

Time 401

Outside Of Time

Chapter 401: Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar (1)

When the afterglow of dusk dissipated, Xu Qing's magic ship returned to its berth. Almost as soon as he returned, he received a voice transmission from his captain.

"Little Qing, how was the date? Come, come, come. I'm at the immortal pool of which discount card you gave to me. Do you want to come over and tell your experience while soaking? I'll give you some pointers with my rich experience."

"Another day," Xu Qing replied. Just as he was about to end the voice transmission, the captain coughed.

"Master is also here..."

"..." Xu Qing fell silent.

A while later, in the small hidden pool that Xu Xiaohui opened that overlooked the large pool below, Xu Qing, the captain, and Old Master Seventh were soaking in it.

Xu Qing looked at the two of them with a strange expression.

Old Master Seventh coughed and glared at the captain.

"I was meditating earlier and you begged me to come over. What exactly is the matter?!"

The captain blinked.

Old Master Seventh snorted. The captain sighed and glanced at Xu Qing with an aggrieved expression.

"Little Qing, how far did you progress with Purple Mystic Fairy in this trip?"

Old Master Seventh's expression was as usual, as though he wasn't very interested.

Xu Qing silently glanced at his master. After some thought, he replied.

"Senior Zi Xuan taught me how to play the flute."

Old Master Seventh's ears twitched.

The captain hurriedly asked.

"And then?"

"After that, we went to pay our respects to an old friend of hers, the master of that old man from the Mystic Nether Sect on Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain." Xu Qing didn't hide anything and told them what had happened on the trip.

In reality, there was nothing to hide.

"That's it?" The captain looked incredulous.

"Yes. When we returned, Senior Zi Xuan gave me the flute." Xu Qing nodded.

"What flute?" The captain was curious.

"I think it's called willow flute," Xu Qing replied.

Before the captain could speak, Old Master Seventh gasped.

"Willow moon spirit flute?"

Xu Qing was unfamiliar with this name, so he simply took out the flute.

The moment he saw the flute, Old Master Seventh's expression was a little dazed. After a long time, he expressionlessly stood up and glared at the captain.

"If you disturb me again when I'm meditating, I'll break your legs!"

The captain's eyes widened, revealing intense grievance. It was as though he was saying, 'You're too unreasonable, old man. You were the one who called me over and asked me to call Xu Qing.'

Old Master Seventh coughed.

"Alright, the matter you mentioned last time is approved."

Old Master Seventh spoke to Xu Qing as he put on his clothes.

"Fourth, now that you have four fires, the time is about right. When I'm done with my work, I'll bring you out for a trip."

Old Master Seventh placed his hands behind his back and slowly left.

After Old Master Seventh left, the captain's expression instantly returned to normal. He no longer felt the slightest grievance. Instead, he smiled proudly at Xu Qing.

"Learn from me, Junior Brother. You have to be like this when dealing with the old man. The old man has a black face and is stubborn, but he is soft-hearted. Hence, when I occasionally show that I am aggrieved, he will compromise.

"However, the old man is clearly pissed this time. In my opinion, since he knows the name of this flute so well, there's a high chance that it was given by him back then."

Xu Qing blinked. He thought of how Purple Mystic Fairy had said that too many people had given her gifts back then and she had forgotten who had given her the flute. When he thought of his master's appearance earlier, he felt that... this was very likely.

Just like that, after soaking for a while, Xu Qing also stood up and prepared to leave. Before he left, the captain lazily leaned there and let out a comfortable voice.

"Little Qing, get me another jade slip later. I asked around and there's no 20% discount here. That's a rare VIP treatment. You're quite capable."

"Where's yours?" Xu Qing asked.

"I gave it to Wu Jianwu," the captain said mysteriously in a low voice.

"I have something I want to ask Wu Jianwu for help with. You'll know very soon. Once I succeed, I'll be amazing. At that time, I might have to go out and lie low. Also, I need you to put in a good word for me."

Xu Qing wasn't surprised. He had long known from his informant that the captain and Wu Jianwu had come here many times before. When he heard this, he nodded. As for the captain saying that he wanted to lie low, Xu Qing felt that it was normal. He could roughly guess what the captain's target was this time.

'It is most likely that fang.' Xu Qing glanced at the captain and left the immortal pool. When he returned to his berth, it was already late at night. He sat down and began to cultivate.

During this period of time when he was outside, with Purple Mystic Fairy around, he couldn't completely immerse his mind when cultivating. Hence, Xu Qing planned to catch up to the cultivation he had wasted in the past few days.

Three days passed.

On the late night of the third day, Xu Qing, who was meditating, suddenly opened his eyes. A hint of anticipation appeared in his eyes as he sensed the abnormal movements in his storage bag.

It came from the bottle that contained the little black bugs that had eaten the immortal jelly.

Xu Qing took out the bottle and first sensed it. After confirming that there was nothing wrong, he opened it.

There was nothing in the bottle. Xu Qing checked his surroundings but didn't sense anything.

However, he faintly felt a strong sense of danger spreading around him.

Xu Qing calmly lifted his left hand and sliced open the palm of his right hand, causing blood to flow out. The wound instantly healed but the blood that flowed out was enough.

At the next instant, the air churned. A group of invisible existences that were difficult to sense headed straight for the blood on Xu Qing's palm from all directions. Under Xu Qing's observation, the blood on his palm visibly shrank and finally disappeared.

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As the blood disappeared, Xu Qing finally sensed the existence of the little black bugs.

After these little black bugs absorbed the immortal jelly, their concealment had reached such a level that even Xu Qing was unable to sense them earlier.

However, they were all fed by Xu Qing in batches after all. Their bodies contained Xu Qing's poison. Although they hadn't drunk blood for a long time, their instincts still existed.

After devouring Xu Qing's blood, the connection between them became clear again.

"A total of 371." Xu Qing swept his gaze across the surroundings, feeling satisfied.

However, he understood that this was only the beginning. He still needed to continue feeding them. Moreover, because these small bugs hadn't eaten poison for a long time, they were all showing signs of hunger.

Hence, the next day, Xu Qing left his berth and bought poisonous grasses from various medical shops in the main city of the Eight Sects Alliance. He had the treatment of a Dao Child and had a share of eight million spirit stones every year. Hence, his heart didn't ache at all when he bought all these poisonous grasses.

Many of them were precious and rarely seen poisons. There were also some completed poison pills. After buying all of them, Xu Qing began to feed the little black bugs.

Xu Qing originally planned to take this feeding step by step.

However, the little black bugs were clearly extremely hungry. At first, Xu Qing was worried that they wouldn't be able to withstand it and fed them slowly.

However, in the end, he simply placed the poisonous grasses and poison pills on the ground and the little black bugs pounced on them, devouring crazily.

Just like that, seven days passed. The little black bugs ate more and more poisonous grasses, and the spirit stones spent on their food every day were like flowing water. However, at the same time, the poison contained in the bodies of these little black bugs became increasingly ferocious perhaps because they had completely absorbed the immortal jelly.

In fact, if an ordinary Heavenly Palace Golden Core was bitten by them and invaded, they would die immediately.

Xu Qing could not help but gasp. He then took out the Poison Restriction Pill and began to complete the plan he had formulated back in the Nanhua Continent. He wanted to nurture little black bugs that could live in this poison pill.

However, this process still wasn't smooth. Although the little black bugs had mutated and were more ferocious than before, the poison of the Poison Restriction Pill was too terrifying. They could only last a bit longer but they still couldn't completely live inside.

However, Xu Qing was already very satisfied. This was because he discovered that this batch of little black bugs could actually devour some of the poison from the Poison Restriction Pill and store it in their bodies.

Although it was difficult for them to store it for too long and had to vomit it out every few days, or else their bodies would rot and melt, being able to do this was already enough to increase Xu Qing's combat strength greatly.

He could finally use the Poison Restriction Pill to a limited extent and use it as his trump card instead of having to use it as a mutual destruction method.

This made Xu Qing very excited. Hence, he began a new round of purchases. This time, he no longer bought poisonous grasses and poison but living ferocious beasts.

In the Nanhuang Continent, there were death row prisoners from the Homicide Department as a hotbed for him to reproduce the little black bugs. However, the department he was in charge of didn't have a prison, but the Eight Sects Alliance didn't lack ferocious beasts.

After Xu Qing tried, he discovered that although the effect wasn't as good as when reproduced in humans and nonhumans, it was still acceptable. In the following period of time, all kinds of cries and roars of wild beasts were isolated by the barrier of his magic ship.

A month passed.

Xu Qing's number of little black bugs increased from more than 300 to over 3,000. When he put them away in three small bottles, he received Old Master Seventh's voice transmission.

"Seeing that you've been buying poisonous grasses and ferocious beasts recently, I reckon you're refining poison again. How's the refining going now? If there's no hurry, I'll bring you out for a trip and get a Golden Core cultivation art for you. At the same time, let's see if we can fish."

"Many people know about your two life lanterns. Regardless of whether it's the Soaring Cloud Sword Sect or some malice from the outside world, this trip will attract a wave of them. We will destroy them. This way, you'll be able to have a more comfortable time when you go out in the future."

Old Master Seventh had told Xu Qing about this before. Xu Qing simply nodded.

At the same time, in the northern part of the Yinghuang Province, at the end of the Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain, it was a stretch of white. Snow permeated the air, and the chill was bone-piercing. Not only was the mountain covered in snow all year round, but the ground was even more so.

The living environment here was extremely harsh and unsuitable for mortals to survive. Only at the periphery would there be some small mortal countries, and almost none in the depths of the icy plains.

However, there was a huge pillar that seemed to support the world standing in the extreme north.

This pillar was pitch-black and the blizzard couldn't do anything to it.

This pillar was ten thousand feet thick but its height remained unknown.

Countless runes and patterns were carved on it, emitting an indescribably vast might.

It could make everyone who saw it feel a sense of reverence.

It also emitted a monstrous battle intent that contained incomparable cruelty, as though it could destroy everything.

This was the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar!

There were countless domed tents around the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. There were hundreds of thousands of them, forming a special city structure.

There were no mortals among them, only cultivators from all directions. They gathered here and cultivated around the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar.

The pillar was mystical. If the fluctuations it emitted were sensed by others for a long time, they would form a divine talisman that contained battle intent in their minds. Through this talisman, one could temper their will and increase their cultivation.

Also... this Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar contained countless inheritances. Anyone could climb it at any time. The higher they went, the greater the inheritance they would benefit from.

Hence, it formed the sixth major faction in the Yinghuang Province.

Of course, there was another more important reason. That was... this place was the location of the Sword Holding Court in the Yinghuang Province.

The Sword Holding Court was built at the highest point of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar. Beyond the countless clouds, in the sky and at the end of the pillar, there was a palace.

This palace was different from the others. It wasn't made of bricks or beautiful jade but swords. Countless swords intertwined to form this sword palace.

Between the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar and the palace, it was as though the former supported the latter, but also as though... the latter was suppressing the former.

This feeling wasn't clear from the ground level, but in here, one could faintly see the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar shaking slightly. It was as though someone was summoning it, causing it to want to rise from the ground.

However, it was suppressed by the Sword Palace and could only tremble, unable to move at all.

At that moment, in the Sword Palace, there was a discussion between the mighty figures of the Sword Holding Court.

