

## Time 511

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### Chapter 511: Righteous Spirit

As the voice echoed, a person walked over from the sky.

This person looked to be in his mid-twenties. He wasn't burly and only had a medium build.

His appearance wasn't the delicate type either. Instead, he had thick brows and large eyes.

His arms were slightly longer than ordinary people and his eyes were bright, as though they contained the stars, causing his entire person to emit a heroic aura.

He strode over from the sky, letting out a majestic aura.

He didn't deliberately spread out his cultivation base energy but the pressure emitted from his body was so strong that it seemed to be able to suppress everything. What shocked Xu Qing even more was that the Golden Crow totem on his body emitted an intense burning sensation.

Previously, when he faced Shan He and others, although the Golden Crow also emitted heat, it was far inferior to what it was emitting now.

The youth who walked over also had an emperor-level cultivation art. The void behind him tore apart and a golden dragon roared out, coiling between the heavens and the earth with a shocking aura.

Every dragon scale emitted a dazzling light, and every dragon beard contained divine light. The sharpness in its dragon eyes made it look like it was a lord looking down on the world.

Not only that, but the golden dragon also had a sword in its mouth.

That was... the Emperor Sword of the Sword Holders!

This person was someone who had successfully comprehended the Emperor Sword.

If that was all, it would be fine. What caused Xu Qing's heart to stir even more was that he could sense life lanterns in the other party's body.

There weren't just one but three!

In Xu Qing's perception, the light of the three life lanterns in the youth's body was suppressed by his body. It wasn't easy for outsiders to sense it and only those who possessed life lanterns could sense them.

Strong, extremely strong!

This was what Xu Qing felt most directly.

He had only felt that Shan He and the others were dangerous but it wasn't that he couldn't fight them. However, at this moment, the feeling the youth who walked over gave Xu Qing was like an immovable mountain.

The other party's aura was shockingly dense and incomparable.

At the same time, as he arrived, the surrounding Sword Holders cupped their fists respectfully. However, most of them had smiles on their faces.

"Brother Kong!"

"Greetings, Brother Kong!"

"Brother Kong, it's been a long time since we last met. Your cultivation has improved again."

The youth laughed. When he returned the greeting to everyone, the young girl who had wiped the blood from the corners of her mouth seemed to have become a pretty girl from a small family. She ran to the youth's side and seemed to have plucked up the courage to speak.

However, the youth pinched her face.

"Little Night Spirit, I haven't seen you for more than a year. You've grown taller."

As he spoke, Shan He and Wang Chen also quickly walked over and greeted the youth.

"Little He, don't be gloomy all day. Smile more."

"And you, you sleep in the coffin every day. Come drink with me later." The youth's voice was hearty. While he was reminiscing with these old friends, the captain was also transmitting his voice to Xu Qing.

"Do you see him? The monster I'm talking about is this person, Kong Xianglong. He's the number one person in the current generation of the human race in Fenghai County. A 24-year-old Golden Core with ten palaces. Such a talent hasn't appeared in a thousand years!"

"In the information I bought, there is a lot of information about this person. He has three life lanterns on him."

"He also possesses two emperor-level cultivation arts. One is the Emperor Sword and the other is the Golden Dragon Heaven Surveying Art."

"The information also mentioned that he has a Taboo magic treasure fragment that has been sacrificially refined five times."

"Also, a year ago, this person killed a Holy Wave Race Nascent Soul cultivator when he had a combat strength of nine Heavenly Palaces!"

The captain's voice was filled with emotion. When Xu Qing heard this, he was also moved.

"This Kong Xianglong has a heroic personality. He's open and aboveboard and has a wide range of friends. In the end, most of the human cultivators who fight against him will become his good friends. However, he's extremely savage to other races. It's said that he dismembers them into pieces!"

"But these aren't the main points I want to talk to you about." The captain transmitted his voice as he looked at Kong Xianglong, who was laughing and chatting with others. A hint of admiration appeared in his eyes.

