting up his brush and writing.

He still has the mood to write at a time like this?

The two young women glanced at each other, and their eyes carried a trace of worry. Chen Xi's unusual actions had undoubtedly indicated that his heart wasn't as calm as he seemed on the surface.

But what exactly is he writing?

Both the young women didn't disturb Chen Xi, and they silently walked forward before stopping and watching.

Chen Xi's writing was extremely beautiful, his strokes were vigorous, graceful, and agile. Row after row of tiny words seemed like flowing talisman markings, and his writing possessed a clear rhythm. Under the illumination of the moonlight stones, it revealed an indescribable beauty, and it seemed to contain a trace of an imperceptible aura of an extremely profound Grand Dao.

Both the young women revealed a trace of surprise. Never had they imagined that Chen Xi's attainments in writing were actually so deep. But in next to no time, their hearts were drawn by the content of what Chen Xi wrote.

The masterminds behind the scenes, the central plains' Warlord Estate, Earthly Heaven Sect, Nine Cauldrons Immortal Sect, Whitecrane Sect, the eastern sea's Dragonshark Isle, and the northern barbaric lands' Skycave Mountain. These six great powers deserve death!

The power that's carrying out the Blacksun Ambush, the Blacksun Pavilion. This power kills for money and acts lawlessly. The wages of sin are death. It deserves elimination!

The cultivation of the assassins are at the Golden Core Realm. All of them are adept in assassination and have experiences numerous battles without a single lost. Evildoers like this deserve death!

The route of the ambush is between the Azure County and Silken City. This path should be met head on, and it must be done...

When he wrote up to here, Chen Xi placed the brush on the table and let out a light breath of air, and the expression between his brow was already calm and tranquil as if the few lines of words he'd written earlier had already smoothened out all his thoughts, causing his mind and body to attain a clear state.

Both the young women were stunned. They clearly sensed undisguised killing intent that was dense to the point it couldn't be dispersed from those few lines of pitch black words that seeped through the paper, and it was resolute and decisive, almost effusing out of the paper!

"You really want to go against those powers? You don't even intend to let the Blacksun Pavilion off?" After staying silent for a long time, Ya Qing looked at Chen Xi with slight shock and anxiousness, and her voice revealed a trace of a heavy tone.

Swish!

Right when she spoke, the white paper on the table seemed to be unable to endure the killing intent that permeated the lines of words, and it silently transformed into tiny pieces that vanished without a trace.

Chen Xi said calmly, "I must participate in the Allstar Meeting. The actions of these powers have already touched my bottom line. Even though my current strength is insufficient to shake them, yet a day will come when I give them a test similar to the Blacksun Ambush. Those that pass may live, otherwise, die."

"Master is right. I've had a bellyful of pent up rage since a long time ago. These people are simply devoid of shame. They set up an ambush, yet deliberately act magnanimous and say that the enmity between both parties will be written off if Master can survive the ambush. This is simply outrageous." Mu Kui had kept silent since the beginning. At this moment, he seemed like an erupting volcano as he said furiously, "Moreover, from the beginning until the end, it was they who were looking for trouble with Master. It's good enough that Master didn't look to get even with them, yet they're hypocritically taking a bite at us instead. I truly wish for nothing more than to destroy their sect and wipe out their inheritance, causing all of them to be annihilated!"

Both the young women looked at Mu Kui's indignant appearance and were shocked in their hearts, as they entirely never imagined that the matter would actually be so complicated.

Zhen Liuqing asked with surprise. "How exactly did you become enemies with those sects?"

"Yeah. It's really extremely rare to offend six sects in one go." Ya Qing spoke out from the side as well. She'd already know some of the truth earlier, like Chen Xi had taken some Magic Treasures from Huangfu Chongming and the others, causing a group of old freaks at the Earthly Immortal Realm to make a move against him, yet they came back empty handed from the Wanderingcloud Sword Sect...

But she didn't know how Chen Xi became enemies with the six sects.

The two young women had come to notify him of the Blacksun Ambush as soon as they obtained information about it, and Chen Xi was rather moved in his heart by this. So he didn't conceal it any longer and said slowly, "Simply speaking, the source of this enmity was because some treasures in my possession were seen by Huangfu Chongming, Lin Moxuan, Xiao Linger, Liu Fengchi, and Man Hong. Oh, right, there's also Qing Xiuyi and her two Junior Brothers. They were covetous of it and carried out a movement to besiege me with the intention of seizing my treasures..."

"Even Qing Xiuyi!?" The eyes of the two young women focused. Even though Chen Xi had spoken dully and only listen out some locations, time, and figures, yet so long as they thought about it, they understood how dangerous Chen Xi's situation was at that time.

“Right, Qing Xiuyi was there as well. But because of some things that occurred during the process of the battle, they didn’t seize anything from me and instead had their Magic Treasures taken away by me. The enmity was sown on that day.” Chen Xi’s eyes were deep and distant and seemed to be recalling everything that happened that day, and he quickly awoke from his recollection and said indifferently, “It was precisely because of this that the old freaks behind these people used this as an excuse to head to the Wanderingcloud Sword Sect together with the intention of coercing my sworn brother to hand me over to them.”

They’re going too far!

The two young women burst into rage when they heard this, and they extremely despised the actions of Huangfu Chongming and the others. These people had aroused greed in their hearts and intended to seize the treasures of another, yet had their own treasures seized in the end. This was already an extremely disgraceful incident, and they deserved to have their treasures seized away. But these people had notified the seniors in their sect and used it as an excuse to cause the group of old freaks to go against Chen Xi. This simply couldn’t be described with the word shameless!

“What happened after that?” asked Zhen Liuqing.

Chen Xi hesitated for a moment before deciding to speak the truth in the end. The two young women had obviously already taken him as a friend, so if he still concealed it, it wasn’t what a friend would do. After pondering for a short moment, he said, “A friend of mine once left a command token in the possession of my sworn brother, Bei Heng, and it was precisely this command token that caused those old freaks to be terrified and return empty handed.”

A single command token caused a group of Earthly Immortal Realm experts to leave obediently? The two young women were shocked in their hearts when they heard this, and they’d never imagined that Chen Xi actually had such a terrifying friend. Merely a command token left behind by that friend of Chen Xi’s possessed such might.

“That command token only had a single ‘白’ character.” Since he’d already spoken of it, Chen Xi didn’t continue concealing anything and said, “Perhaps both of you have heard some rumors about this ‘白’ character command token. In any case, I never imagined that this command token was so precious before this.”

Zhen Liuqing and Ya Qing’s eyes became extremely bright as they cried out in unison. “The Dark Reverie’s Violet Thistle Bai Clan!”

Chen Xi nodded. “It should be.”

“No wonder. Supposedly, even the current Emperor Chu had once paid a visit to the Bai Clan’s Patriarch, yet he wasn’t even able to enter through the entrance. How terrifying the power of the Bai Clan is in the Dark Reverie is obvious.” Zhen Liuqing’s clear eyes were bright as water, and they were suffused with strands of ripples of an extraordinary splendor as she sighed. “When faced with the Violet Thistle Bai Clan’s ‘百’ character command token, these old freaks would naturally not dare act rashly. When an Emperor is enraged, a myriad of corpses will be piled on the ground. But if the Violet Thistle Bai Clan were to make a move, then it would be a calamity that annihilated the entire Dynasty!”

Zhen Liuqing seemed to have realized something instead, and she said with sudden understanding. "No wonder the Blacksun Pavilion's movement operation this time is an ambush and not a pursuit. Moreover, they even left a way of retreat for you. So it turns out that they're worried about suffering the revenge of the Bai Clan."

Ya Qing grunted coldly. "If they're worried about this, then they would utterly not dare set up any ambush. Obviously, they don't want to offend the Bai Clan, yet don't intend to let Chen Xi off. So they thought of this operation. They've really taken great pains to think of such a method."

Actually, both the young women had already guessed in their hearts that there was surely a reason why the group of old freaks refused to give up and even took the risk of offending the Violet Thistle Bai Clan to go against Chen Xi. Perhaps it was because the 'treasures' in Chen Xi's possession were too precious, and it possessed a matchless attraction to Earthly Immortal Realm experts like them. Besides an Immortal Artifact, what other 'treasure' would be able to attract Earthly Immortal Realm experts?

But it wasn't good for them to continue asking. Every single person had their own secrets, and it was better to not inquire about these treasures in Chen Xi's possession.

Chen Xi naturally understood where the source of the matter was, it was the treasures in his possession. No matter if it was the Buddha's Pagoda, or the Netherworld Register and Condemn Evil Brush inherited from the Netherworld Emperor, or even Ling Bai, all of them were sufficient to make any Earthly Immortal Realm expert go mad, and those old fellows were naturally no exception.

"Then what do you plan to do next?" asked Zhen Liuqing.

The question had returned to the previous topic of discussing, but at this moment, Chen Xi had already ordered his thoughts, and there wasn't the slightest anxiousness in his heart as he said indifferently, "Slaughter a path until Silken City."

"Do you want me to mobilize the forces of the Treasure Heaven Pavilion to help you enter Silken City?" asked Ya Qing with worry.

Chen Xi smiled. "There's no need. The Blacksun Ambush is targeted at me, and only Golden Core Realm cultivators were deployed. If the Treasure Heaven Pavilion were to get involved, it wouldn't be beneficial to the Treasure Heaven Pavilion, and it would also cause the matter to become worse. Don't worry, on my path of cultivation until now, there were numerous people that wanted that life of I, Chen Xi, yet I'm still alive until now, whereas all of them are already dead."

When they saw Chen Xi's mind was made up, the two young women didn't continue persuading him, and they chatted with him for a while longer before bidding their farewells and leaving.

They knew that even if they stayed at this moment, it would be of no use. Conversely, it would waste Chen Xi's time. So instead of that, it would be better to leave earlier and give Chen Xi even more time to prepare strategies to deal with the enemy.

"Master, there's no need to worry. Even if I have to lay down my life, I'll allow you to safely arrive at Silken City!" After the two young women left, Mu Kui's expression was solemn as he spoke word by word.

Chen Xi was stunned, and then he refused flatly. "Don't interfere this time and stay in the Buddha's Pagoda. If you stay at my side, I wouldn't be able to forgive myself for my entire lifetime if any mishap befalls you. Not to mention I'm completely unafraid of any Golden Core Realm cultivator with my current strength."

"I..." Mu Kui spoke anxiously.

Chen Xi stopped him from speaking and said seriously, "Mu Kui, you have to listen to me this time no matter what. I still have to participate in the Allstar Meeting and go to the Primeval Battlefield and the Dark Reverie... There are many things I have to do, so how could I possibly die so easily?"

The corners of Mu Kui's mouth twitched as he nodded.

Chen Xi patted him on the shoulder and said, "Cultivate properly in the Buddha's Pagoda. Aren't you at the intermediate-stage of the Golden Core Realm? You must advance to the advanced-stage of the Golden Core Realm when we arrive at Silken City, don't let me down."

Mu Kui gritted his teeth to the point they emitted rubbing sounds as he said resolutely, "Don't worry Master, I'll take my own life if I don't succeed!"

Chen Xi was stunned. Mu Kui was good in every aspect, but he just took Chen Xi's words too seriously as if he wasn't able to achieve what Chen Xi instructed, he would regret it his entire lifetime.

"Come, accompany me to buy some materials used for crafting talismans and a map for the area between Azure County and Silken City. If you take a fancy to something, then buy it all as well. It's time for the two million Nascent Condensation Pills I won in the Goldlake Meeting to be of use..."

"Master, when are we leaving the Azure County?"

"Once I advance my cultivation in body refinement to the Golden Core Realm and everything is prepared. It wouldn't be late to leave then."

"Master, I'm still slightly worried..."

"If you speak anymore nonsense, then I'll throw you in the Buddha's Pagoda. Are you so unconfident in me?"

...

The master and servant walked swiftly in single file towards the various merchant stores in Azure County City. They spent money like flowing water as they cleared things out without restraint, and they completely didn't notice that danger was about to arrive.

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Chapter 322: Courier

The night sky was like a dark pool of water.

The Goldlake Meeting that continued for a few days had come to an end today, and many cultivators that had come from afar had chosen to celebrate tonight. No matter win or lose, they would depart from this misty city of a thousand lakes tomorrow.

Even though the Goldlake Meeting this time couldn't be said to be matchlessly brilliant, yet it was sufficient to be said to be magnificent and surging up and down. The most eye-catching of it all was undoubtedly a single person — Chen Xi.

The northern barbaric lands Zenith Sect's Ji Yue, the eastern sea's Jadepool Celestial Isle's Hua Mobei, the Brightray Sect's Wang Daoxu... All the experts of the younger generation had lost beneath the edge of Chen Xi's sword.

Because of this, Chen Xi had become the first cultivator in the history of the southern territory to obtain 100 successive victories in the Goldlake Meeting. Moreover, he was the one and only existence to obtain 100 successive victories in the Goldlake Meeting this time.

Discussions related to Chen Xi had become the hottest topic in the streets and restaurants of Azure County City. Moreover, it didn't slow down because the Goldlake Meeting had come to an end, and it instead became more and more intense. His birth, origins, and display during the Goldlake Meeting caused everyone to take delight in talking about it.

It was even to the extent that some merchants had utilized Mirage Jade Slips to record all of Chen Xi's battles in the Goldlake Meeting, and these jade slips had become the most demanded hotcake in the city's markets.

Some bought it for the sake of contemplating Chen Xi's combat techniques, some bought it for the sake of allowing their children to take Chen Xi as their role model and cultivate diligently, and some bought it purely for the sake of collecting it. Something worthy of mentioning was that most of these people were young women that had awakened to love...

Under these circumstances, Chen Xi and Mu Kui had just walked out of the inn when they were quickly recognized by people, and no matter where they went, they would be pursued by the gazes of countless people. Some brave young women even mustered up the courage to walk forward and give away their perfume satchels, jade pendants, jade hairpins, and other things they carried with them to display their love, causing Chen Xi to feel his scalp go numb, and he could only flee in his helplessness.

Young women were filled with romance and passion when in love.

But Chen Xi didn't dare stride through the streets while revealing his appearance any longer, and he bought a cloak and heaved a sigh of relief after wearing it. After that he started buying some materials required to craft talismans with Mu Kui.

What caused Chen Xi to be helpless was after strolling through countless merchant stores, the materials he'd purchased were only sufficient to craft seven high-grade Treasured Talismans. But he understood that all these materials were rare and precious, and being able to purchase them on the market was already very good. Under normal circumstances, these expensive and rare materials would only appear in auctions.

But this wasn't the main point. The main point was that after he purchased these materials, the two million Nascent Condensation Pills he won in the Goldlake Meeting had actually been spent completely. Moreover, he'd even used an extra 30,000 Nascent Condensation Pills. In other words, the materials to craft seven high-grade Treasured Talismans was actually worth 2,030,000 Nascent Condensation Pills!

When he thought about how he and Mu Kui had utilized 15 high-grade Treasured Talismans in one go when fighting Sikong Hen and the others, Chen Xi was slightly unable to keep calm in his heart. If all of these were exchanged into Nascent Condensation Pills, how much would they be?

No wonder high-grade Treasured Talismans are so rare. Merely their materials are already so shocking. If one still had to entrust them to a Talisman Formation Master to craft them, then the cost will probably be even higher...