There were a total of nine cultivators participating in this meeting. They were all wearing white robes and their appearances couldn't be seen clearly. However, every one of them emitted terrifying energy. Occasionally, their eyes that were revealed would reveal supreme might.

It was as though the nine of them could completely decide the life and death of a sect.

The nine of them were the highest-level Sword Holders of the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court. Even the powerful Grand Affairs Immortal Sect had no choice but to listen and cooperate with their edicts in name.

This was because they represented the human race. They were one of the human race's Upper Mystic Five Ministries, the Sword Holding Ministry.

Behind them was the ancient country left behind by Ancient Sovereign Mystic Nether in the Grand Imperial Capital Region. Even though the human race, which once ruled Wanggu, was in decline and only a region and seven counties remained as its territories, it was still one of the large races.

There was still... the human emperor.

At that moment, a voice echoed in the Sword Holding Court.

"This meeting is for two things. Firstly, the new round of the Sword Holder Assessment is about to begin. An edict came from the Sword Holding Palace in Fenghai County. With the arrival of the great era, the heaven's chosens are appearing frequently in all races. It's a crisis but also an opportunity. Let the various provinces' Sword Holding Courts raise the threshold of this entrance assessment. The Sword Holders only want outstanding heaven's chosens."

"The second thing is that in recent years, the tremors of the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar have become increasingly intense. There's a reply to our report. The deductions made by the county's Sword Holding Palace are the same as our judgment. That Ghost Lord from the Yinghuang Province shows signs of recovery. The palace asked us to deal with this matter as soon as possible."

"No wonder in recent years, the cultivation of the Three Spirits Suppression Mountain and the Nanyue's Seven Fiends, formed by the three souls and seven spirits of the Ghost Lord, has advanced by leaps and bounds."

"This matter will be carried out according to our previous discussion. The revival of this Ghost Lord requires the return of three souls and seven spirits. Suppressing one spirit isn't of much use, so we need to suppress one soul and bring it here."

"This way, the Ghost Lord will have a flaw and it will be difficult for him to wake up."

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Chapter 403: Bizarre Entity Item

Early in the morning, Xu Qing controlled the concealed magic ship and whistled out.

His speed was so fast that he instantly left the main city.

At the start, he took the path of the Immortal Enrichment River, but the magic ship quickly changed directions and distanced itself from the Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain, rushing in the direction of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect.

"Brother Xu Qing, this is the first time I've gone out since I came to the Yinghuang Province. If there's anything that I have to know, please tell me." On the magic ship, Ding Xue's pretty face was flushed red. Under her curly eyelashes, her bright eyes blinked gently as she spoke.

After that, she took out a roll of spirit stone tickets worth 100 spirit stones. There were about 20 to 30 of them and she handed them to Xu Qing.

Xu Qing instinctively took them and glanced at Ding Xue in front of him.

Ding Xue calmly puffed out her small chest.

Today, Ding Xue was wearing a purple dress with a red flowing cloud silk at her waist. Her long hair draped over her shoulders and she carried an ancient sword on her back. Although she didn't look as soul-stirringly charming as Purple Mystic Fairy, her youthful aura and her rosy face caused her to be filled with beauty and vitality from the inside out.

Under the restraint of the flowing cloud silk, her waist gave off an even more delicate feeling. Moreover, the obedience on her face and the spirit stones she had given Xu Qing under the premise of respect for knowledge in the past allowed Xu Qing to accept Ding Xue following him.

Old Master Seventh didn't follow him on this trip.

Since he was fishing, he naturally had to hide himself. Only then could he let the fish take the bait. In order to make it more realistic, or maybe it was because Ding Xue had gotten wind of this through her aunt, this trip turned to Ding Xue and Xu Qing moving together.

Their mission was to investigate the bizarre things that had happened recently in a small country that had chosen to rely on the Seven Blood Eyes.

In addition, Xu Qing also understood that Old Master Seventh had the intention of letting him bring Ding Xue along. After all, in this chaotic world, although Ding Xue's cultivation had broken through to the Foundation Building realm, she hadn't formed her first life fire yet.

Moreover, her temperament needed some training.

The best training was to personally see the misery of the world.

The only thing that surprised Xu Qing was that he didn't see Zhao Zhongheng.

However, he didn't ask. Instead, he retracted his gaze from Ding Xue and calmly spoke.

"Yinghuang Province isn't like the Nanhuang Continent. It's very dangerous outside, you have to be careful. Also, don't touch the things on the ship. They're poisonous."

Xu Qing was calm when facing Xu Qing. After he finished speaking, he closed his eyes and sat down to meditate. His face and aura had been disguised.

Although Old Master Seventh wanted to fish, it would be too fake if he didn't try to disguise himself.

Ding Xue hurriedly nodded. Her heart was filled with excitement and smugness. For this trip, she had fawned over her aunt for a long time before she obtained this opportunity.

Seeing that Xu Qing was cultivating, she obediently didn't disturb him. Instead, she sat cross-legged at the side and looked at the surrounding scenery. Occasionally, her beautiful eyes would sweep past Xu Qing.

Even though Xu Qing had disguised his appearance, her mind could automatically recall Xu Qing's appearance. When she thought of that extremely delicate face that was almost demonic, her pretty face would blush.

Even when she arrived at the main city of the Eight Sects Alliance and saw so many people, she felt that no one could compare to Xu Qing in terms of appearance.

This made her desire to conquer Xu Qing even more intense and firm.

Time flowed by and three days passed.

During these three days, Xu Qing and Ding Xue's interactions were scarce. He was cultivating and Ding Xue was looking at him. Every time Xu Qing opened his eyes, Ding Xue would take out some pills and hand them over with spirit tickets and questions. She looked like she was very eager to learn.

Xu Qing felt that this way of interaction was very good. Hence, after tasting the pills, he guided Ding Xue attentively according to the knowledge he had.

Ding Xue listened seriously every time, and her eyes revealed admiration. From time to time, her words would contain some softness. When it landed in one's ears, it made one feel very comfortable and want to continue talking.

This was something Ding Xue didn't possess in the past. After Xu Qing sensed it, he couldn't help but take a few more glances at Ding Xue.

Ding Xue was secretly delighted. This was what her aunt had taught her.

At the same time, she kept observing the sky, searching for an opportunity. Just like that, another seven days passed.

Finally, Ding Xue got the weather she wanted.

That night, thunder rumbled, lightning filled the air, and heavy rain poured down.

Ding Xue's countenance was a little pale. The place she was sitting wasn't far from Xu Qing but it wasn't close either. Every time lightning rumbled, her body would tremble slightly.

Xu Qing opened his eyes and looked at Ding Xue.

"Brother Xu Qing, because my father and mother weren't by my side since I was young, I hid in a corner alone every time it thundered. Although I'm a cultivator, I still have some instinctive fear of thunder and lightning, especially during rainy nights. However, it's fine. I can endure this. Brother Xu Qing, you can continue cultivating."

Ding Xue's voice was very soft. In the end, she muttered weakly.

"I'm already used to it." As she spoke, she curled up in the corner of the bow, looking pitiful.

Xu Qing thought about it and took out a wine gourd, handing it to Ding Xue.

"Ah?" Ding Xue was stunned.

"Drink a little and you'll feel warmer."

Ding Xue hesitantly took it. She looked at the wine gourd in her hand and then at the calm Xu Qing. She gritted her teeth and directly drank a large mouthful.

She drank it too quickly and couldn't help but cough. However, at the next instant, a pill flew over.

"This pill stops coughing."

Ding Xue was at a loss. After a long time, she took the pill and looked at Xu Qing pitifully. At that moment, thunder rumbled and her body trembled.

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever. He looked at the lightning outside and listened to the thunder and the sound of the rain. For some reason, he thought of the same rainy night a month ago, the same ship, and the valiant figure sitting on the railing.

After a while, amidst the rumbling thunder, Xu Qing took out the willow flute and blew it gently. The leisurely sound of the flute rose and fell on the magic ship and drifted between the heavens and the earth. The rumbling thunder seemed to slowly become a drumbeat, accompanying the flute's sound.

That flute sound contained the aura of the martial world and also the thoughts in Xu Qing's heart. When it rang out, Ding Xue's eyes were dazed.

She stared blankly at Xu Qing, at the figure in the purple Daoist robe, at the emerald-green flute under his sword-like brows and starry eyes. Time seemed to have frozen in her world at this moment.

At some point in time, the flute music ended. At some point in time, dawn broke in the outside world and the thunderstorm stopped.

"Brother Xu Qing, what's the name of this tune?" Ding Xue took a deep breath and regained her senses as she mumbled.

Xu Qing shook his head and didn't answer. He stood up and looked at the ground where the first rays of the morning sun scattered down. There was a small country there that was reflected in his eyes.

That was their destination for this trip.

Mind Eye Country.

This was a small human country. Originally, it didn't rely on any forces until the Seven Blood Eyes arrived. The former king of the country was an elder of the Seven Blood Eyes a few generations ago. His talent caused him to be taken by the Alliance and he was not allowed to return to the Seven Blood Eyes.

When he was old and dying, he chose to settle down here and founded this small country. Even until the moment he passed away, he could not return to the Seven Blood Eyes.

The Seven Blood Eyes naturally attached great importance to the matters of this country.

They had originally planned to arrange for a two fires disciple to come and deal with it. However, because Old Master Seventh wanted to bring Xu Qing out, they simply handed this matter to Xu Qing.

Under the morning light, smoke rose from the houses of the commoners of this small country. The scene looked peaceful. It could be considered one of the few safe countries.

The reason for this was because of the protective array formation in the surroundings set up by the Seven Blood Eyes' elder who founded this country. This array formation made it difficult for cultivators below the Golden Core realm to enter without permission.

However, it was obvious that there should have been a flaw in the array formation of this small country recently, resulting in the appearance of the bizarre entity.

Xu Qing had read the dossier before he came. He knew that twenty days ago, 49 people in this country had turned into dried corpses and walked into the city square on their own. There, they set up array formations and waited for hours before dying.

After the country came under the Seven Blood Eyes, the Seven Blood Eyes arranged for a Foundation Building disciple of the Sixth Peak to be on duty here. Although this disciple didn't have a life fire, he was

definitely not someone ordinary rogue cultivators could go against. After his investigation, he quickly found the culprit and killed him.

However, ten days ago, the same scene appeared again. The culprit was still the same person.

At this point, that Sixth Peak disciple knew that this was definitely the work of a bizarre entity, so he reported it to the sect and asked the sect to send someone over in ten days. He analyzed that it would happen again in ten days.

The day Xu Qing arrived was the tenth day.

After he arrived, he didn't inform the king of this small country or the disciple of the Sixth Peak. Instead, he controlled the magic ship to fly out of the range of this small country. Only after he had flown far away did he quietly bring Ding Xue off the magic ship. He hid his tracks all the way and strolled around the capital of this small country.

Everything in sight here was ordinary. Because of the existence of the array formation in the surroundings, they looked much better off than the people Xu Qing had seen in the past.

Although their bodies also had anomalous substances, it wasn't to the extent where one's entire body was rotting, greenish-black, and on the verge of mutation. Moreover, there were many pedestrians on the streets and most of them were moving around happily.

Ding Xue looked around curiously.

She had never been to such a small human country but she wasn't stupid. She also understood this world from the dossiers and knew that they were going to look for the bizarre entity now. Hence, she didn't disturb Xu Qing and followed closely behind him.