"Little Qing, some people look very good but they are actually sanctimonious. However, some people are really what they seem. After I saw his information previously, I originally didn't believe that this person was really open and aboveboard."

"Hence, I used my method to investigate him. In the end, I discovered that this person is the same as what he shows!"

"His three life lanterns weren't given to him by the elders but obtained with his strength. Although he is a new Sword Holder, it's said that he has lived in the Sword Holding Palace since he was young and was born in a family of laborers."

"After that, because he risked his life to obtain military contributions, he was allowed to cultivate with military contributions. He fought in many battles against the nonhuman races and was at the frontline every battle, resulting in him being on the verge of death many times as he continue to rise."

"He used his military contributions to exchange for one of the three life lanterns and an emperor-level cultivation art. Among them, he successfully comprehended the Emperor Sword twice!"

"The second life lantern was given to him in front of everyone after his best friend sacrificed himself, allowing him to walk the unfinished path on behalf of the other party."

"He snatched the third life lantern from the Holy Wave Race!"

"I, your Eldest Senior Brother, also admire such a person." The captain said in a rare admiring tone.

When Xu Qing heard this, the waves in his mind were intense. Hence, he looked at Kong Xianglong.

Almost at the same time that he looked over, Kong Xianglong had also finished exchanging pleasantries with his old friends. His gaze swept over and landed on Xu Qing as he laughed loudly and walked over.

"I'm guessing that you're the glorious Xu Qing of the Yinghuang Province!"

"Greetings, Senior Brother Kong." Xu Qing cupped his fists and bowed.

"Xu Qing, I've heard about the matter with you and the Law Palace. I've long disliked that woman from the Yao family. She only knows how to scheme from behind and use the rules as her weapon. What she does is only things done by those gutless b\*stards."

"You did well!"

"Let's go drinking together later. My treat!" As Kong Xianglong laughed, another person walked over from afar. It was Zhang Siyun.

His expression was gloomy. When he heard those words, he coldly glanced at Kong Xianglong.

However, the moment his cold gaze glanced at Kong Xianglong, Night Spirit's gaze turned hostile. Shan He narrowed his eyes while Wang Chen smiled with killing intent in his eyes.

They all stared at Zhang Siyun.

Zhang Siyun was stunned for a moment before he immediately restrained himself and silently walked to the edge of the crowd.

Kong Xianglong turned his head and glanced over, a hint of displeasure appearing in his eyes. He knew that Zhang Siyun's mother was Yao Yunhui from the Law Palace.

He also understood that the other party's mother was standing up for her son, but he couldn't stand such a thing. He had grown up in the Sword Holding Palace and had worked there. He had been influenced by the Sword Holding Palace's mission to protect the human race.

Hence, it was fine for Sword Holders to compete with each other, but that kind of internal strife with no justifications was what he hated the most. Hence, he hated Zhang Siyun's actions.

However, he truly admired Xu Qing.

However, they were unrelated to each other and if he said too much, it would cause a misunderstanding. Hence, after smiling at Xu Qing, he turned and left.

Throughout the entire process, he didn't even glance at the captain.

Just ten feet light, he felt that there was a high chance that the other wasn't a good person.

After he left, his friends immediately gathered together. Qing Qiu didn't like to interact with too many strangers, so she declined Night Spirit's invitation and stood alone.

"Brother Kong, why are you so enthusiastic about that Xu Qing?"

After Qing Qiu left, Shan He was a little puzzled and asked Kong Xianglong.

Wang Chen and Night Spirit also looked over. In reality, they didn't have a bad impression of Xu Qing but they didn't have a good impression of him either.

This was because the Great Emperor personally appointed him. They were a little unconvinced.

"Let me tell you guys. It's fine if you have hostility toward others, but don't have hostility toward this Xu Qing," Kong Xianglong said with a smile.

"Emperor's appointment is just an empty title. It's not important. What's important is that Xu Qing got 100,000 feet long light in the heart inquisition. Such a person is the most trustworthy comrade."

