

The Growth 517

Chapter 517 15: Taiping Tao

In the midst of the fragmented continent, within a remote town marked by a five-finger depression.

This is the trace left by the Sun Star Monarch after angrily battling a powerful Great Divine Power User.

The enormous five-finger impression is deeply etched into the earth, destroying all nearby mountains, forests, and Heze, leaving only a vast sunken basin.

Even after two hundred years have passed, there is still no sign of vegetation growing here.

However, because of the trace left by the Sun Star Monarch, this place has become the area with the most residual "Fire Qi."

By refining the minerals from this region, mortals can obtain a significant amount of "Fire Qi," used to improve their average living standards.

Naturally, due to the area's uniqueness, it has become a gathering place for many rebels and reformers still attempting to resist the rule of the Immortal Mountain Islands.

Especially those mortals who know about the War of the End of the Dharma from two hundred years ago, they are constantly thinking about dragging down the Immortal Mountain from above.

The one called "Skilled Hands" Bai Shasheng is among them.

Bai Shasheng was not originally called Bai Shasheng; no one knows what his original name was.

The only certainty is that Bai Shasheng was born into a mortal family.

His parents were taken away by the cultivators of the Immortal Mountain after he was born, due to showing extraordinary talent.

Conversely, Bai Shasheng was left in the Lower Realm because he did not have the slightest cultivation talent and did not have an outstanding constitution.

Abandoning one's own child to become a cultivator is not something incomprehensible in the Celestial Human Realm.

After all, as long as one can become a cultivator, it is not a problem to have as many children as desired.

Moreover, in this world where civilization is in ruins, the infant mortality rate is almost over seventy percent.

In other words, even if Bai Shasheng's parents chose to raise him themselves, he still had a seventy percent chance of dying before adulthood.

Weighing the two options, Bai Shasheng's parents considered it a natural choice to abandon him and go to the Immortal Mountain.

Of course, this "naturalness" was considered purely from a profit standpoint.

From Bai Shasheng's perspective, he would never forgive his parents for abandoning him, nor the cultivators who took his parents away.

In the current era, Bai Shasheng's difficult childhood could not be adequately described with words.

Fraud, deception, struggling to survive, theft, robbery...

The name "Bai Shasheng" emerged during these experiences and gradually replaced his real name.

With a twisted and fierce personality, possessing a terrifying aura of murder at a young age...

Even after reaching adulthood, Bai Shasheng maintained that "keep your distance" demeanor.

Yet few people knew that Bai Shasheng was able to survive partly because he had joined a secret organization early on and became one of their top technical support personnel.

Yes, in this era where civilization is almost overturned, there exists a fully structured secret organization.

This secret organization is not only well-structured but also possesses extraordinary means, with members seemingly everywhere.

Even Bai Shasheng, as an insider, is unsure about the true purpose of his organization.

Bai Shasheng only knows that outsiders who know of the organization call it [Taiping Tao].

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"Still reading those books?"

Inside the secret stronghold of Taiping Tao, Yan Xi immediately noticed the young man earnestly flipping through a book.

Using the faint glow of the talisman fire, Bai Shasheng stared intently at each character, occasionally pausing to ponder deeply.

"If you truly love knowledge, let the 'Yellow Turban Warriors' take you to Fulu Island someday, where there's an array that can help with your empowerment."

Gently raising his eyes, Bai Shasheng calmly replied in a low voice.

"Knowledge gained through empowerment is always someone else's; only the content learned and understood personally is truly unique."

As Bai Shasheng spoke, he continued to turn the pages of his book.

During this brief interlude, Yan Xi caught sight of the book's title—.

"Is that one of the new books issued by the Venerable?"

Raising her eyebrows in surprise, Yan Xi hadn't expected Bai Shasheng would be reading not the craftsmen's books passed down from the previous era, but these.

"Can you understand it?"

"Aside from those few practical parts, the rest of the theoretical books are quite difficult!"

Yan Xi didn't doubt the authenticity of the books' content but wondered if a mere mortal craftsman could truly comprehend them.

"That's why, despite being just a mortal, my status is above yours."

Slowly closing the book, Bai Shasheng stated so.

"This book addresses the essence of the world's operational rules; it's a way to comprehend the world."

"If I can understand its content, perhaps even a mortal like me who lacks any aptitude could possess power comparable to yours."

Bai Shasheng's tone was composed and calm, leaving Yan Xi momentarily stunned.

Yan Xi had known Bai Shasheng for some time now and was well aware of his unwavering nature.

Since Bai Shasheng said as much, it meant he truly understood the new books issued by the Venerable.

"It's really a bit of a pity; you're so intelligent..."

Yan Xi regarded Bai Shasheng's youthful face with regret.

She believed that if he had even a trace of cultivation aptitude, he would undoubtedly be one of the most outstanding cultivators of this era.

"Not regrettable at all."

After glancing at Yan Xi nonchalantly, Bai Shasheng corrected her.

"If I truly had cultivation aptitude, we would not have crossed paths, and I wouldn't have joined your organization."

"The Venerable needs my inner hatred to resist the Immortal Mountain and Archipelago, and I need His 'reformation' to prove my worth."

Gently caressing the book on Dialectical Materialism, contemplation flickered in Bai Shasheng's gaze.

"Actually... sometimes you don't need to push yourself so hard."

Yan Xi stepped toward Bai Shasheng, just as before, gently stroking his forehead, attempting to smooth out his furrowed brows.

"I'm different from you all; I must prove my value to survive."

Bai Shasheng's tone remained indifferent, not brushing Yan Xi's hand aside.

Since he was in an organization filled with hatred, he had to hate the Immortal Mountain and Archipelago more than anyone else.

"You probably aren't here just to say these things to me, are you?"