Xu Qing walked on the streets. Outsiders couldn't see his figure. This was the effect of a low-level invisibility talisman in the Alliance. Unless one's cultivation had reached the Foundation Building realm, they wouldn't be able to sense the energy fluctuations of the invisibility talisman.

Just like that, two hours passed. Xu Qing walked one round around the small country and finally stopped in front of a house. He lowered his head and looked at his shadow. The shadow sent its emotions, saying that it sensed a bizarre entity here.

This mission might be difficult for others but to Xu Qing, it was very simple. He didn't hesitate to directly enter the residence. The instant he entered, a cold wind blew at his face.

Xu Qing didn't need to do anything. The shadow suddenly spread out and swallowed fiercely. The cold wind instantly landed in the shadow's mouth. As the sound of chewing rang out, the bizarre entity in this place disappeared.

After that, Xu Qing stood on the spot and waited silently. After a long time, he raised his brows. The message from the shadow told him that it had discovered a bizarre entity again in another place.

"Could it be the Bizarre Fiend Race again?" Xu Qing fell silent and brought Ding Xue, who was waiting outside the door, to the place pointed out by the shadow. There, he sensed the aura of a bizarre entity. Very soon, the bizarre entity disappeared in the shadow's mouth.

"...Not... one... treasure... child..."

As the shadow chewed, it emitted its emotions. Xu Qing frowned and the Diamond Sect's ancestor quickly transmitted his voice.

"Master, what Little Shadow means is that this isn't the same bizarre entity but two different ones. Their taste is different from the Bizarre Fiend Race, so this shouldn't be the Bizarre Fiend Race. It thinks that this is more like a bizarre entity produced by an item."

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Chapter 404: The Ancestor's Contribution

"Item?" Just as Xu Qing was thinking, clear fluctuations continued to spread out from the shadow.

"Mas... wait... contrib..."

This time, there was no need for the Diamond Sect's ancestor to translate. Xu Qing could roughly understand the shadow's thoughts. This was telling him to wait a moment. It could complete this matter and make a contribution.

Xu Qing nodded.

"Master, Little Shadow is still young after all. I think it's better for me to follow it and take a look." Seeing that the shadow was anxious to make a contribution, the Diamond Sect's ancestor felt an intense sense of danger and hurriedly transmitted his voice to Xu Qing.

Xu Qing also agreed. Hence, at the next instant, his shadow directly disappeared from the ground. The black iron stick also flew out and left in the blink of an eye.

Xu Qing sat cross-legged on the roof and waited silently. Ding Xue blinked. She couldn't see the shadow. As for the speed of the black iron stick, it was already comparable to that of a two fires. Hence, in Ding Xue's eyes, it was also undetectable.

However, seeing that Xu Qing had sat down, she obediently sat at the side. She took out a box of snacks and placed it beside Xu Qing.

Xu Qing glanced at Ding Xue.

"Brother Xu Qing, this is a snack I made myself. I don't know how it tastes. I plan to make it for my aunt, uncle-in-law, and grandfather after I practice more. Could you try it first and give me some pointers?"

As Ding Xue spoke, she handed over a spirit ticket with great familiarity.

Xu Qing spread out his perception in the surroundings. Although he couldn't sense his master, he felt that there was a high chance that his master was paying attention to him. Hence, he didn't take the spirit ticket stones but picked up a snack and took a bite.

"Not bad."

Ding Xue was quite happy. She sat there and looked around as she spoke in a low voice.

"Brother Xu Qing, when are we going to capture that bizarre entity? I saw that the killing time mentioned in the dossier is about to arrive..."

"I'm already capturing it." Xu Qing calmly spoke and looked into the distance.

At that moment, in the city, the Diamond Sect's ancestor was originally following the shadow. However, the shadow clearly didn't like the Diamond Sect's ancestor, so it quickly hid.

"Brat Shadow, do you really think I'm trying to steal your credit? This time, I'll let you see how powerful I am." The Diamond Sect's ancestor snorted coldly. After changing directions, he actually transformed into a human form. Moreover, his clothes changed and he looked no different from the commoners here. He entered the crowd and disappeared.

Just like that, time passed bit by bit. The shadow spread extremely quickly and discovered one bizarre entity after another. It basically pounced over and devoured them in an instant.

However, after one bizarre entity died, another would appear. Moreover, the places where they appeared were irregular. It was more like they appeared out of thin air, as though they could never be completely killed.

However, the effect was very obvious. Even when dusk fell, the deaths that should have happened today didn't occur.

As the moonlight descended, the number of bizarre entities increased. It was as though they wouldn't stop until they completed today's massacre. In the end, Xu Qing, who was sitting on the roof, also revealed a hint of solemnity in his eyes.

He looked at the small country under the night sky and could clearly sense the chill that was rapidly rising in this small country. The shadow was also extremely busy at this moment, constantly devouring a large number of bizarre entities that had appeared.

"My interference caused a new change in this bizarre entity..." As Xu Qing mumbled, Ding Xue, who was at the side, also sensed that the atmosphere wasn't right. Just as she was feeling a little nervous, a black light instantly arrived and floated in front of Xu Qing, transforming into a black iron stick.

A wisp of divine sense rapidly entered Xu Qing's mind.

"Master, I found the source. After all, Little Shadow is still young and only knows how to use violence. It has no way of knowing that such a bizarre entity that keeps appearing after being killed would be more stimulated after every death. If we want to destroy it, we have to find the source."

"The source is usually extremely secretive and it's impossible for there to be recent clues. They are usually hidden in some trivial matters that happened many days ago.

Hence, I changed my identity many times to investigate if anything strange had happened here in the past few years. In the end, I found out that two years ago, a doctor came to this country. His medical skills were superb and he had a characteristic when practicing medicine. He would give patients a small mirror and let them place it at the head of the bed."

When Xu Qing heard this, his eyes narrowed.

"Then how long has the doctor been here and how many people have placed this mirror?"

"Master, I've investigated these clearly. This doctor practiced medicine in this small country for three months before he left. At that time, our Seven Blood Eyes hadn't come to the Alliance, so the disciple guarding this place didn't know about this."

"I visited a few families who hung the small mirrors. Speaking of which, it's quite interesting. If a cultivator looked at this small mirror, they would probably not find any clues. Of course, Master is a different matter."

"As for me, I've been influenced by Master for many years, so I'm naturally knowledgeable. I discovered a trace of an artifact spirit on them."

Xu Qing glanced at the Diamond Sect's ancestor.

"I understand. I followed this trail and searched around again. Finally, I saw a mirror hanging under the roof of a wealthy family. It should be the main item."

"If my judgment isn't wrong, then the doctor must be an evil cultivator. He used this method to nourish this mirror. Moreover, he couldn't have placed such a treasure far away from him, so this evil cultivator must be hiding not far away from this country so that he can observe and take away the treasure."

Xu Qing was about to speak.

"I understand. Hence, I went out again to search for a suitable place. In the end, I discovered a small mountain. That's the best place to observe this small country. There are hidden cultivation base fluctuations on the mountain and there are cultivators inside. They should have fallen into some kind of sleeping state because of some cultivation arts. I didn't enter to investigate so that the enemy wouldn't be alerted."

The Diamond Sect's ancestor didn't say a word about taking credit. However, all his actions made Xu Qing sigh with emotion that the other party was very comprehensive in his actions. He looked at this country where bizarre entities were appearing everywhere. Although the shadow was also trying its best to devour them, the situation was clearly getting more and more chaotic.

"Consider it a contribution!" Xu Qing transmitted his divine sense.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor immediately became excited and the black iron stick trembled. During this period of time, he didn't dare to speak. Little Shadow's special ability allowed it to shine brightly, surpassing him to become the new aide of the master. He was worried that if he said something wrong, he would be casually sacrificed by Demon Xu.

At this moment, with this contribution, he felt a little more at ease.

"Lead the way." Xu Qing transmitted his divine sense. The black iron stick buzzed and flew straight ahead.

Xu Qing leaped up and followed. Although Ding Xue didn't know what had happened, she could tell that Xu Qing's expression was murderous. Hence, she hurriedly kept the snack box and followed behind like a little girl.

Very soon, Xu Qing arrived at the residence of the wealthy family. He spread out his perception and didn't discover any cultivation fluctuations here, so he didn't disturb them. Instead, he headed straight for the mirror. After he got close, he could tell at a glance that this mirror was a little strange.

There were no anomalous substances on it but when the wind blew over, Xu Qing's eyes felt an intense piercing pain. However, at the next instant, the life lanterns in his body burned and the canopy's protective barrier spread out, allowing his eyes to recover.

Xu Qing's expression changed. He felt a piercing pain even with his current combat strength and powerful body. This was enough to show how extraordinary this small mirror was. He suddenly grabbed.

The small mirror emitted an intense struggle. It instantly broke through Xu Qing's grabbing force and headed straight for the sky.

However, in the blink of an eye, Xu Qing's figure had already appeared in the air. The four balls of life fire and two life lanterns in his body suddenly spread out and the seven fires' combat strength fused into his palm as he pressed down on the small mirror.

Facing such combat strength, the small mirror was unable to resist no matter how it struggled. Xu Qing grabbed it and his divine sense surged in, directly sealing it. At the same time, the mirror in front of the bed of hundreds of families in this small country shattered in unison.

The bizarre entities that were appearing all over the country also disappeared.

At the same time, at the top of the short mountain outside the small country, a rainbow suddenly flew out of a hidden cave abode. In the rainbow was a white-haired old man with a sinister expression. One could see layers of skin flakes on his exposed skin, as though he was molting.

It was obvious that he hadn't finished shedding his skin yet. His cultivation of one Heavenly Palace Golden Core Realm still spread out valiantly. He looked at the small country and let out a low shout.

"Brat, you dare to ruin this old man's plan!"

His voice spread in all directions like heavenly lightning, causing the entire small country to tremble. Xu Qing's cold gaze swept past as he rushed out rapidly, heading straight for the mountain the old man was on.

His speed was so fast that the expression of the Golden Core old man couldn't help but change. When his heart skipped a beat, Xu Qing had already arrived in front of him.

The instant they came into contact, the mountain quaked. The wind and clouds churned violently and a rumbling sound echoed through the world. At the next instant, the old man's body trembled and he spat out a mouthful of blood. His body was blasted back by a huge force and he smashed into the small mountain.

As the small mountain collapsed and rubble fell, the old man's expression revealed horror and disbelief.

"Such combat strength..."

Xu Qing's expression was calm and his eyes were cold. He would not be able to fight two Heavenly Palaces Golden Core cultivator, but if it was just a Heavenly Palace, it would be easy for him, a seven fires cultivator, to suppress the enemy.

The old man clearly sensed this as well. As he spat out blood, he didn't hesitate to retreat. He even cast an evil technique and transformed into a blood shadow, increasing his speed explosively.

The Golden Crow appeared behind Xu Qing. As the Golden Crow let out a cry and the old man's pupils contracted, Xu Qing's speed became even faster as he gave chase.

"You're Xu Qing from the Eight Sects Alliance!!"

The old man's scalp went numb. Seeing the Golden Crow, he recognized Xu Qing's identity. Xu Qing instantly caught up and punched out, but it was blocked by a Heavenly Palace.

However, in an instant, the Heavenly Palace collapsed, revealing the shriveled golden core inside. The Golden Crow let out a cry and devoured it.