"Brother Kong, you got 87,000 feet long light. You're also trustworthy!" Night Spirit spoke softly from the side, her admiration even more obvious.

"It's precisely because of this that I understand the inner quality represented by the 100,000 feet light even more. Believe me, I have never misjudged people. Moreover, the Great Emperor has endorsed him. If you can become friends with such a person, they will be friends for the rest of your lives."

"However, in the future, I have to find an opportunity to remind Xu Qing to be careful of his eldest senior brother who only got 10 feet light. I took a glance just now and felt that that fellow doesn't look like a good person."

While Kong Xianglong and the other three were communicating here, the captain was also persuading Xu Qing.

"Little Qing, I take back what I said earlier. I think that although this Kong Xianglong has a good personality, you guys shouldn't get too close."

Xu Qing was surprised and looked at the captain.

The captain coughed.

"You have to remember that I'm your eldest senior brother!"

Earlier, he had sensed that Kong Xianglong was very enthusiastic about Xu Qing. This enthusiasm and the other party's personality made it very easy for others to treat him as their eldest senior brother. This made the captain a little vigilant.

Xu Qing smiled when he heard that. He then took out an apple from his storage bag and handed it to the captain.

"Eldest Senior Brother, eat an apple."

The captain was immediately happy. He took the apple and took a bite. He felt that this apple was so sweet, so he waved his hand.

"Forget it, the spirit stones you owe me will be... Uh, 30% off!"

The smile on Xu Qing's face silently retracted. He then lifted his head and looked in the direction of Kong Xianglong.

The captain sighed.

"70% off!"

Xu Qing was about to speak but at the next instant, his expression turned solemn. The captain also immediately stood up straight. The Sword Holders in the surroundings were all the same. All of them instantly lifted their heads and looked at the Sword Holding Palace in front of them.

This huge palace building of the Sword Holding Palace seemed to only have one building, but in reality, it contained a large cluster of halls. At this moment, these new Sword Holders were only at the periphery.

In front of them was the outer hall of the Sword Holding Palace.

This hall had a gilded treasure roof with blue tiles, red pillars, and raised eaves.

It also had another name, the Oath Hall.

As this place fell silent, footsteps rang out from the hall ahead. Very soon, five figures walked out of the palace. Under the illumination of the sunlight, they fell into everyone's eyes.

Among these five people, one was at the front and the other four were at the back.

The one at the front was a middle-aged man with a tall and straight figure. He wore an official's uniform and exuded a dignified aura.

His body was covered in overlapping shadows, as though there were ten thousand of them in his body. It also gave off the feeling that it was about to accumulate to a hundred million.

The four people behind him were all old men. Every one of them seemed to have countless shadows overlapping on their bodies, as though they could envelop the sky and form countless bodies.

Although they were still very far from a hundred million, the dignity they emitted from standing there was still earth-shattering.

"I'm Ling Chengzi, the Deputy Palace Master of the Sword Holding Palace in Fenghai County."

"The four people behind me are the four deacons of Fenghai County's Sword Holding Palace. Today, the five of us will read the Dharma rites for you, teach you the rules, assign your posts, and witness your oaths."

"Now, read the rite," the Deputy Palace Master said calmly. A Sword Holder deacon walked out from behind him and his voice spread in all directions.

"The first rule of the Sword Holder..."

This time, there weren't many complicated rituals. Everything was very simple. The words fell into the minds of every Sword Holder.

Xu Qing's expression was solemn. The others were the same.

A long time later, the ceremony ended.

"The Sword Holder has three rules, seven principles, and sixty-nine articles, which you must firmly remember."

"You come from various provinces and have your own rules of survival in your respective provinces. You all have your own personalities and ways of living."

"You might act arrogant and think you are outstanding, and this is acceptable, but only during the early stages when you are joining the Sword Holders. From now on, you have to remember one thing."