But after he returned to the inn, Chen Xi's quickly moved his attention and gazed at the various materials that filled the table, and he silently pondered the various steps of talisman crafting in his mind.

Unknowingly, it was already deep into the night and a few hours before dawn.

A gentle breeze drifted in the sky, and it was fine and dense like silk. It emitted scratching sounds as it descended onto the window, causing the night sky to seem even more tranquil, intangible, and clear.

The eyes of Chen Xi who was pondering deeply squinted abruptly, and he didn't raise his head as he said indifferently, "Since you've come, then why hide yourself?"

The window moved without the wind and slowly opened up as a barefooted young man in linen clothes walked in. His face was smooth with a firm and serious expression between his brows, and a gorgeous red lotus flower that was like a tattoo was revealed on his bald head. It was exactly the disciple of the northern barbaric lands' Zenith Sect, Ji Yue.

"Brother Chen is still awake so deep into the night, could it be that you've always been waiting for me?" Ji Yue wasn't the slightest bit surprised that Chen Xi was able to notice his arrival, and in fact, he'd utterly not concealed his tracks.

Chen Xi raised his head from the table and stared straight at this body refiner that was adept in both the paths of Buddha and Devil as he said with a calm voice, "You've always been following behind me since I left the inn. It would be strange if you didn't make an appearance tonight."

Ji Yue was stunned, and then he chuckled. "I never imagined that I was still noticed by Brother Chen."

Chen Xi looked silently at Ji Yue for some time before shaking his head and sighing. "Speak frankly if you have something to say. You wouldn't have come here deep in the night for the sake of chatting with me, right?"

"Alright, Brother Chen is a straightforward person that speaks his mind. To tell you honestly, I came here this time for the sake of the same thing from the other day." Ji Yue smiled lightly and said, "Of course, for the sake of making Brother Chen willingly hand over the Buddha's Pagoda to me, besides the Buddhist Sect cultivation technique, I'll also hand over a Devil Sect cultivation technique. How about it? After all, the techniques of both the Buddhist Sect and Devil Sect are poles apart, and if they're thoroughly mastered and brought together, Brother Chen's strength will surely advance a level higher. These conditions are sufficient to indicate my sincerity, right?"

Chen Xi didn't even think about it before replying flatly. "I don't need them, thank you for your good intentions."

Ji Yue's face froze, and he forcefully restrained the rage in his heart as he said with a smile, "Why don't you consider it again, Brother Chen? Once you miss this opportunity, then you'll regret it for your entire lifetime."

The corners of Chen Xi's mouth held a trace of ridicule as he said, "What I want to know is do you really think in your heart that you'll be able to make me agree by relying on those two cultivation techniques?"

"You will agree, right?" A wisp of a smile suddenly shook open on the corners of Ji Yue's mouth, and it was like a revolving vortex that was filled with charm, whereas a wisp of a strange glow that was golden yet wasn't golden gushed out from his eyes at the same time, and it caused one's heart to feel peaceful.

An enormous change suddenly occurred in Chen Xi's sea of consciousness, and in his dazed state, he seemed to have arrived at a paradise. Heavenly dragons fluttered about as multicolored phoenixes danced in the sky, flowers rained from the sky as golden lotuses gushed out from the earth, and Buddha's chanted scriptures as followers prostrated themselves in worship, and their expressions were filled with satisfaction and peacefulness.

All living creatures are suffering, life, age, sickness, and death. Unexpected calamity drops down from the heavens, causing their lives to be full of hardships. My Buddha is benevolent and saves all living beings. Those that are lost, follow my Buddha and you shall find happiness, you shall find eternal peace... A wave of melodious chanting reverberated in his heart and was filled with sympathy, causing one to be unable to help but want to kneel down and prostrate one's self before praying with devotion.

Under the chanting of this voice, Chen Xi's eyes couldn't help but flash with a slightly dazed expression.

The corners of Ji Yue's mouth couldn't help but be suffused with a trace of dense disdain when he noticed this. "No matter how great your strength is, aren't you still unable to escape being led astray by me Thundering Redemption Chant?"

"Hmph! I've let you off lightly. Now, I'll let you die peacefully in paradise!" Ji Yue's eyes stared wide open as the golden light within his gaze became purer and thicker, and it practically shot towards Chen Xi.

He believed that Chen Xi would undoubtedly die in the next moment. Moreover, Chen Xi would die silently and seem as if he was in deep sleep.

Right at this moment, the eyes of Chen Xi who originally had a dazed expression suddenly emitted a cold bolt of lightning that blasted out explosively, and not only did it shatter the golden light that assaulted Chen Xi, it even directly charged into Ji Yue's sea of consciousness.

Bang!

Ji Yue's mind droned as if he was struck by lightning, and his heart was filled with astonishment. How could this be possible! How could this fellow possible overcome my Thundering Redemption Chant?

However, before he could understand everything, an aching pain that felt like a saw blade slicing him instantly gushed throughout his sea of consciousness. That feeling was as if his sea of consciousness was being torn into countless pieces, and it ached to the point he practically instantly lost all consciousness. In the end, he fell to the ground with a thump, and he was devoid of all consciousness.

“You were truly looking to die. The strength of my soul has already completely surpassed above the Rebirth Realm, so how could it be confused by your tricks?” Chen Xi stood up and couldn’t help but shake his head as he looked at Ji Yue who was on the ground.

Even though attacks of the soul were shapeless, yet in terms of danger, they were even more terrifying than direct combat, as a single mistake could possibly cause damage to the soul, causing one to become a complete retard. Even if it was Chen Xi, he didn’t dare easily utilize a soul attack unless it was a situation where his victory was assured.

Earlier, he’d intentionally revealed a trace of weakness so that Ji Yue would think he had an opportunity to take advantage of, causing his mind to be unconsciously unguarded and defenseless, whereas he instead seized this opportunity to execute the God Killer Arts with his full strength, allowing him to destroy Ji Yue’s sea of consciousness with a single strike. After this, Ji Yue had lost his sea of consciousness, and he was no different than a retard that was unable to move, causing him to be only capable of staying motionless and waiting for death in this lifetime.

This was called trying to injure another but ruining one’s self, karma is a bitch.

The sound of Ji Yue falling to the ground startled Mu Kui who was outside, and he walked into the room before noticing Ji Yue who lay motionless on the ground and said with surprise, “Master, you killed him?”

“No, but he’s no different than a dead man.” Chen Xi shook his head.

“Fantastic, let me see what this fellow has...” Mu Kui didn’t care about all that, and he rubbed his palms together as he charged forward to start plundering the spoils.

This fellow Ji Yue deserved to be called a disciple that was from a great sect like the Zenith Sect. He possessed over one million over Nascent Condensation Pills and various medicinal pills used for healing injuries that similarly possessed a shocking worth in the market.

Besides this, there were also two Divine Ability cultivation techniques, and they were respectively the Deity Transformation and Dragolion Vidyaraja Seal. As for the Buddhist Sect cultivation technique and Devil Sect cultivation technique, he didn’t carry them with him.

Chen Xi couldn’t help but shake his head endlessly when he saw this. When this fellow came here tonight, he utterly had no intention of exchanging the Buddhist Sect and Devil Sect cultivation techniques for the Buddha’s Pagoda. Otherwise, why didn’t he carry them with him?

But Chen Xi was fond of the Divine Ability Deity Transformation to the point of being unwilling to let it go. This Divine Ability wasn’t cultivated exclusively by Buddhist Cultivators, and other body refiners were similarly capable of cultivating it. Moreover, Chen Xi noticed that the Deity Transformation and Heavenly Transformation were similar, both of them were capable of instantly increasing the strength of the body and used to supplement other Divine Abilities. The only difference was the Heavenly Transformation could be purchased on the market, whereas this Deity Transformation was a secret Divine Ability that wasn’t passed down to others outside the sect. Thus, it was utterly impossible to be found in the market, and it could only be found in some ancient and great sects.

Chen Xi couldn't help but slightly anticipate. Exactly how terrifying would the might of the Grand Astral Palm be if I combine the Deity Transformation and Heavenly Transformation before executing it?

"Eh, Master, look what this is?" Mu Kui spoke out suddenly. He held a blood red crystal in his hand, and it was something he'd found from the pile of miscellaneous items in Ji Yue's possession.

This blood red crystal was in the shape of a diamond, completely crystalline and translucent, and liquid that seemed like blood gushed within it. When looked at from afar, Chen Xi could still clearly sense a strong blood energy assault his face. Moreover, this blood energy didn't have a bloody aura, and it was pure and thick instead. When he smelt it, it was like drinking sweet dew, causing the blood and flesh in his entire body to feel a wave of comfort and vitality.

"Shaman Blood Crystal!?" Chen Xi blurted out. He'd faintly seemed to have heard that once one attained the Golden Core Realm in body refinement, the replenishment of Shaman Energy would encounter an extremely great barrier. Once one's Shaman Energy was dried up and exhausted, it would require an extremely long period of time to recover, whereas once one possessed Shaman Blood Crystals, after one absorbed the enormous blood energy contained within it, it could be instantly transformed into Shaman Energy that gushed into the body, causing one's exhausted Shaman Energy to recover to its original state.

This treasure was almost similar to the Nascent Condensation Pill and Sky Jadeliquid Pill qi refiners require, and its effects were similar.

"How many of these does this fellow possess?" A trace of excitement couldn't help but arise in Chen Xi's heart. He was already capable of being certain that these blood colored crystals were Shaman Blood Crystals without a doubt. Supposedly, this treasure was located in the depths of the center of the earth and was nurtured by the essence of the earth, and it was extremely rare and difficult to collect.

"A lot. Almost 10,000. I thought they were a pile of useless red gems earlier." Mu Kui scratched his head and chuckled.

"Ji Yue has really become a courier for me. Not only has he gifted me a formidable Divine Ability, there's even a great amount of Shaman Blood Crystals. With them in my possession and coupled with the Baleful Divinewater and Dragonsoul Jade Pendant, I'll surely be able to smoothly advance to the Golden Core Realm in body refinement within three months!" Chen Xi clenched his fists fiercely as he spoke with a burning gaze.

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Chapter 323: Golden Core Realm In Body Refinement

Rumble!

Within the room, Chen Xi had a calm and solemn expression as he sat cross-legged on the bed, and a wave sounds that were like tempestuous thunderclaps resounded out from within his body. A profound rhythm was faintly revealed from within the sounds, and it was like the sound of the Grand Dao as it sounded out in waves.

After he dealt with Ji Yue last night, Chen Xi made up his mind to start charging into the Golden Core Realm of body refinement right away.

At this moment, he was working hard to increase the vital energy and blood of his body to the most optimum state so that he would be able to use it to endure the Baleful Divinewater and the energy of the dragon soul and Blood Essence contained within the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant.

After a long time, all the sounds returned to normal and Chen Xi suddenly opened his eyes, and then he didn't hesitate in the slightest to raise his hand and slap the three violet gold colored gourds. Every single pore in his entire body opened up as he madly absorbed the Baleful Divinewater like a whale swallowing water.

The Baleful Divinewater was a supreme body refinement divine treasure in the heavens and the earth. Not only was the energy contained within it capable of tempering the impurities within the body, it was also capable of providing the miraculous effect of consolidating the cultivation and foundation of the body.

If the body was said to be a piece of porcelain, then the Baleful Divinewater's use was to eliminate the unfinished parts of the porcelain, expanding the volume of the porcelain and allowing it to become clean and clear while possessing a hard and solid quality.

Swish!

Along with the Baleful Divinewater charging into his body, the strength of Chen Xi's body skyrocketed ceaselessly, and it became more and more tough and tensile. During the process of his cultivation, his body emitted rumbling sounds as his muscles collided with each other like two large mountains clashing with each other, and the force of the sound was rather immense.

Ordinary body refining used flames, the stars, ice, and other external energies to temper the body, whereas, the Baleful Divinewater's tempering of the body wasn't only reflected on the outside, even every single internal organ in the body, the skin, and even hairs were being tempered ceaselessly.

It was even to the extent that if a hair on Chen Xi's head was madly chopped with a profound-rank flying sword now, one could only dream of chopping it off!

This was the strength of a body refiner. It wasn't just their bodies that were strong, even the internal organs and bones within the body and hair outside the body would obtain a qualitative transformation.

Rumble!

Rumbling sounds that were like the sounds of the Grand Dao resounded from Chen Xi's body once more as his muscles, bones, tendons, skin, internal organs...his entire body was cheering with a strange rhythm, and it seemed like the heavens and the earth were resonating with him while carrying a strand of a beautiful feeling of happiness.

His skin was faintly suffused with a layer of a white jadelike sheen, and it was crystalline and translucent to the point it was like the most flawless jade in the world, whereas the aura his entire body emitted was like a terrifying Magic Treasure that gave others an unshakeable and indestructible feeling.

In next to no time, the energy of the Baleful Divinewater was completely absorbed, and the aura on Chen Xi's body swiftly concealed itself and vanished, causing him to recover to normal. His skin was still white and seemed to be tough and elastic, and it was utterly impossible to discern how strong it was.

Without the slightest dallying and seizing the moment his body had attained its optimum state, Chen Xi's right hand held the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant rightly within it before he circulated his cultivation to absorb the dragon soul and Blood Essence within the jade pendant.

According to legend, the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant contained a trace of Blood Essence and soul of the primordial divine beast, Green Dragon. When worn on the body, it provided a mysterious and formidable beneficial effect towards one's cultivation. Within the Darchu Dynasty, only the members of the Imperial Family possessed such a precious treasure.

To qi refiners, wearing the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant would allow one to avoid all sickness and evil, allowing one to utterly not have to worry of the danger of suffering from qi deviation when cultivating, whereas to body refiners, so long as they were able to absorb the trace of Blood Essence and soul within it, it would be sufficient to allow the body, vital energy, blood, and Shaman Energy to obtain a tremendous increase to a completely new height.

At this moment, what Chen Xi wanted to do was to absorb the trace of Blood Essence and enormous 'energy of a dragon' contained within the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant to advance his cultivation to the Golden Core Realm!

Mu Kui guarded outside Chen Xi's room's door with a vigilant expression, and even his eyes didn't blink.

His Master, Chen Xi, was charging to the Golden Core Realm, and no mishap could be allowed to happen at this time, otherwise, he would suffer qi deviation or even death.

Coupled with that, the most terrifying assassination organization in the world, the Blacksun Pavilion, was about to carry out an ambush against Chen Xi. Under these circumstances, Mu Kui didn't dare be careless in the slightest, and the nerves in his entire body were strained, as he was deeply afraid that the slightest thing would go wrong.

There were numerous guests in the inn during the day, and most of them were drinking wine and chatting, causing it to seem as if nothing was amiss. Actually, there was no danger indeed. The order in Azure County City had always been known for being good, and battles and strife rarely occurred. So, Mu Kui's worry was obviously slightly unnecessary.

It was even to the extent that when his nervous and solemn expression entered into the eyes of the inn's guests, all of them felt extremely curious. This fellow is so nervous. Could it be that something shady is going on within the room behind him?

"Hey, do you think some young girl is being forced to sell herself within that room, and this fellow is a henchman that's on the lookout?"

"In broad daylight? It's impossible for someone to be such a pervert, right?"