The old man let out a pained cry and spat out a mouthful of blood. Xu Qing's right hand was already pressed on the top of his head with dense fiendish fire. As he pressed down, the fiendish fire instantly enveloped the old man's entire body.

A blood-curdling scream rang out!

The difference between rogue cultivators and sect cultivators was extremely great, let alone the fact that this old man had only used three balls of life fire to advance to the Golden Core realm. From the foundation, aptitude, and cultivation arts, the difference between him and Xu Qing was like heaven and earth.

At that moment, as the fiendish fire permeated the air, a wisp of soul was extracted and continued to fuse into Xu Qing's body. This person would be the first soul Xu Qing suppressed in his magic aperture.

However, just as Xu Qing was extracting the soul, his expression suddenly changed. Thunder rumbled in the surroundings and seven to eight figures in the clouds rapidly approached Xu Qing with greed.

There was also a vast body that appeared in the world. The three Heavenly Palaces behind the figure shone with a shocking light, causing the face to reveal a hint of holiness.

"Xu Qing, you finally left the Eight Sects Alliance."

Outside Of Time

Chapter 405: Master, Save Me (1)

Xu Qing didn't know if these people were the companions of the old man he had killed.

He couldn't see any clues from their clothes. Regardless of whether it was the seven speeding figures or the Golden Core middle-aged man with three palaces, they were all unfamiliar.

However, after a simple analysis, Xu Qing felt that these people weren't the companions of the old man. It was more like they had been lying in ambush here, waiting for him to appear.

Moreover, they probably waited for a while to confirm that he had no Dao Protectors around.

To be able to do this, they had to accurately grasp his whereabouts.

Only the people from the Alliance could easily investigate his whereabouts.

Otherwise, with him making the trip in disguise, even if he was seen, it was impossible for others to know the destination of the mission.

'Was this spread by the Soaring Cloud Sword Sect?' Xu Qing immediately retreated.

However, although he could outrun the seven figures approaching with sinister smiles, he couldn't be faster than the three Heavenly Palaces Golden Core.

"Dream on!"

A cold voice rang out. At a speed that Xu Qing couldn't see clearly, the three Heavenly Palaces Golden Core instantly arrived before him with intense killing intent.

At this critical moment, the Purple Heaven Infinite Crown above Xu Qing's head formed a light barrier that blocked the power of the three Heavenly Palaces.

With a boom, blood flowed out of the corner of Xu Qing's mouth. Although he resisted the power of the three Heavenly Palaces, the tremors still injured him.

The difference between the two was too great.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed as he continued to retreat and flee into the distance.

The three Heavenly Palaces Golden Core coldly watched Xu Qing's departing figure. He didn't give chase immediately but quickly checked his surroundings to confirm if Xu Qing's Dao Protectors had appeared.

As for the others, they continued to chase with greed.

These pursuers all had extraordinary cultivation bases. They were all Golden Core cultivators. Among them, five were Golden Core cultivators with one palace and two were Golden Core cultivators with two palaces. Each of them erupted with astonishing speed and besieged Xu Qing from all directions.

As the power of the spells landed, the ground trembled.

The sound waves spread in all directions, distorting the void.

The fluctuations swept through the surroundings and the nearby mountains collapsed.

Under such siege and amidst the rumbling of many spells, Xu Qing quickly performed hand seals with both hands. One spell after another formed in his hands and waves of water vapor transformed into sea beasts that rushed toward the enemies.

In an instant, rumbling sounds rang out throughout the area and Xu Qing spat out a mouthful of blood. His eyes revealed intense killing intent. However, there were too many enemies and none of them were ordinary, causing him to be unable to counterattack effectively.

At this moment, he could only continue to defend and quickly distance himself. He continued to flee, looking a little disheveled.

As for the protective power formed by the Purple Heaven Infinite Crown, it fluctuated intensely because it had withstood too many spells.

When observed from afar, one would see terrifying energy rumbling in this place. The might of the Golden Cores was astonishing and they formed an inescapable net.

Xu Qing's expression turned ugly. The Nine-Layers Howling Sea spread out, transforming into waves that blasted in all directions.

However, at this moment, a sharp sound tore through the air from the distant sky. It was none other than the Golden Core middle-aged man with three Heavenly Palaces.

His aura was filled with terrifying might and there was a flowing light around his body, causing him to seem holy. However, at that moment, his eyes revealed a hint of suspicion.

"Are there really no Dao Protectors?"

Almost at the instant he spoke, Xu Qing lifted his head. His eyes revealed ecstasy as he shouted at the distant sky.

"Master! Master, save me!!"

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone's expressions changed drastically. The instant they looked into the distance in unison, Xu Qing turned around and circulated the cultivation base in his body to erupt with extreme speed. He even waved his hand and took out the magic ship to increase his fleeing speed. Even its divinity was used, and it transformed into a ray of light.

"Petty tricks!" The three Heavenly Palaces Golden Core sneered but he still didn't give chase.

However, the empty space in front of Xu Qing suddenly fluctuated. A large hand manifested from the void and landed on Xu Qing's magic ship.

With a boom, the magic ship detonated but it didn't completely shatter. Under Xu Qing's control, it changed its direction and rushed in another direction.

The palm that had appeared earlier dissipated, transforming into a red-faced old Daoist in a black robe. He also had three Heavenly Palaces.

He stood there and also sensed his surroundings suspiciously, not chasing after Xu Qing.

However, the void fluctuated again in the direction Xu Qing rushed to. A huge face suddenly appeared. This face had no hair and its eyes were bloodshot. It opened its mouth and bit fiercely at Xu Qing's magic ship with malevolence and cruelty.

A rumbling sound echoed as Xu Qing's magic ship exploded again.

Xu Qing's heart ached and he could only quickly store it. He gritted his teeth and changed directions again.

However, a figure appeared, transforming into a tall and burly middle-aged man. He blocked in front and laughed sinisterly as the three Heavenly Palaces behind him suppressed Xu Qing.

Xu Qing's body trembled violently and he spat out a mouthful of blood. The protective barrier from the Infinite Crown outside his body was rippling even more intensely.

When he could no longer run, the middle-aged Golden Core cultivator with the three Heavenly Palaces also walked over.

At that moment, there were already four Golden Core cultivators with three palaces surrounding Xu Qing.

At the same time, dozens of rogue cultivators flew out one after another. These people were all lying in ambush around the Mind Eye Country.

Xu Qing's expression was gloomy. He suddenly took out a disorder teleportation talisman and crushed it.

In that instant, the power of teleportation erupted and Xu Qing's figure disappeared from the spot.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 406: Master, Save Me (2)

As Xu Qing disappeared, none of the Golden Core cultivators in the surroundings scanned their surroundings or chased after him. All the greed and killing intent on their faces disappeared at this instant. What was even more astonishing was that as their expressions dissipated, the figures of these people slowly blurred.

A moment later, all of them seemed to have been erased as they disappeared from the spot.

It was peaceful once again. Another hour passed and a mountain rock on the ground suddenly distorted, transforming into an old man with a pockmarked face in a green Daoist robe. This old man carefully checked his surroundings and his eyes revealed a deep glint.

"Although it's an illusion, every attack earlier was real. Looking at Xu Qing's performance, could it be that he really doesn't have a Dao Protector following him?"

"But without a Dao Protector, how dare he brazenly head out?"

"However, he did disguise himself. If I didn't know his exact destination, it would be very difficult to lock onto him."

As he pondered, the old man's body swayed and he disappeared without a trace.

At the same time, on the wasteland that was some distance away, Xu Qing's figure appeared. As soon as he appeared, he spat out a mouthful of blood and quickly took out a jade slip to transmit his voice to the sect.

However, the instant he took out the jade slip, the ground suddenly caved in, transforming into a ghastly mouth that ruthlessly devoured him.

Xu Qing's expression changed. When he quickly rose into the air, a rumbling sound rang out from the ground. That huge mouth was the mouth of a giant. When the giant stood up, it was easily a thousand feet tall. It lifted its large hand and grabbed at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing quickly fled but the void behind him fluctuated. The pockmarked old man took a step forward and with a wave of his hand, five Heavenly Palaces behind him manifested, directly forming a suppressive force that blasted onto Xu Qing.

Xu Qing's body trembled and blood gushed out of his mouth. As the protective barrier around his body shook violently, he quickly took out a disorder teleportation talisman and was about to crush it.

However, at the next instant, a calm voice rang out from behind him.

"Seal!"

As soon as this word was spoken, a huge golden array formation appeared in the sky and ruthlessly pressed to the ground.

Xu Qing's teleportation failed and his body was suppressed by this great force, unable to rise into the air.

His face was pale as he lifted his head and saw a boy sitting on the golden array formation.

This boy was clothed in a red robe. The five Heavenly Palaces above his head emitted astonishing might, causing the array formation to continuously press to the ground. It also caused Xu Qing's entire body to emit cracking sounds from the suppression. The protection of the Infinite Crown also caved in and his body continued to fall.

This lasted until Xu Qing's body was pressed on the ground loudly.

At the next instant, countless black hair rose from the ground around him, rapidly wrapping around him. A corrosive power spread from them and began to invade his Infinite Crown's barrier.

"Looks like there are really no Dao Protectors."

"You guys are too worried. So what if he has Dao Protectors? We're only here with clones. At most, our clones will be destroyed, what should we be afraid of?"

"Forget it. Regardless of whether there are or not, we need to complete this mission. Even if the Seven Blood Eyes is fishing, we also are prepared."

While Xu Qing's barrier was rapidly corroding, the boy, the green-robed old man, and the ten-thousand-foot-tall giant communicated.

After that, they each performed a series of hand seals. Immediately, vast power erupted from their bodies, forming an extermination force that landed on Xu Qing.

Seeing that danger was approaching, a voice filled with dissatisfaction rang out in all directions.

"There are only so few people here, and they're all clones. How boring!"

The moment the voice rang out, Old Master Seventh's figure walked out of the void in front of Xu Qing.

He flicked his sleeve and the hair around Xu Qing turned into ashes. After that, he swept his gaze over, landing on the ten-thousand-foot-tall giant. The expression of the giant changed and its body shook. It actually collapsed without even being able to put up the slightest resistance.

Old Master Seventh then looked at the pockmarked old man. This old man's entire body trembled violently and in the blink of an eye, he turned into ashes under Old Master Seventh's gaze.

As for the boy, his eyes were also wide open. After Old Master Seventh's gaze swept over him, his body exploded loudly, turning into a rain of blood.

Everything was destroyed under Old Master Seventh's gaze.

Xu Qing's expression was no longer as gloomy as before. Instead, it returned to normal and the injuries on his body instantly recovered. When he lifted his head and looked at the sky, Old Master Seventh's voice rang out in his ears.

"It's understandable. After all, no one is stupid. However, even if they only send their clones, can they get away with it?"

Old Master Seventh calmly spoke. He lifted his right hand and grabbed. Immediately, the void where the giant had collapsed distorted. Time seemed to be flowing backward and countless pieces of flesh and blood flew up, transforming into the giant's figure again. Its eyes revealed horror and disbelief.

"You..."

Before it could finish speaking, Old Master Seventh raised his hand and slashed at it!

With this slash, the sound of a thread snapping rang out. At the next instant, a faintly discernible thread appeared above the head of the giant. This thread continued to break, spreading into the void like it was chasing after the origin.

Finally, amidst the disbelief and intense horror of the giant, a mournful cry rang out from the void.