"Sword Holders can trust their backs to their comrades!"

"This is completely different from the sects you come from."

"In the sects, the interests are paramount. But in the Sword Holding Palace, duties are paramount, the human race is paramount, and friendship is equally paramount."

"This is the first concept you have to engrave in your minds after becoming Sword Holders!"

"After that, you will have a secret training that will last for seven days. During these seven days, you will master all kinds of secret arts that only Sword Holders can possess. During this time, there will also be the inheritance of the human race's history and the explanation of the customs of the myriad races."

"If you pass the assessment in seven days, your posts will be assigned."

"However, one of you doesn't need to take the assessment. Your post will be arranged now."

"Xu Qing, take nine steps!"

Xu Qing took a deep breath. Under the gazes of the surrounding Sword Holders, he walked out with a solemn expression.

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## [Outside Of Time](#)

### **Chapter 512: Inheritance From Time (1)**

Noon had come and gone and with the sun changing its position, the sunlight no longer shone on the Oath Hall but scattered behind Xu Qing.

Xu Qing walked out of the group of solemnly standing Sword Holders. The sunlight reflected off of him, setting him apart from the others.

The captain looked at Xu Qing's figure. He sighed with emotion but also felt smug. He thought to himself, 'This is my junior brother.'

Qing Qiu was in the crowd. Her pretty face was expressionless under the mask. She glanced at Xu Qing and felt a little disgusted. Hence, she turned her head and looked in the direction of the Nanhuang Continent.

She didn't like such sunny days. She liked it when the wind blew and snow fell.

This was because every time she looked at the distant world on a snowy day, she would vaguely see a small and skinny figure walking over warily while sticking to the corners of the wall and nodding at her.

'Brother Kid...' Qing Qiu mumbled inwardly.

'I'll definitely go to the Nanhuang Continent to look for you as soon as possible. I feel that the so-called heaven's chosens here are inferior to you. If you were in their shoes, you would be stronger than any of them!'

While Qing Qiu looked into the distance, Kong Xianglong and the others looked at Xu Qing. The others still had unconvinced looks in their eyes, but Kong Xianglong didn't.

He was smiling, and his smile contained blessings.

It wasn't just to Xu Qing. He was the same to his friends as well.

Under everyone's gazes, Xu Qing calmly walked forward. After taking nine consecutive steps, he cupped his fists in front of everyone and bowed respectfully to the five people in front of the hall in front of him.

"Greetings, Lords."

The Deputy Palace Master and the four deacons looked at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing's name was already known by the five of them. Back then, the ringing of the Dao bell alarmed the entire Sword Holding Palace and even the county governor asked about it.

Now that they had personally seen Xu Qing's figure under the sunlight and the red flames on his white clothes, the four deacons nodded inwardly.

The Deputy Palace Master's eyes revealed admiration and his expression became a little gentler.

"Xu Qing, you got 100,000 feet light in heart inquisition and the emperor personally appointed you which is a first for my Fenghai County. Therefore, with the Palace Master's decree, you are hereby enlisted as the Palace Master's edict bearer!"

"You will follow the Palace Master from now on. I hope you can temper yourself more. Don't let down the praise of the Great Emperor and the chime of the Dao Bell!"

"I respect the decree!" Xu Qing's expression was solemn as he cupped his fists and bowed again.

He wasn't too surprised by this arrangement but he still felt some regret.

He didn't want to be an edict bearer. He wanted to go to a department similar to the Homicide Department.

As soon as the Deputy Palace Master spoke, the minds of many new Sword Holders shook. The gazes they used to look at Xu Qing were filled with intense envy.

The edict bearer was equivalent to getting a civilian post beside the Palace Master. Although such a position didn't have any rights, he would represent the Palace Master. After taking his post, anyone who saw him had to be polite.

This was especially so when the Palace Master never had an edict bearer before. Xu Qing was the first.