"You don't understand. Some fellows these days just happen to like this, and they seek excitement."

"Now that you say this, I really feel it might be that. Haha! I wonder who that fellow in the room is. If I have the time, I have to properly seek guidance from him in some romantic stuff of the bedroom."

"I think you should forget it. Didn't you see that fellow is a demon cultivator, and it's probably a demon cultivator within the room. Compared to those demon cultivators, us humans aren't as impressive as they are in these things!"

"So that's how it is. No wonder some fellows who are incapable like to frequently purchase the thing in the nether regions of some fierce beasts for a hefty sum. So it turns out that this thing is greatly beneficial!"

Some guests were utterly bored, and they took Mu Kui and Chen Xi who was in the room as a source of pleasure to ridicule and laugh at, causing some of the men present to break out in laughter, whereas some women lowered their heads in embarrassment instead as they spat and cursed endlessly.

Mu Kui glared furiously and wished for nothing more than to charge over and bash those bastards with mouths full of shit, but when he thought of his Master that was within the room, he forcefully endured it.

"Roar!" Right when everyone was laughing from ear to ear, a roar that was like the roar of a dragon sounded out abruptly and shook the heavens and the earth. The roar was filled with supreme dignity and the faint aura of a dragon, causing the expressions of everyone to go pale instantly as a chill ran down their spines.

What a terrifying aura!

The entire inn instantly became perfectly silent to the point a falling needle could be heard, and the gazes of everyone shot up towards the room behind Mu Kui with astonishment because the shocking dragon roar had come precisely from there!

Could it be that the demon cultivator within the room is a formidable existence that possesses the inheritance of a dragon's bloodline?

The hearts of everyone jerked, and those fellows who brazenly joked about Mu Kui and Chen Xi went pale and felt uneasy. When they thought of how they'd unknowingly offended a formidable existence that was capable of emitting a faint aura of a dragon, they felt nervous and almost couldn't restrain themselves from fleeing.

Mu Kui couldn't help but sneer without end when he saw the terrified appearances of these fellows, but he was similarly extremely astonished in his heart. Why has Master made such a great commotion? Could it be that his body refinement cultivation has already advanced successfully?

Chen Xi hadn't advanced. All of this was because the trace of Blood Essence and soul within the Dragonsoul Jade Pendant contained an energy that was too enormous and mighty. After it gushed into his body, it was simply like a wild and unyielding fierce beast that went on a rampage, and he exhausted a great deal of strength before finally subduing it.

But it was precisely because it was strong that its effects were obvious and could even be described as shocking.

At this moment, the nine Shaman Markings on Chen Xi's back that were arranged according to the nine palaces seemed as if they were alive. The star core at the center of every single Shaman Marking emitted a misty divine light that interwove above him and condensed into a blurry nebula pattern.

This nebula emitted a chilly and clear brilliance that surged with tiny and gorgeous spots of light within it, and they were like groups of stars that flickered endlessly. A sharp golden colored star, a simple azure colored star, a vast dark blue colored star, a surging crimson red colored star, a thick yellow colored star... It covered the five elements, Yin, Yang, wind, lightning, star, sky, and all the other Dao Insights while overflowing with an illusory glow.

Within Chen Xi's body, the copious vital blood was boiling as if it was set on fire as well, and it rumbled as it surged within his body. Every single inch of his skin and pores seemed to have a tiny aperture that were difficult to find with the naked eye opened upon them. The Shaman Energy that originally flowed within his body seemed to have found a place to stay, and all of it poured into the numerous tiny apertures.

Body refiners cultivated the body to seek the Dao with the intention of becoming immortal. They considered the body of man to contain a myriad of tiny apertures, and every single aperture was a mysterious and vast world. When all these tiny apertures were opened, it would be the time one's body became immortal.

The state of Chen Xi's body at this moment was obviously one where the tiny apertures in his body were being opened, and his body was experiencing a qualitative transformation. Disregarding attaining immortality through the body, it was absolutely an enormous breakthrough when compared to before.

This breakthrough was the Golden Core Realm of body refinement!

Shit! The Shaman Energy in my entire body is gushing towards the tiny apertures. If this goes on, then I'm afraid the energy that remains would be utterly insufficient to support my advancement... Fortunately, I already possess a great amount of Shaman Blood Crystals now, otherwise, if it was according to my earlier expectations, it would really be possible that the situation of being unable to continue would appear, and I would stop before the Golden Core Realm in body refinement in the end. Besides feeling delighted as he sensed the tremendous changes that was occurring within his body, he couldn't help but feel apprehensive in his heart, and he hurriedly took out the Shaman Blood Crystals plundered from Ji Yue before absorbing the energy within it with all his might.

These Shaman Blood Crystals were worthy of being rare treasures that were from the essence of the earth's core. He'd only absorbed a mere two crystals and Chen Xi felt his entire body was once again filled with vast Shaman Energy.

However, in next to no time, this newly born Shaman Energy had once again gushed towards the tiny apertures in his body. Those tiny apertures were as the legends said, they seemed like numerous mysterious and vast worlds that possessed unimaginable space.

Chen Xi couldn't care about anything else, and he hurriedly withdrew another two Shaman Blood Crystals before absorbing them with all his might.

Just like this, he consumed 16 Shaman Blood Crystals before Chen Xi felt those tiny apertures that were opened had arrived at a saturated state, and he seized this opportunity to start charging towards the final barrier that obstructed his advancement!

This barrier was called 'lava transformation,' it meant that when Shaman Energy led along the vital blood in the entire body, it would allow it to become condensed to the point of being like lava.

Three days later.

A pillar of vital blood rose up like smoke to pierce through the sky and transform into a cloud that surged as it covered an area of 300 meters! Even though it vanished in the blink of an eye, yet it shocked all the nearby cultivators to the point of focusing their attentions towards it.

It was on this day that Chen Xi advanced into the Golden Core Realm in body refinement!

— End of Book Five —

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 324: Firecrow Town

Book Six – 100,000 Leagues of Blood and Death

It was a long way from Azure County City to the Capital, Silken City, being 500,000 kilometers away.

If he executed the Starsky Wings and flew at full strength, then such a distance only required three days of time to traverse.

But he didn't do so.

As the most terrifying assassination organization in the entire world, the Blacksun Pavilion's force was so huge that even the Darchu Dynasty's Imperial Family was helpless against it and could only act as if they didn't notice the Blacksun Pavilion's actions. Since they were targeting Chen Xi, they would surely have not overlooked this.

It was even to the extent that Chen Xi suspected the sky between the Azure County and Silken City had a tight encirclement set up around it by the Blacksun Pavilion since long ago. As soon as he exposed his tracks in the sky, he would surely encounter the most lethal assassination operation of the Blacksun Pavilion.

So for safety's sake, Chen Xi decided to move on land.

Even though doing this was cause journey to be more than two times slower, but compared to the sky where he had nowhere to hide, there were obviously more things that he could use to conceal his tracks on land. Mountains, forests, rivers, cities... If they were used well, they could flawlessly conceal his tracks.

There were a few tens of cities between Azure County and Silken City, and the biggest amongst them were Inkcloud City, Tracing Wood City, and Thunder City. The other cities were cities of medium scale.

The Inkcloud City, Tracing Wood City, and Thunder City were like barriers that surrounded Silken City in a semicircle shape. Amongst them, Tracing Wood City resided at the center, Inkcloud City was at the east and was close to the eastern sea, and Thunder City resided in the west and bordered the thunder sea in the extreme west.

Because of these three cities, the routes towards Silken City from Azure County City were divided into three.

Amongst them, the Tracing Wood City's route was the shortest and the safest. There were many cities distributed along the way and no dangerous places, causing most people to choose this route.

The Inkcloud City's route took second place. Its distance was two times the distance of the Tracing Wood City route, and it required going around or going through a few dangerous rivers along the way. There were many people travelling on this route as well, but all of these were merchant groups because Inkcloud City was close to the eastern sea, and they were able to purchase numerous precious treasures that the eastern sea was rich in along the route.

The Thunder City's route was the most dangerous amongst the three, and it was dangerous to the extent that it already fell into disuse a few hundred years ago, as no one was willing to joke around with their lives and set foot in it.

The reason it was like this was that the route from Azure County City to Thunder City, and then to Silken City was practically filled with dangerous and terrifying groups of mountains, ancient forests with demon beasts raging about, lands of extreme cold with whistling storms of ice... All in all, this route was filled with danger and more danger, and it practically didn't have a single safe place.

A few hundred years ago, there were still a few cultivators that felt their strengths were formidable and sought to challenge their limits by setting foot into this route that was filled with killing intent with every step. But in the end, none of them survived, nor did a single one of them successfully arrive at Thunder City before entering Silken City. So from that time onward, this route fell into disuse and there was rarely anyone who had the courage to step foot into it.

But there were exceptions as well. When some violent and wicked villains that were wanted by various sects were forced to the point of having no other way, they would step foot on this route as well, and they relied on the various dangers within it to avoid capture. In this way, they were indeed able to avoid the various pursuits against them. But doing this was actually no different than seeking death.

Because up until today, there wasn't a single fugitive that walked out from it!

But all of this was an unexpected pleasant surprise to Chen Xi. As far as he was concerned, these places of extreme danger that were covered in killing intent were indeed greatly dangerous when traversing them, but it was precisely because of this that he would be able to utilize these dangers to deal with the ambush the Blacksun Pavilion had set against him.

In other words, this route was entirely a natural life and death arena!

When battling in here, it was possible for any variable to arise, whereas he just had to properly utilize these variables, and it wouldn't be impossible for him to completely crush the Blacksun Ambush.

So when he saw these routes in the map, Chen Xi practically settled on this route with a single glance, and he decided that he would depart from the Azure County and travel directly to Silken City through Thunder City!

Half a month after the Goldlake Meeting came to an end.

On this day, the blue sky was cloudless as the gorgeous sun illuminated the lands from high above. A Crimonscale Treasured Wagon was drawn by 13 Crimonscale Unicorns as it left Azure County City at lightning speed.

The Crimonscale Treasured Wagon he rode was 300 meters in length and around 30 meters in width, and it was capable of accommodating over 100 people. This treasured wagon belonged to the Darchu Dynasty's Darchu Soulguard, and it was used especially as a means of transport to carry customers between cities. It wasn't only cultivators, even ordinary people could ride it after paying a fee.

Supposedly, there was a type of large treasured wagon, the Icemoon Treasured Wagon, that was above the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon. It was capable of accommodating 1,000 people, possessed an extremely strong defensive strength, and it was extremely comfortable. The only drawback was that it was comparatively costly. But this wasn't the reason Chen Xi didn't choose the Icemoon Treasured Wagon. The true reason was that the procedures to ride the Icemoon Treasured Wagon was extremely strict, and Chen Xi didn't want to expose his tracks as soon as he left Azure County City.

Even though the defensive ability of the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon could only be considered to be normal, yet it possessed around 10 cultivators as guards. They were members of the Darchu Soulguard and represented the will of the Darchu Dynasty, so there were very rarely any bandits that set their eyes on the Crimonscale Treasured Wagons.

After all, an action like this was equivalent to offending the dignity of the Darchu Empire, and if one dared to act in this way, one would suffer the vengeance of the forces of the Darchu Dynasty!

Of course, there was forever no lack of desperate people that disregarded their lives in this world. But luckily, there was indeed not much wealth in a Crimonscale Treasured Wagon, as the customers it carried were mostly impoverished ordinary people with empty pockets, so there were few bandits that were interested in it.

Chen Xi noticed that the guards of this Crimonscale Treasured Wagon were rather strong. All of them had experienced looks and were quite capable, and their strengths were roughly around the Golden Core Realm. With their presence, he at least wouldn't have to worry about the safety of his journey before arriving at Firecrow Town.

Firecrow Town was 4,000km away from Azure County City. After getting off the wagon, he would be able to pass through Firecrow town and enter the Gloom Forest. So long as he set foot into the Gloom Forest, it would be equivalent to stepping into the route that headed towards Thunder City.

After he withdrew his gaze, Chen Xi slowly stretched his body, and he sensed that the energy of his Divine Sense had already almost recovered to its optimum state. Last night, he'd just finished using all the talisman crafting materials he'd purchased. He'd worked ceaselessly to finally craft the seventh high-grade Treasured Talisman right before dawn, and he didn't delay in the slightest to ascend the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon without stopping in between.

Moreover, Mu Kui had already entered the Buddha's Pagoda to cultivate, so Chen Xi was now journeying alone.

"Big Brother, are you a cultivator?" An immature voice of a child sounded out by his ears, and it was extremely soft. It was a young boy around the age of six or seven in ordinary clothes who possessed an extremely ordinary appearance, and only his pair of eyes were pitch black and bright. When he looked at Chen Xi, his eyes carried dense curiosity.

This was obviously a commoner child. Moreover, the conditions of his family seemed to not be good, and it could be discerned from the rough linen clothes he wore that were washed to the point of becoming white.

Chen Xi was stunned, and then he nodded with a smile. He was able to discern that the young boy was slightly nervous and seemed to be afraid of infuriating him. Perhaps in the young boy's heart, cultivators were surely like celestial beings that were high beyond reach, were capable of commanding the winds and clouds, soaring in the skies, and all powerful.

Actually, commoners still constituted the majority of people in this world. Comparatively speaking, the number of cultivators was only a small handful amongst the people in the world. They rose to work at dawn, returned at night to sleep. They were unable to escape age, sickness, and death, and they were unable to control their own fate. Perhaps in a few tens of years later, they would transform into a pile of dirt, causing their lives to be like ants, short and ordinary.

But it was precisely these commoners that formed the boundless mortal world and the changes within it. After all was said and done, cultivators were those that broke away and transformed from commoners.

So in Chen Xi's heart, the abnormal concept that the lives of commoner were worthless and could be trampled on at will didn't exist.

Seeming to have been affected by Chen Xi's smile, the nervousness of the young boy dispersed by more than half, and he took a deep breath before mustering up the courage to ask. "Big Brother, can you teach me to cultivate?"

"Why do you want to cultivate?" Chen Xi was flabbergasted. He was about to face an unprecedented ambush, so how could he possibly agree to the young boy's request under such circumstances?

The young boy said without thinking, "My younger brother's natural talent is better than mine, and he's cultivating in Southern Cross City now. I'm afraid he'll become a celestial being in the future and I won't be able to see him again. So I want to cultivate as well. But unfortunately, my Father said that my natural talent is bad and the wealth my family possesses isn't sufficient to allow me to cultivate as well, so..." As he spoke, the young boy's expression obviously dimmed greatly.

Chen Xi was stunned and went silent. He thought of himself and Chen Hao, he thought of the decision of his grandfather, Chen Tianli, and the only difference was that he'd already walked on the path of cultivation, whereas the young boy before him hadn't taken this stride. If he didn't help the young boy, then perhaps the young boy would only be able to be like strangers with his younger brother for his entire lifetime.

Because a cultivator and a commoner were different in the end.

"This is a qi refinement cultivation technique. Carefully hide it in your possession and don't let others notice it. Otherwise, your life will be in danger. Be sure to remember this." Chen Xi smiled. He possessed a pile of qi refinement cultivation techniques in his possession, as all of them were plundered from the corpses of his enemies, and he selected a simple and easy to understand basic cultivation technique before passing it to the young boy.