At the next moment, the giant's body withered and it spat out a mouthful of blood. It let out an extremely miserable cry as its body collapsed again, dissipating into pieces.

However, this time, its true body and soul that were hidden somewhere were also taken away by Old Master Seventh with a secret art.

This scene caused Xu Qing's eyes to widen. He didn't know what cultivation level would the real body have if even their clones had five Heavenly Palaces. He felt like they would at least be a Nascent Soul cultivator.

As Xu Qing's mind stirred, Old Master Seventh waved his hand at the place where the pockmarked old man had disappeared. The same scene appeared again.

The expression of the green-robed old man who had reformed completely changed and he let out a scream.

"Old Master Seventh, spare my life. I..." Before he could finish speaking, Old Master Seventh waved his hand again and the world seemed to collapse. Xu Qing gasped as he looked at the dissipating soul and probed.

"Master, can you leave behind the souls so that I can suppress them in my magic apertures?"

"If you want to be a hunter, you have to hunt by yourself. I'm not responsible for giving you the prey. I'm only responsible for giving you weapons and abilities to hunt."

Old Master Seventh calmly spoke and clenched his raised hand. Immediately, a thread appeared above the green-robed old man's head and broke into nothingness inch by inch. Finally, terrified screams filled with bitterness and disbelief rang out. The old man's main body and clone collapsed together and were taken away by Old Master Seventh.

After doing this, Old Master Seventh flicked his sleeve. The blood pool left by the boy flowed back and the boy's figure was revealed. His expression was filled with extreme horror.

"How can a Spirit Repository be so powerful that it can actually track down the main body? You... What exactly is your cultivation level?!"

As he spoke, he immediately retreated. He waved his hands and countless array formations shone. When he fled far away, Old Master Seventh waved his hand. Immediately, the main body of the child, which was hidden in an unknown place, collapsed and shattered. This clone also rapidly disappeared, about to be taken away by Old Master Seventh.

Xu Qing, who was at the side, suddenly recalled what the captain had said in the immortal pool about his master's soft-heartedness. Hence, he imitated the captain and spoke aggrievedly.

"Master, my magic ship exploded twice and I used two of my disorder teleportation talismans."

Old Master Seventh glanced at Xu Qing with a spurious smile and nodded.

"In that case, I have to make it up for you." As he spoke, he waved his hand and grabbed. Immediately, the clone that had mostly dissipated trembled and a wisp of remnant soul was extracted.

Old Master Seventh grabbed it and squeezed it ruthlessly, transforming it into 59 portions of soul power. He then patted Xu Qing's body.

Xu Qing's entire body trembled. Each of these 59 portions of soul power was comparable to the soul of a Heavenly Palace Golden Core. At this moment, they were scattered in his dozens of magic apertures, causing the fire in them to instantly become even more intense.

[Outside Of Time](#)

Chapter 407: A Spell for Learning

The influx of 59 portions of soul power instantly caused Xu Qing's entire body to rumble. 59 magic apertures in his body started circulating intensely as they continuously suppressed these souls.

Because there were too many of them at once, it would take some time to refine them. Hence, Xu Qing immediately sat down and focused on absorbing them.

Old Master Seventh swept his gaze across the surroundings and curled his lips.

"Just these small fries are a little boring."

As he spoke, he flicked his sleeve and an ordinary-looking magic ship appeared in the air. The shape of this magic ship was somewhat similar to Xu Qing's ship, but from the outside, it looked even more tattered.

However, intense divinity circulated on it.

Ding Xue was also lying on the deck of the magic ship. Clearly, when Xu Qing rushed out to fight against the old man, Ding Xue had already been taken away by Old Master Seventh.

She had just woken up and her face was still filled with confusion. When she lowered her head and saw Old Master Seventh outside the magic ship, she was stunned.

"Uncle-in-law?" After that, she saw Xu Qing sitting cross-legged and meditating beside Old Master Seventh. She noticed that Xu Qing's forehead was covered in sweat and his body emitted invisible flames that kept rising. Ding Xue's expression was hesitant.

"Uncle-in-law, what happened? You... Why are you here too? Also, what's wrong with Brother Xu Qing?" Ding Xue blinked. She made a bad guess and this guess instantly caused her face to turn red.

'No way. Was uncle-in-law following us all the way? Wouldn't that mean that all my previous actions have been seen...' Ding Xue's face turned even redder. The feeling of her relatives seeing her acting coquettishly made her feel embarrassed and angry.

Seeing Ding Xue like this, Old Master Seventh laughed. He had indeed seen it clearly.

Hearing Old Master Seventh's laughter, Ding Xue blushed and stomped her feet, pouting coquettishly.

"Uncle-in-law!"

"I didn't see anything." Old Master Seventh coughed. He, who didn't have any children, doted on his niece-in-law very much.

Amidst his laughter, Old Master Seventh flicked his sleeve and swept Xu Qing onto the magic ship. After casually throwing Xu Qing to the side, Old Master Seventh raised his right hand and a soul pearl appeared in his hand. Just as he was about to speak, he discovered that Ding Xue was looking at Xu Qing with a pained expression.

The expression on her face was clearly one of heartache for Xu Qing being casually thrown aside by him.

"His skin is rough and his flesh is thick. He's fine." Old Master Seventh was a little depressed.

"Uncle-in-law, Brother Xu Qing is still young and is still growing. Please be gentler to him next time, okay? When I get back, I'll say more good things about you to aunt." Ding Xue ran to Old Master Seventh's side and held his arm.

Old Master Seventh looked at Ding Xue and then at Xu Qing, who was still refining the souls. He let out a long sigh. He vaguely understood the daily feelings of his eldest disciple.

He shook his head helplessly and pressed the soul pearl in his hand against Ding Xue's forehead, patting it gently.

"Alright, alright, alright. Hurry up and cultivate. This soul pearl can help you to form one fire as soon as possible."

"Thank you, uncle-in-law." Ding Xue became happy. She found a place near Xu Qing and sat down cross-legged. She closed her eyes and cultivated, her heart filled with joy.

Old Master Seventh turned his head and looked at the two people sitting there. His heart was filled with emotions. After a long time, he turned his head and stood at the bow of the ship with his hands behind his back. As he looked into the distance, his gaze swept across the surroundings. He let out a cold snort and controlled the magic ship to sail forward.

After the magic ship left, the void distorted and two blurry figures in golden robes appeared. Sword qi permeated their bodies, carrying a sharp intent, but their expressions were filled with bitterness.

"This sect master of the Seven Blood Eyes..."

"With him around, we cannot make a move. He didn't attack the two of us this time because of the Alliance and also because he wanted us to report this scene back. This is his warning."

The two of them came from the Soaring Cloud Sword Sect.

"This Xu Qing is already extraordinary to begin with and with such a background... he'll be harder to deal with in the future, especially after this incident. We'll never know if such an expert is still hiding behind him when he's alone in the future."

The two of them looked at each other and shook their heads before leaving.

After they left, a few more auras permeated the surrounding void and transformed into several figures. They stood there silently while being wary of each other.

Different from the two people earlier, they weren't cultivators of the Alliance but rogue cultivators. This time, they had received news that Xu Qing, who had two life lanterns, had gone out, so they rushed over to see if they had a chance to plunder.

However, they knew Xu Qing's background, so they only watched and didn't act rashly. The scene after that completely frightened them. Right now, their thoughts were the same as the two Soaring Cloud Sword Sect cultivators.

"This is the Seven Blood Eyes' attitude..."

"A warning to everyone."

"There's also the protection of the Alliance that the Eight Sects Alliance announced some time ago. The price to kill Xu Qing is too great."

"Although the life lantern is good, I only have one life."

Everyone dispersed while having different thoughts. As they left, the rumors about this matter slowly spread.

This was the protection Old Master Seventh gave Xu Qing and also a warning to others.

Just like that, time flowed by. Seven days later, at dusk, Xu Qing opened his eyes.

The moment he opened his eyes, the 60 magic apertures in his body emitted shocking flames and a thunderous boom echoed in his mind.

Right now, half of the 120 magic apertures were suppressing souls. Under this continuous suppression, his cultivation base had clearly improved a little. Even the flames had changed. There was an additional ferocity in the fiendish fire. That was the intense resentment produced by the burning souls.

This was the Dark Soul Fire.

This fire could affect emotions. When this fire burned the enemies; in light cases, their emotions would fluctuate intensely, and in serious cases, their souls would be injured and collapse.

"How do you feel?" Old Master Seventh, who was standing at the bow, turned his head and glanced at Xu Qing.

"Thank you, Master!" Xu Qing stood up and cupped his fists.

"From now on, it will be much safer for you to go out again. In that case, I'll bring you to do the second thing. It's also the main reason for this trip."

"I'll teach you... a Golden Core cultivation art."

When Xu Qing heard this, his eyes narrowed.

"However, it is not ready yet. You don't have to be anxious. I still need to ponder over this cultivation art." After Old Master Seventh finished speaking, he glanced at Ding Xue, who was still cultivating at the side. He raised his right hand and waved it, creating a protective barrier around her before walking out of the magic ship.

"Follow me."

Xu Qing immediately followed and left the magic ship with Old Master Seventh, heading toward the mountain range below.

Although this place wasn't the Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain, it was still filled with mountain forests. Many pitch-black mountain peaks emitted a sinister aura, especially right now in dusk.

There was a sect between the mountain peaks.

This sect wasn't small. Its range enveloped three mountain peaks. Many disciples were shuttling between the mountains.

"This is the Heavenly Spirit Sect, a medium-sized sect. It isn't a sect of the Alliance. Its strength is average but there's a cultivation art in this sect that's a little peculiar." As Old Master Seventh spoke, he brought Xu Qing straight to the sect.

Xu Qing's expression was a little strange. His master had ignored the sect's array formation defense and directly entered the sect. All the disciples on the way ignored them as though they couldn't see them.

After Old Master Seventh's gaze swept over, he brought Xu Qing straight to the sect's Scripture Library. The two Golden Core old men guarding the library also didn't notice anything and allowed Xu Qing and Old Master Seventh to walk past them. They stepped into this pavilion and entered the highest level that ordinary disciples couldn't enter.

All the restrictions here were useless in front of Old Master Seventh, as though they couldn't detect him at all. Old Master Seventh very naturally grabbed cultivation art jade slips that were floating in the air and checked them one by one like he was in his study.

Xu Qing glanced at Old Master Seventh but didn't speak.

"What are you waiting for? You have to study seriously. Back then, I got this spell specially for the sake of learning." Old Master Seventh glared at Xu Qing and lectured.

Xu Qing nodded seriously. He then grabbed a jade slip and focused on reading it.

Just like that, the two of them, master and disciple, immersed themselves in their studies on the top floor of the Heavenly Spirit Sect's Scripture Library. Old Master Seventh was very serious, and Xu Qing was even more serious, especially after he saw a few jade slips that recorded information of plants and vegetation in the Yinghuang Province.

A few days later, Old Master Seventh finished reading all the jade slips here and sighed with emotion.

"Not bad, not bad. As expected, the Heavenly Spirit Sect has its profundities in the control of magic power. It's a pity that it's too inferior in other aspects."

Xu Qing also nodded, seemingly unsatisfied. Although there was a lot of plant knowledge recorded here, the description wasn't incisive enough. However, it still benefited him greatly and he grasped more knowledge of changes in vegetation.