The young boy was stunned and seemed to have never imagined that the 'fortune to become immortal' would descend so easily upon him. After a long time, he recovered from his shock before hurriedly and carefully hiding the jade slip in his clothes, and then he said with an excited expression, "Big Brother..."

Chen Xi interrupted. "Don't thank me. Cultivate properly, not only must you become strong in the future, you have to take good care of your younger brother and parents. Do you understand? Besides that, this is a secret between the two of us, and you must not allow a second person to find out."

The young boy nodded fiercely. "I will, don't worry Big Brother."

Chen Xi smiled and didn't speak any further because Chen Xi had already noticed that the father of the young boy had already awoken from his sleep, and he was staring suspiciously at Chen Xi.

"We'll be arriving at Firecrow Town in 15 minutes. You're getting down there, right?" Right at this moment, a guard walked over and asked Chen Xi.

Chen Xi nodded, and he acutely sensed that the expression of this guard carried a slightly strange feeling.

"Firecrow Town? My god! Isn't that the place demons gather?" Someone cried out in shock. Moreover, along with the shocked cry, the customers that sat by Chen Xi's side moved away as if they were avoiding a vicious creature, and even the young boy was embraced and brought far away by his father.

Everyone looked at Chen Xi with a gaze that carried a trace of terror, suspicion, and detest, and their gazes were unusual to the extreme.

Chen Xi instantly understood that Firecrow Town wasn't peaceful, and it was even extremely chaotic. Due to it being the one and only entrance that led to the Gloom Forest and also the entrance to the third route that led to Silken City from Azure County City, so there were naturally numerous violent and wicked bandits gathered there. The cultivators there were mostly wanted criminals in the Darchu Dynasty, and once they noticed something was off, they would slip into the Gloom Forest to avoid pursuit.

In the eyes of everyone in the outside world, Firecrow Town was naturally extremely chaotic, and it was simply the place criminals belonged.

Obviously, the 'demons' these commoners spoke off at this moment was presumably describing those bandits, and when they heard that Chen Xi wanted to go to Firecrow Town, they obviously took him to be a person like this.

In next to no time, the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon stopped, and Chen Xi walked out of the wagon right away.

"This demon has finally left."

"How terrifying! We actually sat in the same Crimonscale Treasured Wagon as a demon."

"Yeah. Supposedly, demons are able to take human form and love to eat the hearts of humans. They're terrifying to the extreme!"

Chen Xi had just walked off the wagon when everyone heaved a sigh of relief as if they'd sent away a god of plagues, and they started discussing animatedly.

"Big Brother isn't a demon! In the heart of I, Lin Hao, Big Brother is a true celestial being, and I'll surely repay him in the future." Only the young boy lay at the corner of the wagon's window as he stared at Chen Xi's figure and seemed to want to brand Chen Xi's appearance in his mind so that he wouldn't forget it for his entire lifetime.

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 325: Start

Right when Chen Xi had just walked out of the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon, a special meeting was being carried out in the depths of the Wise King's Estate.

At the innermost depths of the Wise King's Estate was an illusory space that was filled with Immortal Energy. Numerous beautiful mountain ranges stood amidst the clouds and mist. Each of these mountain ranges contained shockingly dense spirit energy, and there were 108 mountains that formed a natural grand formation.

Vast spirit energy gushed out from the mountain peaks and was refined by the grand formation to form strands of intangible and translucent azure colored Immortal Energy that drifted in the entire space.

The sky here had an enormous and extremely dazzling ball of fire hanging upon it, and it could be compared to the sun. It illuminated the surroundings, causing every single inch in the space to be bathed in bright light that was exceedingly gorgeous, and a myriad of auspicious clouds hung in the sky.

Magnificent light and dense auspicious clouds.

This space that was opened up in the depths of the Wise King's Estate was the location where the Wise King, Huangfu Jingtian, usually cultivated.

At this moment, at the mountain peak in the center that emitted Immortal Energy, the tall and stalwart Huangfu Jingtian, who wore an imperial robe with nine pythons on it and a gold plated tall crown, sat cross-legged there. As his eyes opened and closed, strands of golden colored bolts of lightning rumbled and revolved, and it was an extremely terrifying sight.

Shockingly, there were numerous figures sitting cross-legged on the other five mountain peaks in Huangfu Jingtian's surroundings. The Whitecrane Sect's Supreme Elder, Daoist Long He, the Earthly Heaven Sect's Earthly Immortal Realm expert, Zhao Zimei, the Nine Cauldron Immortal Sect's Earthly Immortal Realm expert, Chong Xu the unfettered, the eastern sea's Dragonshark Isle's Master, Mo Lanhai, and the northern barbaric lands' Skycave Mountain's Master, Lord Liu Xiao.

These five Earthly Immortal Realm experts of the central plains, eastern sea, and northern barbaric lands had actually converged at the Wise King's Estate!

"I've just obtained news that the little fellow from Pine Mist City has already left the Azure County City on a Crimonscale Treasured Wagon, and the Blacksun Ambush can finally begin." Huangfu Jingtian spoke slowly with a voice that was like a thunderclap that resounded within the entire space, and it was filled with supreme dignity. "I invited Fellow Daoists here today with an extremely simple objective, and it's to discuss how the treasures in the possession of this kid should be divided upon his death."

Dividing the treasures in Chen Xi's possession?

The other five Earthly Immortal Realm experts were stunned, and their eyes instantly burned with flames.

According to their knowledge, there were at least three Immortal Artifacts amongst the treasures in Chen Xi's possession. Moreover, he'd obtained most of the benefits from Qian Yuan's Treasure Vault, causing him to simply be like a human shaped treasure mountain, so they couldn't help but be moved by it. Otherwise, they wouldn't take such a great risk to go against Chen Xi.

Of course, the most moving of them all was undoubtedly those three Immortal Artifacts.

Earthly Immortal Realm experts looked to be wonderful, yet they actually lived with more difficulty than other cultivators. The nine waves of Heavenly Tribulations were like a sharp sword that hung above their heads and pressed down upon them to the point they were unable to catch their breaths, and it was even to the extent that slight carelessness could cause them to perish.

So for the sake of increasing the possibility that they succeeded in overcoming the Heavenly Tribulations, besides cultivating bitterly, they searched for various Magic Treasures utilized for overcoming the tribulations, and Immortal Artifacts undoubtedly possessed an extremely great beneficial effect when overcoming the tribulations and were far from something that other things could compare to.

It was utterly not exaggerated to say that once one possessed an Immortal Artifact, almost all Earthly Immortal Realm experts would be able to safely overcome one or more Heavenly Tribulations!

So to the six Earthly Immortal Realm old freaks present, the three Immortal Artifacts in Chen Xi's possession undoubtedly possessed a matchless force of attraction. Thus, none of them would easily let it go.

"There are six of us, yet only three Immortal Artifacts. Moreover, the Buddha's Pagoda amongst them is a damaged Immortal Artifact without an Artifact Spirit. Compared to the other two, it's obviously not on the same level. I wonder how Wise King wants to divide them?" The person that spoke was the eastern sea's Dragonshark Isle' Master, Mo Lanhai. This person sat cross-legged on the mountain peak in an extremely dominating position and was filled with an overbearing aura, and his entire body was like a vast ocean and flowed with blue lights that enveloped his entire body, causing his appearance to be blurred. When looked at from afar, he was like a god born from the blue sea, a supreme existence that one could only look up to.

Actually, in terms of imposing aura, everyone had their own merits. All of their strengths were around the 6th level of the Earthly Immortal Realm and none of them were inferior to the other. Otherwise, it would be impossible for them to be on equal footing with the Wise King, Huangfu Jingtian.

A trace of coldness arose in Huangfu Jingtian's heart as he said with an emotionless expression, "I called everyone here together because I wanted to hear your opinions. I wonder if anyone has any brilliant ideas about this?"

Everyone looked at each other, yet none of them continued speaking. If it was possible, they wished for nothing more than to take possession of all three Immortal Artifacts, so who would be willing to share it equally with the others?

But obviously, this would absolutely not happen.

Because to any one of the people present, asking them to give up the chance of obtaining an Immortal Artifact before them would absolutely be more serious than asking for their lives. No matter who it was, they wouldn't agree to it.

However, there just happened to be only three Immortal Artifacts, and if they were divided, there would surely be three people that weren't able to obtain one. When facing such a difficult problem, they could only use silence to indicate their attitudes towards it.

"Wise King, the Blacksun Ambush hasn't started, and that kid is still well and alive. Aren't we being a little too anxious by doing this?" Daoist Long He frowned with his white brows as he broke the silence and said slowly, "Actually, up until now, I'm still worried about one thing. We six have joined forced to entrust the Blacksun Pavilion to carry out a large scale ambush against Chen Xi. If this matter is found out by the Violet Thistle Bai Clan, then the consequences are truly worrying."

When the Violet Thistle Bai Clan was mentioned, the hearts of the other old freaks jerked as well, and their expressions became much more serious. Even though they knew that acting in this way would offend the Bai Clan, they still felt uneasy, as if a sword was pointed at their backs when this was mentioned.

"Aren't the worries of Fellow Daoist Long He slightly unnecessary? We aren't personally making a move in the operation this time, so even if the Bai Clan wants to punish someone, they would vent their rage onto the Blacksun Pavilion. What does that have to do with us?" The Wise King Huangfu Jingtian laughed loudly and said with completely indifference, "Not to mention we gave that kid a way out. So long as he doesn't head to Silken City, he'll still be able to live well."

The Earthly Heaven Sect's Zhao Zimei nodded and said, "The Wise King is right. We've specially instructed the Blacksun Pavilion that they can't utilize a force above the Golden Core Realm against that kid in the Blacksun Ambush this time. Moreover, we entrusted people with the task of revealing to that kid that so long as he's able to survive the Blacksun Ambush, the enmity between us would be written off. These conditions have already sufficiently indicated our sincerity. Even if the Violet Thistle Bai Clan finds out, they wouldn't unreasonably go against us, right?"

The words of Huangfu Jingtian and Zhao Zimei caused the expressions of everyone present to ease up. Right, that kid was given a way out of the ambush and the ambush even had conditions set upon it. Besides that, all of us have utterly not made a move personally. Even if the Bai Clan finds out about this matter, what can they do?

Daoist Long He's white brows were still knit tightly as he sighed. "Everyone, it isn't that I'm cowardly, but have any of you heard of the Blacksun Pavilion's assassinations failing? No matter how many conditions we used to start the ambush, that kid will surely face death. So long as the Bai Clan investigates slightly, they would be able to understand the whole story."

Huangfu Jingtian spoke with displeasure. "So in this way, Fellow Daoist Long He intends to withdraw? Alright, it's not too late for you to withdraw now, and all of us will absolutely not say a word. Even if the Bai Clan wants to lay down the blame, it would have nothing to do with you. But after Chen Xi dies, you won't get a share of the three Immortal Artifacts in his possession."

When he spoke up to here, Huangfu Jingtian's gaze swept the others as he said coldly, "Who else intends to withdraw? You can speak of it now, and I guarantee I won't say a word."

When it involved three Immortal Artifacts, even Daoist Long He went silent, so the others naturally wouldn't withdraw at a time like this either. Moreover, not to mention if doing this would allow them to escape the rage of the Bai Clan, merely withdrawing would cause the others to bear grudges in their hearts and take them as an enemy. The effect of this adverse circumstance would even implicate the sects behind them, so it was extremely not worth it.

Every one of them were old freaks that had lived for countless years, so they were naturally capable of differentiating this little bit of advantage and disadvantage.

Huangfu Jingtian couldn't help but laugh coldly in his heart when he saw this scene, and then his expression focused. His hand swiped out to cause a door to split open in the space beside him, and then a jade slip flew out and was grabbed in his hand.

"Hahaha, the heavens are really on my side!" After Huangfu Jingtian finished reading the contents of the jade slip, he couldn't help but laugh loudly, and then he said, "Let me tell everyone a piece of good news. According to the information sent over by the Blacksun Pavilion, the Violet Thistle Bai Clan is in transition from old to new. The new Bai Clan Patriarch is about to ascend his position and has no time to attend to other things. Moreover, once the new Bai Clan Patriarch ascends to his position, he'll converge the entire strength of the Bai Clan to establish a new piece of territory, causing the Bai Clan to absolutely not send a large force to the Darchu Dynasty in the next one thousand years!"

The bodies of everyone shook and their brows eased up when they heard this before roaring in laughter from this pleasant surprise.

"But Fellow Daoists, even though we don't have to worry about the Bai Clan sending out a large force, we have to be on guard against someone from the Bai Clan being especially concerned about this kid. So unless we have no other choice, it's better for us to not make a move personally. We'll let Blacksun Pavilion take the blame for this." Huangfu Jingtian grinned as he reminded them.

Everyone nodded, as they'd considered this situation as well.

"Alright, this kid will be unable to escape calamity, so we should discuss how to divide those three Immortal Artifacts." Huangfu Jingtian's expression went solemn as he once again mentioned the problem from before.

The worry in everyone's heart was swept away completely at this moment, so they didn't feel aversion to this problem and started speaking out in succession right away as they discussed this matter together.

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Azure County City, in an illusory space that was similarly opened up in the world.

A man with an ordinary appearance bowed solemnly and respectfully. "Seventh Leader, I've already passed on the news to the Wise King's Estate. Shall we start the operation now?"

An old man with a benevolent and kind countenance stood 30m ahead of the man. If Chen Xi was here, he would surely be able to recognize that this old man was shockingly the Rebirth Realm cultivator that presided over the number 3 combat ring in the Goldlake Meeting, Cui Shan!

But unlike before, Cui Shan's entire body emitted an extremely terrifying aura at this moment, and it condensed at his back to form into an enormous black sun, and it seemed to be extremely mysterious.

Cui Shan pondered deeply and said, "Chen Xi can't be underestimated. I watched 100 battles of his, and his strength is even slightly stronger than Young Master Zhou and Su Chan. Repeat the operation to me once more so that I can see if there are any flaws."

Jiang Xun thought for a moment before replying. "A total of 163 Golden Core Realm assassins have been deployed this time, and they're led by three commander level figures — The 76th on the Golden Core Rankings, Rose, the 68th, Crimsonfox, and the 65th, Whitesky.

"The route for the operation this time is situated in the dangerous areas between the Azure County and Thunder City. The three commanders have already led their teams in and are distributed all over the route. They're only waiting for Chen Xi to fall into the net."

"Moreover, for contingency's sake, there are another few more commanders and three 50 man teams waiting for orders."

Cui Shan nodded and said, "Good. Not to mention a Golden Core Realm cultivator, even a Rebirth Realm cultivator would be unable to escape death before such a force. Send out the instructions, start the Blacksun Ambush! Be sure to remember that you're only allowed to succeed and not fail in the operation this time!"

Jiang Xun nodded before turning around and leaving.

I originally intended on taking him into the Blacksun Pavilion to serve me. Relying on his strength, he'll surely be able to become a first-rate assassin amongst the Golden Core Realm commanders.

Unfortunately, the price offered by the buyers was too high. They want to see him in the flesh, dead or alive, so I can only give up... Cui Shan sighed lightly, and with a wave of his hand, he and the illusory space vanished instantly in unison.

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 326: The Five Great Villains

The Crimonscale Treasured Wagon had already driven off and vanished at the end of the road, only leaving Chen Xi alone on the spot, and he looked around into his surroundings, yet was unable to find anything related to Firecrow Town.

The surroundings of this place were covered in luxuriant bushes and yellow and green weeds that swayed with the wind, it was a vast wilderness, and he was entirely unable to see where exactly Firecrow Town was.

Fortunately, his Divine Sense was sufficiently strong. After searching for a while in the nearby area of a few thousand kilometers, he finally noticed a wooden plaque concealed within a bush.

The wooden plaque was utterly decayed and hung on a rotten tree branch, and it was of similar color as the weeds in the surroundings, causing it to be really difficult to notice unless one searched carefully.

Only two crooked and twisted words were written on the wooden plaque — Firecrow Town.

Chen Xi leaped over to arrive before the wooden plaque and after looking at it for a good while, he swung his hand to chop out before him. A fierce wind that was like a sharp blade shot out from his palm and swept out horizontally, and the thick weeds nearby that were as tall as a man were chopped into half.

A winding little path appeared before his eyes.

As time flows by, plants grow and wither. These weeds have instead concealed the road that leads to Firecrow Town. Actually, if I looked down from the sky, I ought to be able to find the location of Firecrow Town, but in this way, my tracks would be exposed, and it's extremely not worth it... Chen Xi thought for a moment, and then he didn't hesitate in the slightest to move forward along the path.

The sun set and dusk arose, and cold winds rose abruptly. Chen Xi dashed for almost ten minutes before faintly noticing a small town appearing on the horizon.

To his astonishment, the sky above the small town actually surged with a layer of thick pitch black mist that seemed like the baleful qi of vengeful spirits that were condensed there without dispersing, and it emitted a strong sanguinary and ghastly aura.

Supposedly, numerous wicked and vicious people are hiding in Firecrow Town, and they've committed monstrous crimes that caused widespread indignation, so they were pursued and wanted by the cultivation world of the entire Darchu Dynasty. At this moment, just from the baleful qi that's coiling around it without dispersing, this rumor should be true. Chen Xi flashed over as he pondered.

Wu~ Wu~ Wu~

Night descended and cold winds whistled, and the airflow contained ghastly coldness that was gloomy and terrifying. It was like vengeful spirits that were wailing on the ground, causing the distant Firecrow Town to seem like a ghost town.

Chen Xi suddenly stopped because he noticed an emaciated figure flashing out from Firecrow Town towards him.

This was an extremely thin young man that was thin and weak to the point he seemed like a gust of wind would be able to blow him away, but his head was huge, and his black hair was disheveled like a bird's nest.

"Distinguished guest, welcome to Firecrow Town. I'm the attendant of the Firecrow Tavern, and you may call me Qiao Sheng. I presume it's your first time to Firecrow Town, may I know if you need a guide?" This emaciated young man called Qiao Sheng smiled brilliantly and revealed a row of snow white teeth, and it very easily caused one to have a good impression of him.

"A guide?" Chen Xi asked with interest. He'd already discerned that Qiao Sheng's cultivation was only at the Golden Hall Realm and couldn't pose any threat to him.

Qian Sheng grinned as he said, "Right, a guide. I can help you get familiar with the environment of Firecrow Town. What you should pay attention to, what you can disregard, the rules of Firecrow Town, and so on and so forth. I can help explain all of it for you."

Chen Xi asked. "What's the price?"

Qian Sheng stretched out three fingers. "30,000 Nascent Condensation Pills."

Chen Xi nodded and said, "Alright, deal."

The entire Firecrow Town revealed strangeness, and he felt there was really a need to find a guide to quickly get familiar with the environment. As for the shocking price, he didn't mind it.

"Great. So long as nothing unexpected happens, a straightforward guest like you will entirely be able to live in Firecrow Town." Qian Sheng smiled broadly as he spoke, and then he started leading the way forward.

Chen Xi sized up the surrounding environment as he followed silently behind Qiao Sheng, and he very quickly entered Firecrow Town.

Strictly speaking, Firecrow Town was actually more like a village with muddy roads and tattered houses, and every single area of it was filled with a desolate and poor aura.

Under the envelopment of the night, only a few scattered lanterns were lit up in Firecrow Town, and the flames of the lanterns flickered as the cold winds blew. When looked at from afar, they were like flickered ghostly flames with oppressive gloominess.

As he walked and walked, Chen Xi abruptly stopped moving, and then he turned to look towards his right side.

Over 10 completely bare round wooden pillars stood towering over 30m away from the main road. Every single wooden pillar had a corpse hanging on it, fresh and naked corpses of young women. These naked corpses were tied tightly at the neck by an extremely fine rope, their arms bound behind their backs, and only their legs fluttered about in midair. The eyes of the naked corpses were opened wide like saucers and were suffused with a deathly sheen.

A gust of cold wind blew on these corpses, and they were like numerous lifeless scarecrows.

A middle aged man stood at the last round wooden pillar. He wore embroidered clothes and a marten cloak with a round hat on his head, and his expression was warm and amiable like a great philanthropist that was frequently seen in the world, yet he was rubbing his chin as he sized up the female corpses that had been freshly hung up.

Chen Xi's eyes narrowed slightly. The wealthy looking middle aged man's body surged with dense killing intent, and it even faintly formed a layer of a black and misty glow around him, and it was an aura of 'sin' that could only be formed from torturing countless people to death and having one's hands tainted with countless souls of those who'd died an unjust death.

“That’s Scarecrow Zhang, one of the five great villains of Firecrow Town.” Qiao Sheng swiftly explained from the side. “This person’s greatest addiction is to gather female corpses and refine them into human dolls with a secret technique. Every time he gathers 100 corpses, he would light them up with phosphorus flames, causing them to look like numerous bright lanterns that are flying up into the sky from afar, and it’s an extremely magnificent sight.”

Chen Xi said calmly, “Scarecrow Zhang?”

Qiao Sheng nodded and said, “Right, in Firecrow Town, almost everyone possesses a nickname, and very few people use their real names.”

Chen Xi didn’t ask any further, and his gaze stopped on the female corpses that were swaying with the cold wind for a short moment before continuing to move forward.

Swish!

Not long after, the sound of flowing water was carried by the wind, and it contained a dense and pungent bloody smell within it.

Chen Xi raised his eyes to look over, and he saw a bald man whose upper body was sitting at the side of the road. An enormous wooden basin was placed before him, and within it was a thick layer of dark red blood and a snow white and clean human skull floating in the blood.

“This is Skull Li, and just like Scarecrow Zhang, he’s one of the five great villains of Firecrow Town. He likes to refine the skulls of others into a bone pearl that’s the size of a thumb before wearing it.” Qiao Sheng pointed at Skull Li’s neck and said, “Look, he wears a string of white bones formed into a necklace on his neck. There’re a total of 108 bones, and all of them were refined from human skulls. Isn’t it extremely beautiful?”

Chen Xi focused his gaze over. Sure enough, he saw a string necklace with numerous bone pearls that were like human skulls that had been shrunk countless times. They possessed empty eyes and bright teeth, and they seemed to be laughing savagely.

Similarly, a layer of black and mist glow of ‘sin’ coiled around Skull Li.

Qiao Sheng greeted Skull Li before bringing Chen Xi along to continue forward.

On the way, Chen Xi couldn’t help but ask. “Scarecrow Zhang, Skull Li, who’re the other three villains?”

Qiao Sheng said with a smile, “I knew you’d surely ask. Besides them, there’s also Crimson Matthiola. She’s a woman that’s addicted to planting Crimson Matthiola flowers, but the Crimson Matthiolas she plants require using live people as fertilizer. She buries the entire person alive in the ground before opening up a bloody hole at the top of the person’s head, and then she plants the Crimson Matthiola within it.”

“Besides Crimson Matthiola, there’s also Wu Fuzi. This old man’s hobbies can still be considered to be normal. But he likes to hear the sounds of crying and shouting as he goes to sleep. So he dug a large hole in his bedroom and rears a group of living people within it. Every time he goes to sleep, he pours some vicious spirit flames into the hole, burning these people to the point that they emit shrill weeping and shouts, and only then would he fall asleep peacefully.”

“The final one is Qi Yin. His temperament is icy cold and indifferent, and he very rarely appears in Firecrow Town. Most of the time, he’s moving about in Gloom Forest and taking pleasure in fighting and killing ferocious demon beasts.”

Chen Xi nodded and said, “Scarecrow Zhang, Skull Li, Crimson Matthiola, Wu Fuzi, and Qi Yin. Amongst these five great villains, it looks to me that Qi Yin is the only one that can still be considered to be normal.”

Qiao Sheng grinned and said, “Once you’ve stayed here for long, you’ll be accustomed to anything.

Chen Xi frowned and said, “Could it be that no one governs this place?”

Qiao Sheng was stunned, and then he shook his head and said, “That’s impossible. This is a place of crime. At this place, whose hands haven’t been tainted with a few lives? If it wasn’t for them being driven into a corner, there would probably be no one that was willing to come here and suffer.”

When he spoke up to here, Qiao Sheng seemed to have realized something, and he reminded with a stern expression. “Guest, I have to warn you. You must not poke your nose into other’s business. Even though Scarecrow Zhang and the others have killed many people and are criminals that have fled into Firecrow Town and deserve death, if you poke your nose into their business, then I’m afraid you’ll end up just like those dead people.”

Chen Xi went silent. He recalled how the people on the Crimonscale Treasured Wagon called him a ‘demon’ when he left. Aren’t these villains in Firecrow Town exactly like demons?

This place was indeed a place of exile for evil.

All along the way, Chen Xi asked Qiao Sheng a few other things, and he obtained a rough understanding of the situation in Firecrow Town.

There were over a thousand people residing in Firecrow Town now, there were bandits, murderers, thieves... The only common point amongst them was that these people were wanted and pursued by the entire Darchu Dynasty, and they chose to stay here because they were driven into a corner.

The reason the Darchu Dynasty didn’t exterminate all of them was extremely simple. The Firecrow Town had its back to Gloom Forest, and demon beasts roamed freely in the forest, causing every step taken within the forest to be filled with killing intent. Even though it was extremely dangerous, it contained various spirit materials and spirit ores. If the villains in Firecrow Town wanted to survive, then they had to pay sufficient amounts of the various materials every single month. Otherwise, they would encounter the siege of the Darchu Dynasty’s Darchu Soulguard.

In other words, Firecrow Town was like a prison, and these villains served as laborers in the prison.

As for wanting to flee this place, it was utterly impossible. Qiao Sheng didn’t give specific details, but he guaranteed solemnly that every single villain that fled Firecrow Town was captured and brought back in less than three days. But when they were captured and brought back, they’d already become corpses.

Of course, Chen Xi had asked about Qiao Sheng as well. Yet never had he imagined that this fellow was actually a member of the Darchu Soulguard.

Strange!

This place is really too strange.

Up until now, Chen Xi still hadn't wrap his head around the situation before him.

But in next to no time, he put down this load on his mind. He didn't intend to stay for long in Firecrow Town. He instead wanted to go through Firecrow Town to enter the Gloom Forest before heading towards Thunder City and all the way until he arrived at Silken City.

Not long after, a spacious area appeared ahead. There were crumbled walls and ruins everywhere, and only a single simple and crude tavern stood alone there.

Not only was the tavern simple and crude, it was extremely run-down. The walls in its surroundings were covered in mottled black colored dust and half the roof already had numerous cracks split open on it, and it seemed as if it might crumble down at any moment.

A wooden plaque that was crooked and unsteady hung at the entrance to the tavern. Atop the wooden plaque was a dim and lusterless Firecrow and two words — Firecrow Tavern.

The night sky was like ink and waves of loud laughter that rumbled like thunder sounded out from the tavern from time to time. In this gloomy small town, it seemed to be bustling and lively.

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 327: Firecrow Tavern

Chen Xi obtained a rough understanding of the strength of these villains of Firecrow Town from Qiao Sheng.

Amongst the over 1,000 villains in Firecrow Town, the strengths of Scarecrow Zhang, Skull Li, Crimson Matthiola, Wu Fuzi, and Qi Yin were ranked at the top. All of them possessed cultivations at the perfection-stage of the Golden Core Realm, killed people like flies, and had extremely abundant combat experience.

Actually, Chen Xi was extremely surprised when he just obtained an understanding of this situation. After all, as far as he was concerned, since the Firecrow Town gathered the wicked and evil of the entire Darchu Dynasty, then logically speaking, the most formidable villain shouldn't possess just this level of strength.

But after Qiao Sheng explained it, he instantly understood.

Villains at the Rebirth Realm and above posed too great of a threat, and the crimes they committed in the outside world were too heavy and caused widespread indignation, so it would be insufficient to appease public wrath without killing them. The Darchu Dynasty didn't dare dally when facing these villains, as it was worried of fostering a tiger that would cause harm to the Darchu Dynasty, thus the most cold blooded extermination was launched on these people.

Under these circumstances, how could these villains that possessed cultivations at the Rebirth Realm or above dare stay at Firecrow Town?

On the other hand, the existences of Scarecrow Zhang and the others were as laborers. In the area controlled by the Darchu Dynasty, they didn't have to worry about the possibility of being exterminated, but so long as they advanced to the Rebirth Realm, then they would be unable to avoid being killed.

This was too painful to cultivators. They were unable to advance, which meant their lifespan was limited, so living was no different than waiting for death.

Perhaps this was the punishment of the Darchu Dynasty towards them. Living while waiting for death was sometimes even more tortuous than directly killing them.

In short, after he found out about the strength of Firecrow Town, Chen Xi didn't worry about his life being threatened any longer, and he followed behind Qiao Sheng to push open the door and enter Firecrow Tavern.

Something worthy of mentioning was that before they entered the tavern, Qiao Sheng had carefully instructed Chen Xi that these veterans would intentionally find fault with newcomers and show their power. So he asked Chen Xi to endure it when he should endure it and refrain from doing anything stupid.

Chen Xi neither agreed nor disagreed to this.

As soon as the door opened up, a gust of cold wind bore into the room, and Chen Xi stood at the entrance as the originally bustling tavern suddenly became perfectly silent.

Within the tavern that wasn't large were over 10 tables that laid scattered around in the surroundings, and there were a few tens of villains surrounding the tables as they drank wine and chatted. In the depths of the building was a long counter, and the owner of the tavern rested his chin on his hand as he dozed behind it.

At this moment, when they saw Chen Xi enter, the gazes of everyone in the tavern shot over. All of these villains had evil gazes and savage expressions, and when they saw Chen Xi's unfamiliar face, their expressions revealed a trace of ridicule.

"Oh, another newcomer has arrived. Welcome to Firecrow Town. But this Little Brother is really handsome, why don't you come have a drink with Big Sister?" A seductive woman that was gorgeous like a peach blossom sat at the center amongst numerous villains and supported her cheek with her hand as she blew a resounding whistle, and her pair of peach shaped eyes stared fixedly at Chen Xi while flowing with an amorous expression.

As soon as this sweet and charming voice left her mouth, it instantly dispersed the silent atmosphere from before, and the tavern became bustling once more. In the eyes of these people, Chen Xi appeared to be young with a thin figure, and he didn't pose the slightest threat to them.

"This woman is Crimson Matthiola. Do you want to accompany her for a drink?" Qiao Sheng grinned as he teased.