"It's the same for its pharmacopeia. This sect should have produced cultivators of the Dao of Medicine in the past. It's a pity that very few people studied it in the future, so there are fewer notes and supplements to those books." Xu Qing sighed.

Old Master Seventh nodded, his eyes revealing admiration.

"You like to study. This is a good habit." As he spoke, he placed his hands behind his back and brought Xu Qing out of the Scripture Library.

On the way, Xu Qing hesitated for a moment.

"Master, I really like to learn. I wonder if Master can teach me this spell that is specially used for learning..."

Old Master Seventh glanced at Xu Qing and the admiration in his eyes deepened. He then nodded in satisfaction.

"With your current cultivation base, you can't grasp it yet. After you reach the Nascent Soul realm, I'll teach you this method specially used for learning."

"Let's go to the other sects to take a look. In order to create a Golden Core cultivation art that belongs to you alone, I've researched for a long time. This time, I have marked several sects to learn their cultivation arts and make adjustments."

"So, you have to work hard in the future!" With that, Old Master Seventh walked out of the sect.

Xu Qing nodded heavily and followed behind. He stepped into the air with Old Master Seventh and returned to the magic ship.

On the magic ship, Old Master Seventh called out to Xu Qing.

"We cultivators don't forget to be grateful when learning. You have to remember this. Come, let us pay our respects to this sect. This can be considered returning the favor of reading the scriptures. This way, when we become enemies in the future, we can fight and kill in peace." As he spoke, Old Master Seventh cupped his fists and bowed to the sect below.

Xu Qing was solemn. He felt that his master's actions were indeed methodical. Hence, he memorized this etiquette and cupped his fists to bow to the sect below.

After that, they left.

Their arrival was silent.

Their departure was also silent.

Very soon, the magic ship disappeared in the horizon. A few days later, it stopped outside another sect. Old Master Seventh brought Xu Qing down the magic ship with determination to learn. They went to this sect's Scripture Library.

They continued to study.

Just like that, time flowed by. The magic ship continued to head west of the Grand Affairs Misfortune Passing Mountain.

They would occasionally stop on the way, one sect after another...

"Learning is endless. Fourth, you're not bad. Back then, I brought your ignorant and incompetent third senior brother for this experience. However, he doesn't like to learn at all. Also, it's the same for your eldest senior brother. Back then, he kept thinking about the sects' treasures."

"Fourth, you're still the most similar to Master!" Old Master Seventh was in the Scripture Library of the 47th sect they went to. When he saw Xu Qing focused on reading, he praised him from the bottom of his heart.

Xu Qing wasn't arrogant or rash.

After hearing his master's words, he put down the jade slip in his hand and thought for a moment before speaking softly.

"Master, is there a sect in the Yinghuang Province that mainly focuses on the Dao of Poison? I want to go there and study."

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Chapter 408: Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching

Old Master Seventh admired Xu Qing even more when he saw how Xu Qing calmly said that he wanted to go to poison dao sects to learn. He laughed and nodded.

"Naturally. Let's go, Master will bring you there." Old Master Seventh left the sect with Xu Qing.

In the sky, Xu Qing didn't need him to speak. He turned and bowed solemnly to the sect below.

Old Master Seventh was even more satisfied. After bowing as well, he brought Xu Qing onto the magic ship.

As for Ding Xue, she was still cultivating. Her talent was clearly ordinary, so even with the help of the soul pearl, she was still having difficulty in opening magic apertures.

Time slowly passed as Xu Qing and Old Master Seventh studied. A month later, as the magic ship entered the western region of the Yinghuang Province and Old Master Seventh perfected the cultivation art he had created for Xu Qing, this study finally came to an end.

Xu Qing had gained a lot in terms of plants and vegetation techniques and they were quite helpful to his Dao of Poison. The books about poison in the few Poison Dao Evil Sects were especially impactful.

For example, the Poison Planting Art. This method turned the flesh into a pill furnace and used the bloodline as a curse to refine a lethal poison.

However, all of this wasn't the main point for Xu Qing at this moment. His eyes were burning as he looked at a small black ball rising in Old Master Seventh's palm.

This small ball was formed by countless runes and contained terrifying fluctuations. What was even more mysterious was that with a glance, it was as though countless information flowed into his mind.

"Fourth, give me that girl Sima Ru's Bizarre Nether Heart." Old Master Seventh's expression was solemn as he slowly spoke.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. He recalled that his master had told him that the heart would be of great use. Hence, he immediately took out Sima Ru's Bizarre Nether Heart from his storage bag and handed it to Old Master Seventh.

Old Master Seventh flicked his sleeve and fused the Bizarre Nether Heart into the small black ball. Immediately, the small ball boiled as though it was alive and continuously emitted soul-stirring roars.

"Fourth, the cultivation art I created for you is based on your characteristics. It will form a mark in your mind."

"This inheritance method was created by referencing an emperor-level cultivation art!" As he spoke, the small black ball in Old Master Seventh's hand roared and dissipated, turning into a ball of black liquid. With a wave of Old Master Seventh's hand, it floated toward Xu Qing.

"Lift your head!" Old Master Seventh's voice echoed. Xu Qing looked at the black liquid floating over and lifted his head.

At the next instant, the liquid came into contact with Xu Qing's forehead. A piercing pain spread out as the liquid seeped in through Xu Qing's skin and fused into his bones. It then continued to seep and evaporate. Finally, it transformed into traces of peculiar power that gathered in Xu Qing's divine sense. As they intertwined, they formed a black mark!

As soon as this mark appeared, thunder rumbled and waves surged in Xu Qing's mind. His body seemed to have transformed into a lone boat that churned in the furious sea.

This mark wasn't a dead object but was throbbing!

The frequency of the mark was the same as Xu Qing's heartbeat.

As the thumping sounds echoed, a large amount of information erupted from the runic mark and filled Xu Qing's sea of consciousness. Xu Qing instinctively closed his eyes and focused on comprehending.

Old Master Seventh's ancient and proud voice echoed in his sea of consciousness.

"Fourth, every one of my disciples cultivates a different cultivation art. I personally researched and custom-made them!"

"For your Golden Core cultivation art, I used Bizarre Nether Heart as the foundation and studied hundreds of Golden Core cultivation arts, especially the arts passed down by the Ancient Sovereign Mystic Nether."

"This technique is extremely domineering and matches the aura and style of your attack; it's extremely sinister and cruel. This suits your killing nature."

"This art is called... Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art!"

"This art can turn one of your hands into phantom, into a bizarre nether hand. You can use this phantom hand to pierce into the enemy's sea of consciousness and snatch their Golden Core from the Heavenly Palace."

"You can then refine and retain its essence and nurture it in your own Heavenly Palace. After snatching and gathering them like this, it will speed up the formation of your own Golden Core!"

"This way, you'll become stronger the more you fight and kill!"

"Your future path is to cultivate by killing and proving your path with blood!"

"When cultivated to the extreme, your entire body can transform into the bizarre nether state, obtaining a portion of the characteristics of the Bizarre Fiend Race. Although possession and undying traits are innate talents and difficult to obtain, it can allow you to ignore some spells and change between phantom and corporeal state!"

Old Master Seventh's words were like muffled thunder. The instant they rumbled in Xu Qing's mind, the runic mark also erupted with a resplendent light. A large amount of information about the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art gushed into Xu Qing's mind.

It was just like when he learned the emperor-level cultivation art, Golden Crow Refines All Life, back then. The contents were directly imprinted in his mind.

That mark was like an inheritance seed and had some characteristic of not being able to be plundered by others. Although it wasn't as powerful as an emperor-level cultivation art, it was still shocking.

Xu Qing's closed eyes opened and his breathing became hurried. When he looked at Old Master Seventh, his eyes revealed an intense light. After a long time, he stood up and cupped his fists, bowing deeply.

"Thank you, Master!"

After Xu Qing sensed this cultivation art, he realized its astonishing might. Moreover, it was extremely compatible with his body, and he did not need to change his combat style. It was a qualitative change in the same direction on his original foundation.

Once he stepped into the Golden Core realm, he would instantly master this technique.

At that moment, the night wind blew over, blowing some of Old Master Seventh's white hair. He stood there and looked at Xu Qing with a faint smile.

"Don't be happy too early. This cultivation art is too domineering and it's very easy to get lost in cultivation. The divine sense contained in the Golden Cores you seize will confuse your mind, causing you to become a lunatic who only knows how to kill."

"Therefore, if you want to cultivate this technique, you need a strong point to prop up your soul, so that the various distracting thoughts in the Golden Cores you will snatch in the future will not be able to shake you at all."

"Therefore, I'm bringing you to a place next. I've told you before. It's the Nanyue Ghost Mountain!" Old Master Seventh calmly said.

Xu Qing immediately thought of the human-shaped pattern that represented the Nanyue Ghost Mountain on the map his master had drawn when he imparted spells to him.

At that time, his master had said that the Nanyue Ghost Mountain might be a place of fortune for him.

Now, he understood that what his master had said back then was about this.

Old Master Seventh had already begun to ponder over his cultivation art back then. When Xu Qing realized this, the gratitude in his heart deepened.

"Let's go to the Nanyue Ghost Mountain. Let's go there... and plant a god in your heart!"

Old Master Seventh's words were filled with deep meaning. Before Xu Qing could ask, he flicked his sleeve and the magic ship instantly rumbled, whistling in the direction of the Nanyue Ghost Mountain. They were currently in the west and weren't far from the Nanyue Ghost Mountain.

On the way, Ding Xue woke up.

She finally opened 30 magic apertures and successfully lit a ball of life fire. She excitedly activated her Mystic Brilliance Form and enjoyed the speed and explosive force that far exceeded her previous self.

Looking at Ding Xue, Xu Qing sighed with emotion inwardly. He thought of the difficulty he faced when forming the first ball of life fire. This was especially so when he saw Old Master Seventh looking at Ding Xue dotingly and even handing her a soul pearl.

He experienced how his captain used to feel.

"A girl has to be raised richly, but a boy has to be raised poorly!" Old Master Seventh glanced at Xu Qing.

Ding Xue covered her mouth and laughed. She took out a small box containing snacks and handed one to Old Master Seventh. Just as Old Master Seventh was feeling very happy, Ding Xue secretly handed an even larger snack to Xu Qing.

Xu Qing took it and looked at Old Master Seventh.

Old Master Seventh glared.

Xu Qing didn't say anything. He took a bite and closed his eyes to meditate. While sensing the cultivation art, he was also thinking about the 121st magic aperture.

Perhaps it was because Old Master Seventh was around, Ding Xue was clearly a little reserved. She didn't give Xu Qing spirit tickets and ask questions like before. Instead, she had a lively appearance, causing her clear voice to ring out from time to time as well as Old Master Seventh's hearty laughter.

However, as they got closer to the Nanyue Ghost Mountain, Ding Xue's words became fewer and fewer. Old Master Seventh's laughter also slowly disappeared because... this place was miserable.

Countless ruins and desolation could be seen on the ground. Skeletons and carnivorous birds and beasts could be seen everywhere. This place was filled with bizarre entities and the sinister feeling ran amok here.

The bitterness of the human world fused into the world with oppression, permeating the magic ships that flew into this area. From afar, Xu Qing saw a majestic mountain.

That mountain looked like a supreme existence and stood between heaven and earth. Upon closer inspection, one could see that this mountain was actually a humanoid figure sitting cross-legged and meditating!

Its appearance was covered by dust but it still couldn't hide its malevolence. It wore pitch-black armor and held a large blade in its hand. It carried two worlds on its shoulder.

It was like the spirit of an evil god.

With just a glance, Xu Qing's mind rumbled. Seeing that the mountain wasn't a mountain, he only felt that the aura of the ghost body sitting cross-legged was astonishing.

The higher one's cultivation was, the deeper they would feel the power of this evil being. On the other hand, ordinary people would not feel too much turmoil because they would see the mountain as only a mountain.

In Xu Qing's eyes, this figure emitted a terrifying pressure.. It was as though every inch of its armor contained the power to destroy everything.

As for the two worlds on its shoulder, they were lifelike and contained countless demons, ghosts, and monsters. Evil intent soared into the sky, and it was a shocking sight.

This was the Nanyue Ghost Mountain of the Yinghuang Province.

As for that evil god's spirit, it was also known as the Nanyue Ghost Emperor.

It was unknown how the two worlds on its shoulders were like in their glory days. However, now, they were inhabited by fiends from various races. With the Seven Fiends of Ghost Mountain as the leader, they became one of the six major forces in the Yinghuang Province.

"Fourth, your mission is to move this god into your heart and make it a pillar of suppression to suppress the distracting thoughts of the Golden Cores you seize in the future!"

"If you can do it, I'll allow you to cultivate the cultivation art."

"If you can't do it, I can only teach you a secondary Golden Core cultivation art."

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Chapter 409: Spirit Repository, Nihilism, Soul Accumulation

Old Master Seventh's words echoed in Xu Qing's ears.

As he listened, he looked at the mountain formed by the Nanyue Ghost Emperor in the distance.

The waves in his mind rose and fell uncontrollably, growing larger and larger.

Even though staring at that mountain caused his eyes to sting, Xu Qing still looked at it seriously.

He couldn't imagine what kind of cultivation base this god possessed to be able to transform into a mountain after death and have such vast might even as a corpse.

It could be said that this was the strongest existence Xu Qing had ever seen.

Even Binding back then couldn't be compared at all. Even the ancestor of sea lizards, whom he had seen on the Forbidden Sea, seemed to be extremely inferior to the Nanyue Ghost Emperor.

The only thing that could compare was the mural Xu Qing had seen on the merfolk island, the god of the merfolk race, Mire.

It was also where Xu Qing obtained his first life lantern.

In Xu Qing's memories, Mire also carried two great worlds.

He didn't know if this was a special change in a certain realm, but this didn't affect the churning of his thoughts.

Old Master Seventh continued to speak.

"Fourth, today, I will open the knowledge gate of cultivation in the Wanggu Continent and let you see everything clearly."

"As cultivators, the realm after the Heavenly Palace Golden Core Realm is the Nascent Soul Realm. There are also several small realms in this realm. You'll know in the future. The main point I want to talk about is after the Nascent Soul Realm!"

"After the Nascent Soul realm, every realm is divided into levels. The difference between different levels is so great that it's basically the difference between heaven and earth. Moreover, the further one cultivates, the more it will be like this."

"In fact, you can even see each of them as a different realm!"

"After Nascent Soul is the Spirit Repository Realm!"

"Spirit Repository Realm is divided into five secret repositories. After the five secret repositories is the Nihilicity Realm!"

"Nihilicity Realm is divided into four stages. After the fourth stage... is the Soul Accumulation Realm!"

Xu Qing's mind trembled. At this point, Old Master Seventh raised his hand and pointed at the mountain formed by the Nanyue Ghost Emperor.

"To be able to shoulder two great worlds on his shoulders, this is what a second-stage Soul Accumulation almighty is like!"

"Ancestor Xue Lianzi is at the first stage of Nihilicity, Shattering Thousand Dao. The Alliance Leader is at the second stage, Illusory and Truth Myriad Transformations. Beyond them are the third and fourth stages. You can take a guess at the difference between them and this Nanyue Ghost Emperor."

"If the ancestor has a great opportunity in the future, he might have a chance of stepping into the second stage of Nihilicity. As for the third level of Nihilicity... it's as difficult as ascending to the heavens and almost impossible, let alone the fourth level."

"As for the Soul Accumulation... Let's put it this way. According to my judgment, there isn't a single living Soul Accumulation cultivator in the entire Yinghuang Province. In fact, in the entire Fenghai County, there's no living Soul Accumulation cultivator!"

"Only this half-dead Ghost Emperor is at the second stage of the Soul Accumulation realm!"

"However, he wasn't a cultivator of the Yinghuang Province but died here. This realm has reached such a level that any one of such existences can be called a god."

Xu Qing's mind stirred intensely. His understanding of the Wanggu Continent's cultivation realm was completely clear after Old Master Seventh's explanation.

"Before this Ghost Emperor died, Yinghuang Province was a barren land. Although there were many sects, it was extremely chaotic and few experts were born. This lasted until this Ghost Emperor died here. His life force turned into nutrients that nourished all living beings and races."

"It can even be said that almost all of the six major forces in the entire Yinghuang Province are closely related to it!"

"Regardless of what the rumors are about the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect, in reality, they only became so strong because they obtained a portion of the Ghost Emperor's inheritance."

"The three spirits of the Three Spirits Suppression Mountain were transformed from the three souls of this Ghost Emperor. Nether Fairy is the human soul, Sun Execution is the earth soul, and Embryonic Light is the heaven soul!"

"The seven fiends that exist in the two large worlds on the Ghost Emperor's shoulder are formed from the seven spirits of this great cultivator!"

"There's also the Absolute Beginning Separation Pillar controlled by the Sword Holder in the extreme north. In reality... it's the weapon that the Ghost Emperor stabbed into the ground before he died!"

Old Master Seventh's words were like thunder and every sentence was like lightning, rumbling endlessly in Xu Qing's mind. It allowed Xu Qing to clearly understand how terrifying and shocking the Soul Accumulation realm was.

The death of a Soul Accumulation second stage almighty had given fortune to the whole province, leading to the formation of many factions here.

Such an existence could indeed be called a god.

At that moment, Xu Qing also understood that the fallen god of the merfolk race, Mire, was an almighty of this realm.

"What's above the Soul Accumulation?" Xu Qing took a deep breath and asked hesitantly.

Old Master Seventh looked at the distant sky. What he saw wasn't the fragmented face of the god but the starry sky.

"There might be such a record in the holy lands created by the ancient sovereigns and rulers, as well as in the records of the major races," Old Master Seventh said softly. With a flick of his sleeve, the magic ship disappeared, bringing Xu Qing and the dazed Ding Xue to the ground.

Ding Xue heard everything but she couldn't retain the information in her mind.

Some knowledge was harmful if one's cultivation level wasn't high enough.

When he landed in this evil land, Xu Qing's emotions were still fluctuating.

Old Master Seventh glanced at Xu Qing and knew that he was digesting this information. Hence, he brought them to a small town ahead. This place... was the place Old Master Seventh had chosen.

This small town was located at the foot of the Nanyue Mountain. Although it was very far from the Nanyue Ghost Emperor Mountain, because the mountain peak was tall, one could see the Ghost Emperor's body from here.

Moreover, this place directly faced the Ghost Emperor Mountain and it was convenient to observe it.

"We'll stay in this small town. Xu Qing, you have to observe this Ghost Emperor every day until you outline its shape in your heart. The time limit is a hundred days."

Old Master Seventh placed his hands behind his back. As his voice echoed, he brought Xu Qing and Ding Xue - who didn't dare to speak after seeing Old Master Seventh's serious expression - into the small town.

This town wasn't big and the ground was covered in filth. It was late autumn, so it was more cold. The autumn wind swept over and blew up a large number of dead leaves, piling them up in the corners of the walls, causing the entire town to look a little bleak.

However, there were also some things that were different. The number of residents here was the same for the elderly and the youths...

This point attracted Xu Qing's attention.

Ding Xue didn't know what this scene represented but Xu Qing could see some clues. However, he didn't investigate carefully. To him, the most important thing now was to outline the Nanyue Ghost Emperor Mountain.

The arrival of the three of them aroused the curiosity of the residents of this small town.

Very few outsiders came to this place. However, Xu Qing and Ding Xue had disguised themselves when they arrived, and it was the same for Old Master Seventh. Hence, in the eyes of the others, their family of three wasn't too out of place.

However, in this cannibalistic world, everyone was vigilant. They instinctively felt hostility and estrangement toward outsiders.

Even though Old Master Seventh had bought a property here, this estrangement and hostility still existed.

Xu Qing didn't feel anything about this. Every day, he would sit in his residence. When he lifted his head, he would see the majestic Ghost Emperor Mountain. Just like when he comprehended the Extreme Heaven Saber back then, he tried his best to copy it in his mind.

However, this process was extremely difficult, far surpassing the difficulty of comprehending the heavenly saber. However, Xu Qing wasn't anxious. He continued to stare at it every day. His entire person slowly calmed down and his mind gradually became empty.

As for Old Master Seventh, he brought Ding Xue to stroll around this small town every day. He had a smiling and kind expression and liked to chat with people. Gradually, they became familiar with the surrounding neighbors.

Every time someone asked about their origins, Old Master Seventh would have a bitter expression on his face and not speak. When the others saw this, most of them fell into deep thought. They thought of all kinds of tragic past events that might have happened to this old man.

However, if they asked about the girl beside him, Old Master Seventh wouldn't feel bitter anymore. Instead, he proudly told everyone that this was his daughter. As for the kid who stayed in his room every day, he was his live-in son-in-law.

Every time Ding Xue heard Old Master Seventh say this, she would be very happy and put on a shy expression.

Just like that, the three of them stayed in this small town.

Time passed day by day and everything was very calm. Xu Qing comprehended every day, and Old Master Seventh brought Ding Xue out every day.

As they got familiar with this small town, the residents of this small town slowly let down their guard.

The strangeness of this small town gradually revealed itself.

Although the residents of this town were suffering, they were very united. In addition, although they were hostile to Old Master Seventh and the other two at the start, after they accepted them, they revealed more kindness and gentleness.

This scene was rare in this world.

In addition, there were many old people and children in the small town. This meant that... over the years, this town had encountered very few dangers. Hence, the old people and children who didn't have much ability to protect themselves were able to survive.

There was also a school in a corner of the town. The teacher there was in charge of teaching the children of the entire town.

Every day, the immature sound of studying coming from the school would make the residents reveal happy smiles.

Among these children, Old Master Seventh especially liked one.

This was an eight or nine-year-old boy. He was very good-looking.

He was a little different from the other children because his body was clean and so was his face. He carried a small leather bag and went to and fro from school every day. He was polite to everyone he saw.

Sometimes, when Old Master Seventh brought Ding Xue for a stroll on the streets and they met this little boy, the boy would lower his head shyly when facing Ding Xue's gaze. He would also be timid when facing Old Master Seventh's gaze. However, he would still politely bow and quickly run home.

His house was next door to Old Master Seventh's residence. His father was a carpenter and his mother made clothes and weaved for a living. In the morning, they would watch the child leave. In the dusk, they would stand at the door and wait for the little boy to return.

Every night, the house would be lit up. From the shadow of the window, one could see the warm scene of the family of three.

No matter how one looked at it, it was ordinary.