"A drink? Watch out or your skull will be cracked open before being used as fertilizer." In a corner, an aged voice sounded out. It was an old man in scholarly robes who held a book in his hand and possessed a sage-like air, and he was drinking by himself.

There was no need for Qiao Sheng to introduce the old man as Chen Xi had already roughly guessed that this old man was surely Wu Fuzi. Merely from Wu Fuzi's appearance, it was truly difficult to imagine that a scholarly old man like this actually liked to hear the shrill cries of living people before being able to fall asleep.

“Little Brother, don’t listen to the old fellow’s crap. I, Crimson Matthiola, only kill fellows that I dislike. Big Sister likes you extremely, and I’m only too anxious to hold you in my palm and protect you. Why would I make you into fertilizer?” Crimson Matthiola chuckled.

“Hey, which newcomer wasn’t held in your palm and protected, yet were protected to the point their skulls were cracked open in the end?” Wu Fuzi seemed to rather like bickering with Crimson Matthiola, and he didn’t hold back in the slightest as he exposed her again.

Instantly, Crimson Matthiola couldn’t be bothered to tease Chen Xi as she started bickering with Wu Fuzi, and it caused the other villains in the tavern to roar endlessly with laughter.

Chen Xi paid no attention to all this, and he arrived before the counter and said, “I need a map of the Gloom Forest.”

Meanwhile, Qiao Sheng had quickly arrived behind the counter and spoke something to the tavern owner in a low voice, and he was presumably introducing Chen Xi’s identity to the owner. After he finished speaking, he grinned as he left and left behind Chen Xi and the owner.

The tavern owner nodded and said, “I do indeed have the map of the Gloom Forest, but the map is incomplete, and its price is high. Are you sure you want to purchase it?”

Chen Xi nodded. He had a premonition that the Blacksun Ambush that targeted him had already begun. If he didn’t make the best use of his time and enter the third route that he’d planned to enter since long ago, he’d probably allow his enemies to seize the initiative.

Moreover, possessing a map of the Gloom Forest would undoubtedly be much more convenient.

The tavern owner raised his head and sized Chen Xi up for a moment before naming his price indifferently. “500,000 Nascent Condensation Pills.”

The bustling noises in the tavern instantly went silent again when they heard this, and numerous gazes stared at the tavern owner with a strange expression. They seemed to have never imagined that this black hearted owner would actually not just be black hearted, but be so absurd. He was obviously demanding an exorbitant price.

Chen Xi’s brows knit together, and he went silent for a moment before taking out a storage pouch and throwing it over. “I hope this map is worth this price.”

The tavern owner’s spirits were instantly refreshed as he nodded with a grin. “You probably know of that fellow Qi Yin. This map was personally drawn by him after wandering about in the Gloom Forest for many years. Not only does it record the routes in Gloom Forest, it even labels some dangerous places, so it’s absolutely worth this price.”

As he spoke, the tavern owner took out a light blue colored jade slip and passed it over.

“Thank You.” After sizing it up briefly and not noticing anything amiss on it, Chen Xi put it away right away and spoke with a nod before turning around and walking towards the door.

The tavern owner was stunned as he seemed to have never imagined that Chen Xi was in such a hurry, and he said in his heart. Could it be that this kid has committed a crime that caused widespread

indignation, and he's being pursued at full force? Otherwise, why's he unwilling to stay for even a moment?

"Brother, since you've come to Firecrow town, then aren't you going to have a drink before leaving?" The door to the tavern was suddenly blocked by a robust one-eyed man, and he looked at Chen Xi as he spoke with a gruff voice.

"Get out of the way, I'm in a hurry," said Chen Xi indifferently.

"Oh, it's fine if you're in a hurry, but you have to ask if the brothers and sisters present agree to your departure." The one-eyed man laughed coldly.

"We don't! A newcomer rarely comes, so us brothers are in a great mood, and we want to drink wine and celebrate. Wouldn't it be too boring if the person concerned isn't present?"

"Right, you're too rude, young man. It isn't too late to leave after you treat everyone to a cup of wine."

The numerous villains in the tavern shouted out successively as they looked at Chen Xi with ridiculing gazes, and a trace of burning greed appeared in the depths of their eyes.

All of them took notice of Chen Xi buying the map with 500,000 Nascent Condensation Pills earlier. At this moment, Chen Xi seemed like a plump lamb in their eyes, and they were truly unwilling to let him go without taking a bite.

"You've really decided to not move aside?" Chen Xi completely disregarded everything in his surroundings and only stared at the one-eyed man before him as a trace of killing intent gushed out from his eyes.

A stream of coldness suddenly gushed out in the heart of the one-eyed man, and he felt a type of unrestrainable terror. But in next to no time, he jolted awake from this state, and he turned angry from embarrassment as he stared at Chen Xi and said with a savage expression, "Are you threatening me?"

Even though he spoke like this, but he actually faintly felt a trace of uneasiness in his heart. But out of consideration for his face, he forcefully endured it, and he even thought that the coldness that gushed out from his heart in that instant was only his misconception.

This savage and loud shout of the one-eyed man instantly caused the expressions of everyone in the tavern to become hostile, and all of them pressed their hands on their weapons as they revealed killing intent.

The entire tavern was instantly filled with killing intent, and even the air seemed as if it had frozen solid.

"Little Brother, you have such a handsome appearance, so don't do anything stupid. Otherwise, you can only be made into fertilizer by Big Sister once you die." Crimson Matthiola cast an amorous and seductive gaze at Chen Xi, yet her words revealed boundless killing intent.

"It wouldn't be bad to lock him up in my hole. His shrill cries of pain will surely be able to allow me to have a relieving and nice sleep." Wu Fuzi closed the book in his hand and looked over unhurriedly.

“Unfortunately, my human dolls can only be made from beautiful female corpses, so he’s of no use even if I kill him.” Right at this moment, the tavern door was opened from the outside, and Scarecrow Zhang who wore embroidered clothes and a marten cloak walked in.

Skull Li, who bared his upper body, stood by Scarecrow Zhang’s side, and he couldn’t help but speaking in a booming voice when he heard this. “What’re you feeling unfortunate for? He would be good for me to make into a bone pearl.”

Chen Xi raised his eyes and looked towards the surroundings, and his expression still remained indifferent as he said calmly, “Alright, I’ll treat everyone to wine. How about a jug for each of you?”

The one-eyes man laughed coldly and said, “Alright. A jug of wine is 100,000 Nascent Condensation Pills. Take out two or three million Nascent Condensation Pills and we’ll have a drink happily. How about it?”

“I’m afraid you can’t afford to drink it.” Chen Xi sighed abruptly.

“Can’t afford to drink it? Little brat, once you die, you’ll know if your Uncle can afford to drink it or not!” The one-eyed man burst into rage as he never imagined that Chen Xi would still be so stubborn when it had come to this, and he roared right away before stretching out his hand to grab Chen Xi as he intended to strike first and restrain Chen Xi.

Bang!

Winds whistled from his palm as his thick True Essence carried along a ferocious aura, and it seemed like a fierce beast that roared as it charged out with the intention of swallowing its enemy. The strength of this one-eyed man was obviously extremely strong, and his technique was skilled and experienced. At the instant he struck out, he utilized his full strength without holding back in the slightest, and it could be seen from this that he wasn’t rash like he appeared on the surface.

Unfortunately, he’d encountered Chen Xi.

Clang!

A cold light appeared abruptly, and the thick energy from his palm hadn’t even touched Chen Xi’s body when it was destroyed halfway.

The one-eyed man’s eye stared wide open like a saucer as he stood frozen on the spot. In less than a tenth of an instant, his gaze turned from gloominess to shock, and then it became dumbstruck. A bloody hole had already been penetrated through his neck since an unknown time, and his blood had only abruptly sprayed out all over at this moment. His stalwart body crashed onto the ground along with this, and he couldn’t stand up ever again.

The battled seemed to have not begun, yet it had already ended.

The other villains didn’t even have the time to make a move before the one-eyed man had already crashed to the ground. As they looked at the gurgling blood that ceaselessly sprayed out of the one-eyed man’s throat, everyone was terrified in their hearts. Not even in their dreams had they imagined that a thin young man, a handsome young man that had just arrived at Firecrow Town, would actually be able to kill the one-eyed man instantly.

After all, even though the one-eyed man's strength wasn't outstanding, he possessed a cultivation at the advanced-stage of the Golden Core Realm. Before he came to Firecrow Town, he was renowned villain whose hands had been tainted by an immense amount of blood.

However, at this moment, he'd died just like this!

"I told you. You can't afford to drink the wine I treat you to." Chen Xi didn't even spare a glance at the corpse on the ground as he spoke indifferently.

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 328: Annihilating Villains

The one-eyed man's death stunned everyone present.

Even the eyes of the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng who hid behind the counter open wide with shock when they saw this scene. This newcomer young man is too ferocious, right?

The Firecrow Town was the place of exile for all villains in the Darchu Dynasty, and these villains gathered here in throngs. All that were capable of surviving here were extremely ferocious existences.

Moreover, there were newcomers joining Firecrow Town practically every single day. But all these newcomers would very quickly be dealt with by these veterans, to the point of becoming exceedingly obedient, and some that dared resist would only have a single end: death. A situation where a newcomer was capable of annihilating a veteran rarely occurred.

Yet Chen Xi had succeeded, and he'd only used a single sword strike to kill a veteran whose hands were covered in blood and possessed abundant experience before everyone could react!

But the following scene was even more shocking.

After he killed the one-eyed man, Chen Xi actually didn't hold back in the slightest, and he stomped out to launch a slaughter once again. His Talisman Armament tore through the sky like a wisp of smoke, and it pierced out with the matchlessly swift Xun Sword of Wind directly towards Scarecrow Zhang.

Since the moment he saw Scarecrow Zhang nailing the naked corpses of women on numerous wooden pillars that were exposed to the cold wind, Chen Xi had already aroused killing intent towards this person.

Indeed. These women were sinners that had fled to Firecrow Town, but on what basis did they have to die at the hands of Scarecrow Zhang that was similarly a villain? Moreover, their corpses were exposed in the wild and suffered all kinds of torture after their deaths?

The death of the one-eyed man caused Scarecrow Zhang to explode into rage. He felt as if it was because he didn't make a move in time that caused the death of the one-eyed man, so he was extremely furious and was just about to make a move to torture and kill Chen Xi. Yet never had he imagined that Chen Xi had actually struck his sword towards him, and the flames of rage in Scarecrow Zhang's heart was instantly about to explode out.

"Damnable kid! You probably don't know how cruel your grandfather's methods are, right?" The furious Scarecrow Zhang's reaction was similarly exceedingly swift. He was one of the five great villains of Firecrow Town, and his strength was at the absolute top.

When Chen Xi's sword assaulted him, he'd already dodged to the side, and then a curved blade that emitted cold light appeared with a raise of his hand before slashing towards Chen Xi's neck.

But even though his reaction was swift, Chen Xi's was swifter. The Talisman Armament in Chen Xi's hand turned, transforming the Xun Sword of Wind into the Zhen Sword of Lightning, and a bolt of lightning tore through the sky as the glow of lightning shot into the sky. The Talisman Armament shattered the curved blade that assaulted him, and then it didn't lose momentum in the slightest as it instantly tore open Scarecrow Zhang's belly!

In the blink of an eye, one of the five great villains, Scarecrow Zhang, fell on the ground and perished.

The space within the tavern was extremely small and narrow, and the battle between the two even occurred in a tiny space. It looked to possess an impetus that shocked the heavens and the earth, but every single move was straightforward, ruthless, and fatal. It was absolutely dangerous and ruthless to the extreme, and so long as one of them slightly hesitated, it would be possible for them to encounter a fatal injury from their opponent.

Moreover, Chen Xi seemed to not be just a little bit stronger. The quality of the Talisman Armament in his hand similarly suppressed Scarecrow Zhang's curved blade, allowing him to directly blast apart the curved blade with force and kill Scarecrow Zhang.

If it was a weapon that could compare to the Talisman Armament, then perhaps it would be impossible for Scarecrow Zhang to have died so fast. Unfortunately, there would never be an 'if' in this world.

At the heart of the matter, Chen Xi's moves, combat technique, and Magic Treasure firmly surpassed Scarecrow Zhang, so Scarecrow Zhang deserved to be killed in a short instant.

Hiss!

Everyone gasped as they watched one of the five great villains, Scarecrow Zhang, perish in a single move. Everyone felt as if the world was crumbling down, and it felt so unreal.

The figures of some of the villains that originally wanted to charge over froze when they saw this scene, and they were unable to take another stride, as they were already completely terrified by this strike. Where did this fellow come from, why is he even more like a villain than us?

Bang!

The tavern door was suddenly blasted apart. Skull Li saw that the situation wasn't going so well and intended to flee. But how could Chen Xi let this villain that made human skulls into a necklace off?

His figure shook and had already followed closely behind Skull Li to charge out of the tavern.

For no reason or rhyme, everyone in the tavern heaved a sigh of relief in their hearts when they saw Chen Xi leave, and it was as if so long as Chen Xi was here for a moment, they would be unable to catch a breath.

"The Soulmoon Blade in Scarecrow Zhang's possession is a top-grade earth-rank Magic Treasure, how did it get shattered instantly? Could it be that the sword in that kid's possession has a quality that's even higher than the Soulmoon Blade?" Someone looked at the pieces of the curved blade with a surprised and doubtful expression as he muttered.

"No matter how good a Magic Treasure is, it depends on the person using it. If that kid's sword technique wasn't formidable, then how could he be able to kill Scarecrow Zhang with one and a half moves? That sword technique... Just thinking about it now causes terror to arise in my heart!" Someone spoke with a lingering fear.

"All of you still have the free time to pay attention to all this? Flee, quickly! After that maleficent existence kills Skull Li, he'll surely come back to deal with us. After all, all of us aroused bad intentions towards him. If we don't flee now, then when?" Someone's heart burned with anxiety as he spoke.

When fleeing for their lives were mentioned, everyone instantly returned to their senses. Right, that kid looks like a ruthless and merciless person. We'll really be killed by him if we still don't flee...

"Ah!" However, right when everyone intended to flee, an extremely gloomy shrill cry suddenly sounded out from outside the tavern. At the same time that this cry sounded out, Chen Xi's figure had once again returned to the tavern.

He held a head that dripped with blood in his hand. Shockingly, it was Skull Li.

In the past, Skull Li was addicted to making human skulls into a necklace, yet now, he instead had his head chopped off by Chen Xi. The hearts of everyone were filled with terror and uneasiness when they saw this scene. Not to mention fleeing, they didn't even have the courage to look Chen Xi in the eye.

Crack!

Chen Xi casually tossed it out, and Skull Li's head cracked apart and exploded into a ball of blood and shattered bones before dropping to the ground. However, Chen Xi's gaze had already looked towards Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuzi, and he couldn't help but shake his head as he looked at their terrified and uneasy expressions. "Scarecrow Zhang is dead. Skull Li who wanted to make my skull into a bone pearl is dead. What about the two of you? Do you still want to make me into fertilizer or stuff me into a hole to emit shrill cries?"

"We don't dare, we don't dare." The two of them shook their heads like a rattle. Even if they were villains whose hands were tainted with blood, but when they were facing a threat to their own lives, they still seemed to be so terrified and weak.