However, Old Master Seventh's eyes grew brighter and brighter. He sat beside Xu Qing and looked at Xu Qing who was staring at the Ghost Emperor Mountain.

"Fourth, what do you think about getting a fifth brother?"

Xu Qing turned a deaf ear and continued to look at the Ghost Emperor Mountain. His eyes slowly became listless until finally, he unknowingly closed his eyes. In his mind, the outline of the Ghost Emperor was rapidly forming.

However, it wasn't over. After it took shape, it was constantly becoming clearer, as though a divine charm was slowly manifesting.

"Hmm?" Old Master Seventh, who was talking, suddenly turned his head to look at Xu Qing with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

"So fast? It's only been less than a month. Not bad, your speed is only a little bad compared to mine back then..." Old Master Seventh paused. At the next instant, his eyes suddenly widened as he stared fixedly at Xu Qing. His expression gradually changed.

"What is this kid doing... I only asked him to carry the god in his mind. It's enough for him to have a form, but he... is actually copying its charm!!"

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Outside Of Time

Chapter 410: Faceless Ghost Mountain

"Forget it. He is still young. It's good for him to run into a brick wall."

"How can the Dao charm of the Ghost Emperor be copied just like that? This Fourth... is too ambitious." Old Master Seventh sized up Xu Qing a few times before turning to leave.

At that moment, Xu Qing had already forgotten everything outside his body and the passage of time. There was only one thing in his mind, and that was to completely move this Ghost Emperor into his sea of consciousness.

This was because his master had said that only then could he cultivate the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

Xu Qing felt that this cultivation art was very suitable for him. He wanted to cultivate this art the moment he stepped into the Golden Core Realm. Hence, he felt that... he had to move the god properly.

Xu Qing was worried that just moving the outline wouldn't be enough. Hence, he went deeper and deeper and became increasingly immersed, trying his best to comprehend every detail of the Nanyue Ghost Emperor.

Xu Qing didn't know what charm was. His thoughts were very simple. He wanted to make this god in his sea of consciousness as lifelike as possible and be as similar to the Ghost Emperor Mountain to the greatest extent.

It was like copying an original painting and drawing it perfectly in his mind.

Hence, after he drew the outline, he began to enrich the details and colors inside. However, the difficulty of this process was much higher.

It was just like a person with no foundation in painting. If you asked him to picture an outline, he could do it. However, there would often be many mistakes when filling in the details.

Right now, a mistake appeared when Xu Qing copied the details. This mistake happened when he filled in the details of the body. He had clearly copied it to the greatest extent but the body he copied was still filled with a strange feeling.

Hence, at the next moment, Xu Qing instinctively erased it and started again.

This scene happened in Xu Qing's sea of consciousness. It originated from his comprehension and was very difficult for outsiders to notice. However... Old Master Seventh's cultivation allowed him to see some clues.

It was also this clue that caused Old Master Seventh, who was about to leave, to suddenly stop in his tracks. He abruptly turned his head and stared fixedly at Xu Qing again.

"What's the situation?"

"Why did I feel a hint of Dao charm just now!!" Old Master Seventh took a closer look with a puzzled expression.

"The charm is gone? Also, why is the outline he carried in his mind also gone?"

"What is Fourth doing?"

Old Master Seventh was curious. After observing for a long time and discovering that everything had fallen silent, he walked out in confusion. However, after a day of strolling, even though having Ding Xue by him gave him some joy, he was still curious about Xu Qing's state. Hence, after he returned at dusk, he hurriedly went to look at Xu Qing.

Old Master Seventh was stunned.

"The outline has appeared again! So fast?"

"There's also that hint of charm, also... Hmm? It's gone again!"

Old Master Seventh glared at Xu Qing. He wanted to slap him awake and ask, but he had no choice but to hold it in.

Just like that, days passed and the second month passed.

In the second month, Old Master Seventh was already feeling helpless from Xu Qing's changes. Almost every day, he could sense that Xu Qing had successfully formed the outline before it dissipated.

In the end, he naturally saw some clues.

"I only asked you to carry the form. Fourth, you... There's no need to be like this."

"What are you doing? Showing off your comprehension ability!" Old Master Seventh smiled bitterly. However, the admiration in his eyes grew increasingly dense during this month. He also gained a more comprehensive understanding of his fourth disciple's comprehension ability.

"This kid... is actually the most suitable for the Dao Arts of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect, and the inheritance of the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect comes from this Ghost Emperor. To a certain extent, this kid is very suited to cultivate the Dao of the Nanyue Ghost Emperor."

"Perhaps this is also the reason why he can comprehend the Ghost Emperor to such an astonishing extent."

While Old Master Seventh was deep in thought, Xu Qing's comprehension had also reached a critical moment. He used his sea of consciousness as a drawing board and his comprehension ability as a brush. He drew the Ghost Emperor Mountain again and again and erased it again and again.

Just like that, the body of the Ghost Emperor Mountain in his sea of consciousness gradually became more and more lifelike. Some details also became richer as Xu Qing adjusted and copied them again and again. Only... this Ghost Emperor body had no face.

However, Xu Qing was not satisfied with the face. In reality, he wasn't very satisfied with the body either.

If outsiders knew about this, they would definitely be shaken. This was because it was rare for someone at the Foundation Building realm to accomplish this.

This had an extremely high requirement on comprehension.

However, Xu Qing felt that he was far from even accomplishing 10%. Although the Ghost Emperor Mountain in his sea of consciousness looked lifelike, he was very clear that it was just an empty shell.

At most, it was a very exquisite empty shell.

Compared to the truly perfect copying, Xu Qing judged that he had probably not even completed one percent.

He wanted to try his best to copy it, but his mind was already unable to hold on. His sea of consciousness was completely stretched after the appearance of this Ghost Emperor Mountain, and it was difficult for him to continue maintaining his consciousness.

Hence, on the 67th day, Xu Qing opened his eyes. The deep charm in his eyes filled the air, containing sharpness that surpassed the past.

However, Xu Qing sighed softly.

After that, he sensed something and turned his head. He saw Old Master Seventh sitting behind him with a calm expression.

"Master, I can't continue comprehending."

"There's no need to be discouraged. Although you couldn't finish moving the god in three days like Master back then, I know that you've done your best."

Old Master Seventh calmly spoke with a look that said, 'You're alright.' However, at this moment, his mind was stirring quite a bit. He could sense a hint of the true charm of the Ghost Emperor Mountain from Xu Qing.

Although it was only a trace, if this matter was spread, it was enough to make the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect go crazy.

"Master, it's my comprehension ability that's limited... I've already reached my limit."

Xu Qing lowered his head. He knew that he couldn't compare to his master. In his mind, his master's strength was like a deep pool whose depths could never be seen.

He only felt regret that he had only comprehended for more than 60 days and couldn't continue.

At that moment, the Ghost Emperor Mountain that appeared in his mind emitted a dense black light that emitted waves of astonishing fluctuations. However, it was still far from what Xu Qing thought was perfect.

He could only try his best to show its outline.

Old Master Seventh looked at Xu Qing and sighed inwardly. In his eyes, the instant Xu Qing woke up, not only did he have a hint of true charm, but the aura on his body was also greatly different from before. There was also a hint of ghost aura.

This ghost aura wasn't an aura of death but a mysterious and unfathomable sensation. Although this wasn't much to Old Master Seventh, he was very clear that this meant a lot to cultivators below his cultivation level.

In fact, it could even vaguely form a deterrence against bizarre entities. If others looked at Xu Qing and they had weak wills, they would feel their minds buzzing.

Not only did Old Master Seventh sense this, but the shadow felt it even more intensely. Old Master Seventh was beside it, so it didn't dare to show anything. However, the horror in its mind spread throughout its body as Xu Qing woke up.

It faintly felt that at this moment, Xu Qing... seemed to have the ability to eat it.

Old Master Seventh's face twitched but he instantly returned to normal and spoke with a smile.

"Although your comprehension ability is average compared to mine, it's not bad in our human race."

"Master, I wonder if my current state of comprehension can allow me to cultivate the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art." Xu Qing was a little nervous as he lifted his head and looked at Old Master Seventh.

Old Master Seventh looked at Xu Qing and saw his worried expression. He suddenly didn't want to speak. He felt a little mentally tired, so he stood up and calmly spoke.

"Barely."

When Xu Qing heard this, he heaved a sigh of relief. However, he was also thinking about how he would add copying the Ghost Emperor Mountain to his daily cultivation plans in the future. He would try to comprehend it day and night and strive to truly move it into his sea of consciousness one day.

With this thought in mind, Xu Qing hurriedly stood up. Just as he was about to walk out of the house, Ding Xue came in with snacks. When she saw Xu Qing, her eyes lit up.

"Brother Xu Qing, you're finally awake."

As she spoke, Ding Xue hurriedly ran to Xu Qing and handed him the snacks.

When Xu Qing saw the snacks, he felt a sense of hunger in his stomach. Although his cultivation had reached the level where he could stop eating ordinary food, Xu Qing still liked to eat.

This was because when he ate, he would feel a sense of satisfaction. To him, who had grown up in the slums and lived in the open, this was an instinct that was engraved in his bones.

Hence, Xu Qing picked up a piece and ate it. After some thought, he picked up another piece.

The smile in Ding Xue's eyes was about to overflow. She was in an extremely good mood. She then took out a bottle of medicinal liquid brewed from fruits and added medicinal herbs before placing it in front of Xu Qing considerately.

Xu Qing glanced at Ding Xue and smiled.

"Thank you."

This caused Ding Xue to become excited. Just as she was about to speak, Old Master Seventh's snort rang out from outside the door.

"Since you can't comprehend it anymore, we have to leave."

Ding Xue pouted, feeling a little dissatisfied. However, she didn't dare to say anything else. When Xu Qing heard this, he followed Ding Xue out of the house.

At that moment, it was already dusk outside. The afterglow scattered outside the house and also landed on Old Master Seventh, who was standing in the courtyard with his hands behind his back, reflecting the dissatisfaction on his face very clearly.

Ding Xue blinked and hurriedly ran over to take out another box of snacks. Only then did Old Master Seventh's expression relax and reveal satisfaction.

That expression made Xu Qing feel that it was a little familiar. After recalling, he thought of the old man from the inn on Panquan Road...

Xu Qing then thought of the white snake in the inn.

While Xu Qing was recalling, Old Master Seventh took a bite of the snack. After that, he took out a white token and threw it to Xu Qing.

"Go and give this token to the little boy from the next door who is about to return from school."

"It's rare for me to go out. Let's see if I can find Fifth on the way back in this Yinghuang Province."

"Master will wait for you outside the town." As Old Master Seventh spoke, he summoned Ding Xue. Ding Xue reluctantly left with him.

The orange afterglow of the setting sun spread across the ground. Xu Qing's body swayed and he sat on the low wall at the side. He lifted his head and looked at the setting sun as he waited silently.

He chose a location which intersected with the streets and the neighbor's house.

Not long later, a little boy carrying a school bag and wearing clean clothes bounced back. When he met the neighbors on the way, he would politely bow. When he lifted his head, the smile on his face was filled with joy and satisfaction.

When he was about to reach his house, he saw Xu Qing sitting on the low wall and stopped in his tracks.

"Big Brother." The little boy hesitated for a moment. The smile on his face was a little forced, hiding some fear.

However, in Xu Qing's perception, although this fear was real, there was a ferocity hidden in the depths that was being suppressed.