"I'll give both of you a chance, end your own lives." Chen Xi spoke indifferently as he wasn't a softhearted person. Since these wicked and evil villains dared to offend him, then he must remove all future troubles.

"Please... I beg you Senior, give this little girl a way out!" Crimson Matthiola implored with a sorrowful voice, and her expression was sad and pitiable.

"This lowly one's crimes deserves a thousand deaths, and I had eyes but failed to see. Senior, please let me off." Wu Fuzi didn't have the slightest scholarly temperament any longer, and tears streamed down his face as he revealed extreme remorse.

Chen Xi stayed silent and wasn't moved in the slightest.

When they saw they were unable to move Chen Xi, Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuzi glanced at each other as a trace of resentment and hatred flashed within their eyes, and then they attacked brazenly at practically the exact same time.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Crimson Matthiola's white hand waved out, causing numerous blood colored flying knives that flickered with a cold light to tear through the sky as they assaulted Chen Xi. These flying knives had peculiar shapes like flower petals, and they crisscrossed in midair to form a gorgeous blood colored Matthiola pattern that gushed with Dao Insight within it. It was actually a formidable Dao Grade martial technique.

At practically the exact same time, Wu Fuzi attacked as well. A pitch black jade fan appeared in his hand before spreading open, and boundless sharp cries that were like the sounds of ghosts wailing gushed out with a bang and the waves of sound stayed condensed without dispersing. The shapeless waves of sound were like the ripples that extended on the surface of a lake, and they crushed the space to the point it shattered inch by inch as they struck towards Chen Xi.

Shockingly, this sound wave attack contained a trace of Rhythm Dao Insight!

But when facing with these successive and terrifying attacks, Chen Xi just casually slashed out with his sword, and a fierce sword qi that contained the vast and mighty Kan Sword of Water shot out.

Rumble!

The sword qi was like the tide as it struck the shore. In an instant, the mighty and boundless sword qi had shattered and drowned all the attacks, whereas Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuzi who were caught off guard were assaulted by this sword qi. Their bodies had countless injuries that dripped with blood slashed upon them, and they looked like two people who were covered in blood from afar.

Bang! Bang!

Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuzi utterly didn't have the time to emit a shrill cry at the moment before their death before they'd already fallen and perished in unison.

There was nothing in the world more delicate than water, and nothing without a strong attack could defeat it. This was the Grand Dao of Water's Kan Sword of Water. It was difficult to be countered by a strong attack, causing it to be impossible to resist.

In a short amount of time, besides Qi Yin who was wandering the Gloom Forest, the other four of the five great villains of Firecrow Town had perished beneath Chen Xi's sword.

The hearts of everyone in the tavern was dead like ash, and the gazes they shot at Chen Xi were already filled with despair. They knew that even if all of them joined forces, they would probably not be a match for this person.

Terrifying!

Truly too terrifying!

Even four of the five most formidable great villains in Firecrow Town had perished before a single move of his. Even though his cultivation was only at the initial-stage of the Golden Core Realm, his strength was really terrifying, to the point it caused everyone present to feel despair.

At this moment, these villains were simply like a group of helpless lambs, and they had a feeling of resigning themselves to their fate as they actually didn't even have the thought of struggling and fighting desperately for their lives.

The atmosphere in the tavern seemed to be extremely silent, and even the air was extremely heavy.

"Little Brother, you've already killed enough people today. How about you let them off?" Amidst this atmosphere that was oppressive to the point it was suffocating, the tavern owner that had always stayed behind the counter spoke out slowly.

"Alright! Of course." Chen Xi spoke loudly and seemed to have agreed without the slightest hesitation.

Everyone was stunned as they entirely never imagined that Chen Xi would actually agree so easily to this. For a time, they didn't know if they should believe it or not, so no one dared be the first to leave.

"He let all of you leave, so leave! What're all of you still standing here for?" Qiao Sheng berated from the side.

Everyone seemed as if they'd awakened from a dream when they heard this, then they fled with a loud clamor as if the tavern had already become a den of monsters, and their lives would be in jeopardy if they stayed for another moment.

Instantly, only Chen Xi, the tavern owner, and Qiao Sheng remained in the Firecrow Tavern.

"I've agreed to your request, so I hope you can answer a question of mine truthfully." Chen Xi withdrew the map of the Gloom Forest he'd just purchased, and he stared at the tavern owner as he said, "Is this map actually genuine?"

An imperceptible trace of fleeting panic flashed in the depths of the tavern owner's eyes before quickly returning to normal, and he was just about to speak when he was stopped by Chen Xi.

"I'll repeat one more time. I hope that I can obtain a real answer. Otherwise..." Chen Xi looked at the surroundings and said indifferently, "I'm afraid you'll have to be buried along with this tavern."

The tavern owner was unconsciously covered in sweat, his smile was extremely stiff and forced, and he hesitated to speak. He seemed as if he felt that once he spoke these words, then he would face annihilation.

"Guest, you..." Qiao Sheng couldn't help but speak out from the side.

Chen Xi directly interrupted him and said coldly, "It looks like the orders of the Blacksun Pavilion are obviously more important than your lives in your hearts?"

Blacksun Pavilion!

The pupils of the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng constricted when they heard these words, and then their entire bodies seemed as if they'd lost all spirit and energy, causing them to crash down and sit weakly on the ground.

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Chapter 329: Ambush

When Chen Xi saw the reactions of the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng, he completely confirmed his inference.

Actually, since before he'd entered Firecrow Town, Chen Xi had felt something was slightly amiss. He hadn't flown in midair and had always moved in an extremely concealed manner as he approached Firecrow Town.

He naturally acted like this for the sake of taking precautions against the assassins of the Blacksun Pavilion.

Moreover, he was confident that by relying on his formidable Divine Sense and Ripping Echo's obstructive effect towards the Divine Sense of others, even a Rebirth Realm cultivator would find it difficult to notice him.

However, it was precisely under circumstances like this that Qiao Sheng who only possessed a cultivation at the Golden Hall Realm had noticed him. Qiao Sheng seemed as if he'd expected Chen Xi's arrival since long ago and was waiting there for a long time. Moreover, he didn't seem the slightest bit surprised when he saw Chen Xi trudging on the ground and not flying in the sky.

This was only one of the questionable points, and since Chen Xi had just arrived here, he wasn't sure if his doubts were unnecessary.

But when he entered Firecrow Town and especially when he entered Firecrow Tavern and saw Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuxi, he instantly understood that his arrival was probably known by the Blacksun Pavilion since long ago. Moreover, they'd set up a trap beforehand.

Crimson Matthiola and Wu Fuzi appearing within the tavern was indeed extremely normal, but Chen Xi's Divine Sense had always been enveloping the surroundings, and he quickly noticed that after he stepped into the tavern, Scarecrow Zhang and Skull Li put down what they were doing before approaching the tavern. Moreover, they didn't enter the tavern but concealed themselves in the shadows instead.

This was a cause for curiosity. For what reason would two renowned villains of Firecrow Town be willing to stay in a dark corner under the piercingly cold winds, yet be unwilling to step into the bustling and warm tavern?

The thing Chen Xi felt was most unusual was that besides Qi Yin, four of the five great villains of Firecrow Town had actually gathered together!

A tiny tavern under such a normal night was instead capable of gathering four great villains with entirely different natures. This in and of itself was extremely unusual, right?

Chen Xi have the delusion of thinking that these four great villains had come to welcome his arrival.

Then, there was only a single reason, someone had already arranged everything before Chen Xi arrived at Firecrow Town, and they were waiting for Chen Xi to arrive before gathering the top strength of Firecrow Town to kill him!

He utterly didn't have to guess who arranged all of this, as there was no one besides the Blacksun Pavilion that possessed such great ability to mobilize these great villains to do their bidding.

But it was extremely obvious that in the eyes of the Blacksun Pavilion, these great villains didn't have much hope of killing Chen Xi, so they asked the tavern owner to prepare a fake map.

The plan of the Blacksun Pavilion's assassins was extremely thorough, and they clearly saw through the hearts of people. They'd precisely utilized his intentions of wanting to quickly enter into Gloom Forest and avoid the ambush to produce this fake map, and their objective was none other than to make Chen Xi carry along the fake map and enter into a trap where they'd laid in ambush since long ago.

Of course, all of this was the conjectures in Chen Xi's heart. But the panicked and dejected reactions of the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng before him caused him to instantly confirm that all his deductions were true!

"I heard that both of you are members of the Darchu Dynasty's Darchu Soulguard, and the materials gathered from the Gloom Forest by the villains here would be handed in to the Darchu Dynasty via the two of you. I presume that both of you frequently stow away some wealth secretly to line your pockets." Chen Xi looked at the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng who turned pale from fear, and he said indifferently, "Logically speaking, this is a great source of wealth. As members of the Darchu Soulguard, I presume the Blacksun Pavilion would make it difficult on the two of you if the two of you were unwilling to do something. So, why did the two of you follow their instructions and intend to kill me?"

The tavern owner laughed miserably. "Money moves the heart. Guest, you ought to know as well that so long as there's sufficient benefit, anything could happen in this world."

Chen Xi nodded in deep agreement. Isn't the ambush of the Blacksun Pavilion that's aimed towards me this time because those old freaks covet the treasures in my possession?

Clang!

The Talisman Armament in Chen Xi's hand emitted a low and clear cry as it revealed killing intent. Even though the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng were members of the Darchu Soulguard, since they dared scheme against him, then they could only pay with their lives.

The expressions of the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng instantly turned to extreme terror as their souls almost left their bodies. Never had they imagined that this maleficent existence still didn't intend to let them off after they spoke the truth.

"If you don't kill them, then I can bring you along to the Gloom Forest." It was at this moment that a calm and indifferent voice that didn't care any emotion sounded out from outside the tavern.

Subsequently, a strong young man walked into the tavern. His figure was tall and impressive, his expression resolute and indifferent, and the outline of his face was clearly defined as if it was carved by a blade. A pitch black longbow that was suffused with a dim and cold light hung on his back, and his entire body emitted a fierce and firm aura that was ferocious.

“Qi Yin?” Chen Xi spoke out in surprise. Based on this person’s appearance, he was indeed extremely alike to one of the five great villains, Qi Yin, who frequently stayed in the Gloom Forest to fight and kill demon beasts.

The young man nodded indifferently and said, “You’ve probably guessed it as well. The Blacksun Pavilion has laid an ambush in the Gloom Forest and are waiting for you to walk into it. They entered with the map I drew, so I know the location of their ambush, the forces that form the ambush, and their battle capabilities like the palm of my hand.”

Chen Xi went silent for a moment before asking. “Why are you telling me all this?”

Qi Yin turned around and pointed out of the tavern. Under the pitch black night sky, numerous people were standing there silently. Shockingly, it was all the villains that had escaped calamity in the tavern earlier.

“I didn’t kill them, so you want to repay me?” Chen Xi seemed as if he’d understood something.

Qi Yin said indifferently, “If they die, then there’ll be no one to gather materials with me, and if I can’t hand over sufficient materials, I won’t be able to live for long.”

Chen Xi said, “You’re afraid of the Darchu Dynasty’s siege?”

Qi Yin didn’t say anything this time and just nodded.

“Alright, I can spare their lives. But you must first answer a few questions of mine.” Chen Xi pointed at the tavern owner and Qiao Sheng and said with a calm voice, “The truth of your answers will directly affect their fate.”

Qi Yin didn’t hesitate in the slightest to reply. “Alright.”

Chen Xi asked directly. “How many of them are there?” The ‘them’ here naturally pointed towards the assassins of the Blacksun Pavilion.

Qi Yin said, “163 assassins and three commanders at the Golden Core Realm, and they’re divided into three teams. The first batch of assassins are lying in ambush within the Gloom Forest, and they total 53 people. They’re led by a Golden Core Realm commander.”

Chen Xi continued with his questions. “A commander level assassin? Do you know who it is?”

Qi Yin’s didn’t dally in the slightest, and he answered directly and straightforwardly. “The 76th on the Blacksun Pavilion’s Golden Core Rankings, Commander Rose.”

Chen Xi was stunned, and then he nodded.

After he found out that the Blacksun Pavilion would be carrying out an ambush against him, he’d found out about a great deal of information related to the Blacksun Pavilion. The assassins that served within the Blacksun Pavilion had a strict hierarchical system, and they could roughly be divided into commander level assassins and ordinary assassins.

According to the difference in their cultivations, they were divided into Golden Core, Rebirth, Nether Transformation, Earthly Immortal assassins. Every single realm of cultivation was divided into commander level assassins and ordinary assassins.

The Blacksun Pavilion had even established a few types of perfect rankings that were directed towards the strength of the commander level assassins. The Blacksun Golden Core Rankings, the Blacksun Rebirth Rankings, the Blacksun Nether Transformation Rankings, and so on and so forth.

Moreover, only assassins that were capable of being ranked in the top 100 of the rankings possessed strengths that were at the top of their respective realm. Merely in terms of strengths, they were even more formidable than some top Golden Core Realm experts in the Darchu Dynasty.

Chen Xi had heard of an incident that stirred the entire Darchu Dynasty's cultivation world many years ago.

A Golden Core Realm cultivator whose strength was supposedly capable of ranking in the top 100 of the Allstar Meeting had died miserably at the hands of a Golden Core Realm assassin of the Blacksun Pavilion in a single move. Moreover, that assassin wasn't even ranked in the Blacksun Golden Core Rankings!

In other words, that assassin of the Blacksun Pavilion was merely an ordinary assassin and was far from being a commander level assassin.

Thus, it was obvious how terrifying the Golden Core Realm commander level assassins of the Blacksun Realm were. In the outside world, their strengths would absolutely be able to be ranked in the top 100 of the Allstar Meeting.

Of course, perhaps most of them had ages that were insufficient to allow them to participate in the Allstar Meeting. After all, only Golden Core Realm cultivators below the age of 30 could participate in the Allstar Meeting.

But, all of this was unable to help Chen Xi. He only knew that the assassins that lay in ambush wouldn't have so many conditions imposed on them like the participation in the Allstar Meeting did.

53 ordinary assassins, and one commander level assassin that's ranked the 76th in the Blacksun Golden Core Rankings. This is merely one of three teams of assassins... Those old freaks have really put down a lot of money. Otherwise, the Blacksun Pavilion would probably not send out so many people. Chen Xi quickly drew in his thoughts. After he recognized the approximate force the Blacksun Pavilion had sent out, he didn't feel heavy in his heart, and a trace of scorching battle intent arose in his heart instead. If I'm able to survive the Blacksun Ambush this time, then my strength will probably raise greatly, right?

"How is their ambush distributed?" Chen Xi asked once more.

Qi Yin answered indifferently. "All of them are gathered at a natural chasm in the Gloom Forest. They have set up layer upon layer of traps and are just waiting for you to walk in."

"They aren't spread out?"

"They studied all of your battles. Especially that battle between you and the Maple Leaf City's Sikong Clan's Eldest Young Master, Sikong Hen, and the incident of you annihilating 18 Golden Core Realm

cultivators by yourself. They'd studied it thoroughly a long time ago and know that spreading out their forces will only create an opportunity for you to take advantage of." When he spoke up to here, a strange light suffused Qi Yin's eyes as he glanced at Chen Xi. He seemed to be rather surprised at the terrifying strength Chen Xi revealed during this battle, and then his expression returned to normal and he continued speaking.

Qi Yin's words undoubtedly indicated a single thing, for the sake of killing him, the Blacksun Pavilion had gathered detailed information related to him before arranging an ambush that was targeted towards everything he'd displayed in the past.

Perhaps I ought to change my style of doing things?

Chen Xi pondered for a short moment before suddenly realizing a problem, and he stared at Qi Yin's eyes and said, "The Gloom Forest is so enormous. How are they so sure that I would surely walk into their ambush?"

Qi Yin's expression still remained indifferent as he answered. "I've said it before. They're laid in ambush at a natural chasm, and if you want to pass through the Gloom Forest, then you must pass through that place."

Chen Xi thought for a moment and said with a nod, "Your answers have satisfied me extremely. Bring me into the Gloom Forest at dawn tomorrow and the matter here will be written off."

Qi Yin seemed to be slightly stunned as he seemed to have never imagined that Chen Xi who was so anxious to leave earlier would decide to depart tomorrow now. But he quickly recovered from his shock as he couldn't be bothered about all this, and he nodded in agreement.

"When I just arrived at Firecrow Town, I heard that you have a silent nature and rarely speak. Looks like the rumors aren't true." Chen Xi glanced deeply at Qi Yin before turning around to leave the tavern. He wanted to look for a safe place to rest for a while.

What does that mean? Qi Yin frowned as he looked at Chen Xi's figure that vanished into the night sky, and he went silent for a long time.

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Chapter 330: Gloom Forest

The sky of Firecrow Town at dawn was still completely overcast.

When Chen Xi arrived at the Firecrow Tavern, Qi Yin was already waiting in full gear, and he still had the pitch black longbow that was suffused with a dim sheen, causing him to seem brave and stalwart.

There were another 10 plus villains of Firecrow Town following behind him. All these people wanted to go along with Qi Yin to gather materials in Gloom Forest. They either wanted to hunt demon beasts to extract their fur and bones, or to gather spirit materials and excavate spirit ores.

The group departed before long.

Gloom Forest was situated behind Firecrow Town, and it was boundlessly vast, with tall and ancient trees. These ancient trees were extremely thick to the point of requiring seven or eight people to join hands around it, and the crown of the tree was over 300m away from the ground.

Every single tree within the forest was enormous like this, but the distance between trees was extremely spacious, and the ground was covered in a thick layer of rotten leaves. If one were to stomp on it with force, their entire bodies would be buried within these leaves. This wasn't because there was a swamp beneath, but because the layer of rotten leaves on the ground was too thick.

Due to the forest being too vast and luxuriant, sunlight was incapable of passing through the thick layer of leaves, causing one to be walking in darkness within it, and the dancing shadows of the trees seemed to be slightly terrifying.

Qi Ying walked in the lead, whereas Chen Xi silently followed close behind. The group of people remained silent, causing the atmosphere in the group to seem extremely oppressive, and only the sounds of demon beast roars could be heard in the distance, adding a ferocious and terrifying aura to the atmosphere.

As they moved deeper into the forest, the expressions of everyone became vigilant as they stayed on alert towards their surroundings. In this way, the group's speed of advancement naturally reduced greatly.

According to Chen Xi's knowledge, they'd already left the outer area of Gloom Forest and had started moving towards its depths.

There weren't any accidents that happened all along the way here, and on the contrary, the entire forest was very quiet, deathly silent. Not to mention demon beasts, they didn't even notice a single ant.

Something's amiss!

Chen Xi's chilly eyes flowed with bright lights as he looked at Qi Yin's robust figure ahead, and he fell into deep contemplation.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Suddenly, a peculiar howling sound tore apart the deathly silent atmosphere. They seemed to have suddenly drilled out from within the cracks in the rocks, and this sudden occurrence was pressing towards them with an exceedingly swift speed.

There was no need to say a word, and everyone had already stopped moving before vigilantly taking precautions.

"Watch out! They're Azure Shuttle Swallows!" One of the villains cried out in a loud voice that was filled with terror. The expressions of everyone went slightly fearful in unison as well, and they instantly withdrew defensive Magic Treasures of various colors as if they were facing a formidable enemy.

As soon as the person's voice finished reverberating in the air, over 10 fine and sharp azure blades of lights that were like arrows shot out explosively from every direction!

These azure colored blades of light were so swift they were like bolts of lightning as they tore through the sky and emitted sharp howls that pierced the ear drums, and the killing intent that assaulted their faces was piercingly cold like blades!

Pu! Pu!

The defensive Magic Treasures of two villains were easily penetrated like paper by the azure blades of light. Instantly, two fountains of blood sprayed out from their chests!

“AH!!” The miserable shrill cries of the two villains reverberated in the forest.

The others were shocked with terror, but they didn’t have time to care about anything else. Their defensive Magic Treasures had similarly suffered attacks and were shaking intensely as they emitted deafening bangs, and they were on the verge of shattering.

It wasn’t difficult to imagine that if another wave of attack were to arrive, they would be unable to escape the fate of being penetrated by the azure colored blades of lights and would perish!

Chen Xi stayed at the back of the group, so he suffered the least attacks, and he avoided them with a slight dodge, causing him to seem extremely at ease. At this moment, he’d seen it clearly as well, those numerous azure colored blades of light were actually a group of azure colored swallows.

The Azure Shuttle Swallows were completely light blue and had physiques that were flat like shuttles, and they were merely the size of a palm with their wings unfolded. Supposedly, a trace of the bloodline of the primordial beast, Driftshadow Sparrow, flowed within this demon beast, and it possessed a speed that was swift like a bolt of lightning as it came and went like the wind.

Besides possessing a physique that was like a sharp shuttle, its attacks were matchlessly sharp like a shuttle as well, and when combined with its speed that was like a bolt of lightning, the attacks it exploded out with were extremely terrifying.

Due to its extremely swift speed, and its fine and small physique that was like a shuttle, the Azure Shuttle Swallow was called a natural born assassin of the forest. It was extremely adept in sudden assaults and moved out in groups, causing its prey to usually be already penetrated and killed before they noticed it.

After failing in their attack, the Azure Shuttle Swallows obviously revealed the intention to retreat. They’d never imagined that these defensive Magic Treasures would be so solid, and their movements couldn’t help but become slightly sluggish because of their attacks that were blocked.

Every single one of these villains from Firecrow Town possessed abundant combat experience, and when they saw their companions die miserably before them, they felt shocked and enraged in their hearts. At this moment, when they saw the Azure Shuttle Swallows reveal a trace exhaustion, they didn’t hesitate in the slightest to attack ferociously at once.

They knew very well that if they didn’t seize the opportunity when the Azure Shuttle Swallows were exhausted, then once the Azure Shuttle Swallows recovered their previous speed that was like freely flowing shadows, their chances of victory would be extremely low, and there was even a chance they would be wiped out.

Sword lights, blade qi, spear images... Various fierce attacks sprayed out like a storm.

In this dangerous forest, everyone detested demon beasts like Azure Shuttle Swallows that possessed tiny physiques and dominated in speed. Because in this environment, a person would forever be unable to freely advance and retreat like the Azure Shuttle Swallows. Moreover, once their attack failed, they

would flee instantly before waiting for an opportunity to launch a surprise attack once more, causing them to be extremely troublesome and annoying.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Five Azure Shuttle Swallows were struck and exploded into a few balls of bloody mist in midair. Compared to their attacks, the Azure Shuttle Swallows had extremely terrible defensive abilities, and they would basically be unable to survive once struck by an attack.

For the sake of avoiding being harassed and taken by surprise by these Azure Shuttle Swallows on the following part of the journey, these villains were determined to completely exterminate this group of Azure Shuttle Swallows, and they didn't hold back in the slightest. Various attacks shot out explosively, causing the thick and enormous trees in the nearby 300m to be chopped at the center and pieces of wood to scatter into the air, and the scene seemed to be extremely chaotic.

Amidst this chaos, Chen Xi's gaze had always been locked onto Qi Yin, and he was like an outsider that remained indifferent to everything that was happening in his surroundings and utterly didn't make a move against the Azure Shuttle Swallows.

At this moment, Qi Yin had already removed the longbow from his back as his arms that were bulging with muscles spread open to draw his bow fully like a full moon, and with a shake of the bowstring, a shapeless arrow shot out. Every single arrow he shot was precise, ruthless, and annihilated an Azure Shuttle Swallow, and it revealed his extremely formidable cultivation in archery.

Qi Yin's body was moving during the process of shooting arrows as well, and he seemed to intentionally yet unintentionally flash towards the distance.

When Qi Yin was about to completely leave the group, a figure charged out abruptly like a ghost to flash directly towards him, and with a raise of the hand, the figure had already held onto the back of his clothes before bringing him back into the group.

"What're you doing? This is a battle! It isn't the time to cause trouble!" Being caught off guard and dragged back caused Qi Yin to be instantly shocked in his heart, and he felt a chill run down his spine. But his expression instantly became composed when he realized who'd grabbed him.

The figure was precisely Chen Xi, and the corners of his mouth were suffused with a trace of coldness as his eyes became icy cold. "This is a battle indeed. But compared to these Azure Shuttle Swallows, you're much more detestable."

Qi Yin's face sank. "What're you saying?"

"Actually, I'd already noticed you were lying since last night. With the intelligence of the Blacksun Pavilion, they would absolutely not allow an outsider to know of their plans, yet allow the outside to live. This is extremely unusual. Since you were able to survive, it undoubtedly proved a single thing. Your identity is probably not just one of the five great villains of Firecrow Town, and you're probably an assassin the Blacksun Pavilion embedded in Firecrow Town. Am I right?" asked Chen Xi indifferently.

His hand tightly gripped Qi Yin's throat, yet his eyes were sweeping the surroundings. His line of sight didn't stop at the group of people that were still battling the Azure Shuttle Swallows and instead looked towards the depths of the forest, and he seemed to have noticed something.

Panic appeared for an instant in Qi Yin's eyes before it became extremely calm, and he said indifferently, "You're right. But, you've already fallen into a tight encirclement now, and you're dead even if you kill me now."

A trace of icy cold ridicule suffused the corners of Chen Xi's lips. "I'll only know later if I'm able to survive. But, do you believe it if I say you'll surely die now?"

Qi Yin kept silent and revealed an appearance of being resigned to his fate.

"Can you tell me something before your death?" Chen Xi asked. He seemed to not be anxious to kill Qi Yin, and he seemed to be waiting for something instead.

"Speak."

"Is there any reward for killing assassins from your Blacksun Pavilion?"

"No."

"The lives of the assassins of your Blacksun Pavilion are really worthless. But this bow isn't bad. This ought to be a Shaman Treasure that's been by your side for many years, right?" Chen Xi raised his hand to grab the pitch black longbow over to his side. It was cold to the touch, and it was unusually heavy to the point it was actually more than 5,000kg in weight. Moreover, a trace of ancient and desolate Shaman Energy faintly coiled around it, causing it to seem mysterious and mighty.

A Shaman Treasure was a weapon utilized by body refiners. Unlike the Magic Treasures used by qi refiners, the refining of Shaman Treasures was extremely difficult. Moreover, it could only be refined by the body refiner itself.

Because there was only a single material to refine Shaman Treasures, the corpse of an Ancient Fiendgod. The bones, teeth, meridians, nails, and even the hair and eyes of an Ancient Fiendgod could be refined into a Shaman Treasure, and only the corpse and bones of an Ancient Fiendgod could fuse with the Shaman Energy and exert a might similar to the might of a Magic Treasure.

Moreover, every single Shaman Treasure had to be fed and nurtured with the body refiner's own Blood Essence and had to be ceaselessly tempered with Shaman Energy to remove the impurities within it. Only in this way would the Shaman Treasure attain a state of being completely fused with the body refiner and be commanded at will.

But the corpses of Ancient Fiendgods were extremely rare in the Darchu Dynasty, and it was even to the extent of being rarer than Immortal Artifacts. It was precisely because of this that 99% of the body refiners in the world didn't possess a Shaman Treasure to use at all, and it was obvious how precious a Shaman Treasure was from this.

Of course, even if they didn't possess a Shaman Treasure, a body refiner would still be able to completely crush qi refiners at a similar cultivation by relying on their bodies that were comparable to Magic Treasures.

Qi Yin's expression finally went grim. He wasn't sad about his Shaman Treasure, and it was instead Chen Xi's words that had completely shattered the last trace of hope in his heart.

He's always been utilizing the longbow with True Essence earlier, so the might revealed by it was less than 1% of its might, and he'd done it for the sake of concealing his identity as a body refiner. Thus, after he was grabbed by Chen Xi, he wasn't worried about anything. A body refiner was capable of re-growing limbs, and so long as his head and heart weren't injured, he would be able to recover to his previous state in a moment.

However, he noticed he was wrong now. Chen Xi was able to recognize a Shaman Treasure, so Chen Xi naturally knew that he was a body refiner, so how could Chen Xi not know where his weak point was when killing him?

"Can you spare my life? I'll exchange for my life with an archery type Divine Ability, and this Starruin Bow is yours as well. How about it?" said Qi Yin with a low voice.

"Don't all the assassins of Blacksun Pavilion take their own lives after failing a mission? Why're you so afraid of death?" Chen Xi replied with a question.

"Everyone is afraid of death, and it's precisely because we're afraid of death that we work hard to live, right?" Qi Yin stared fixedly at Chen Xi with a frank expression, and he entirely didn't feel that being afraid of death was an embarrassing thing.

Chen Xi neither agreed nor disagreed, and he was just about to speak when he abruptly noticed something, causing cold lights to overflow from his eyes, and then he shattered Qi Yin's heart with a strike of his palm under Qi Yin's shocked and terrified gaze.

"You...are so ruthless!" Blood spilled out from the corners of Qi Yin's mouth as his gaze revealed deep hatred, and then his gaze quickly dimmed down as his body fell to the ground.

"I want to live as well, so you must die." Chen Xi shook his head and casually took the storage Magic Treasure in Qi Yin's possession, and he didn't even spare a glance at it before abruptly tapping the tip of his foot on the ground, causing him to seem like a wisp of smoke as he instantly drilled into the forest and vanished.

Meanwhile, the other villains had completely exterminated the Azure Shuttle Swallows and hadn't even had the chance to heave a sigh of relief when they noticed to their shock that Qi Yin was actually dead on the ground!

They couldn't be blamed for only noticing it now. The attacks of the Azure Shuttle Swallows were too fierce, and with their strengths, they utterly didn't dare divert their attention in the slightest. Moreover, Chen Xi and Qi Yin were standing at the back of the group, so it was difficult for them to notice it even if they wanted to.

"Shit! That maleficent existence is gone. Could it be that he killed Qi Yin?" Someone noticed Chen Xi has disappeared and shouted out in alarm, causing the others to instantly react to this, and their expressions became exceedingly unsightly.

Without Qi Yin leading the way, how would they travel in this dangerous forest that was like a maze?

Rustle~ Rustle~

A wave of a subtle sound of the wind resounded out as the wind blew and caused the rotten leaves on the ground to move.

Subsequently, over 10 figures that had their faces covered with black cloths suddenly appeared in the field of vision of the numerous villains, and they appeared soundlessly like spirits!