In everyone's eyes, this in itself represented how much the Sword Holding Palace's Palace Master valued Xu Qing. Through this action, he told the world how important the 100,000 feet light and Great Emperor's appointment was.

One could imagine that after this matter spread, all the new participants in the Sword Holder assessments in the future would pay more attention to heart inquisition.

Although this position suited the glory Xu Qing had obtained, there were still some unconvinced Sword Holders here.

For example, Zhang Siyun.

He stared at Xu Qing and the disgust in his heart was intense, especially when he still felt a piercing pain on his left cheek even though the swelling had gone. That was where his mother had slapped him.

'I'm not trash!' Zhang Siyun gritted his teeth and roared inwardly.

The Deputy Palace Master and the others who were standing in front of the Oath Hall didn't care about others' reactions. Even though Zhang Siyun's ancestor was among them, he didn't even glance at Zhang Siyun from the start to the end.

"Xu Qing, although you've been appointed by the Palace Master and don't need to take the assessment, you still have to go to the seven days of secret training."

Xu Qing nodded solemnly before returning to the Sword Holders' lineup. His calm and experienced actions caused the five people in front of the Oath Hall to nod inwardly again.

"All of you, listen up." The Deputy Palace Master retracted his gaze from Xu Qing and glanced at all the Sword Holders below.



"The command sword you obtained in your respective Sword Holding Court is not only a voice transmission item of the Sword Holders but also an artifact to check your contributions. At the same time, it is also the foundation of the Sword Pavilion."

"In a while, you can use this to build your Sword Pavilion under the city. This Sword Pavilion will accompany you for the rest of your lives. It's the same even if you are sent out to work."

"The higher the height of the Sword Pavilion, the greater the glory it represents. I hope that one day, someone among you can form a 100,000 feet tall Sword Pavilion."

"Only after you die will your Sword Pavilion be removed by the Sword Holding Palace. However, your names will be written in the Oath Hall. The future Sword Holders will have to pay their respects to you every time they make an oath. You will never be forgotten."

The Deputy Palace Master slowly spoke. After saying this, he flicked his sleeve and the dazzling light in the hall behind him instantly scattered in all directions. All the doors were completely open, allowing everything inside to be clearly reflected in the eyes of all the Sword Holders.

There was clearly another space in the hall, and the actual range exceeded the hall itself.

There were countless command swords inside.

Some were intact, some were damaged, and some only had fragments. There were even some who seemed to have lost their sword bodies and were replaced with spirit tablets.

A sense of heroism assaulted everyone.

There were too many spirit tablets and command swords inside. The whole hall was filled with them.

These were all the Sword Holders who had died in battle in Fenghai County over the countless years!

Every one of them was once a heaven's chosen of the human race.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 513: Inheritance From Time (2)**

Every one of them had their own stories.

Looking at those tablets and swords, Xu Qing's mind shook. He felt a spiritual impact spreading out from the hall and gushing into his mind.

Vaguely, he seemed to hear the shouts of countless Sword Holders before they died and saw countless white-clothed figures.

They had the human race behind them, so they would rather die in battle than take even a step back.

The shock became even more intense.

They laughed as they threw themselves to their deaths. They roared as they killed the enemies. Before they died, they shouted their oaths with no regrets.

"I'm willing to become a Sword Holder. I'm loyal to my duty and not afraid of sacrifice."

"I'm willing to become a Sword Holder. I will never betray the human race. I'm always prepared to fight."

"I'm willing to become a Sword Holder. I will fight for the human race and protect it."

"I'm willing to become a Sword Holder. I will slash all dangers and bring light to the world."

More and more of them gradually gathered together. It was like the sound of heaven and earth, echoing through the world. At the same time, it instinctively came from the mouths of every Sword Holder here.

Gradually, everyone's voices fused with the words spoken by those figures, as though they had become one.

That heroic aspiration that came from the incomplete heroism seemed to have been passed down at this moment through time and space.

This was the oath of all new Sword Holders.

Xu Qing didn't know how he left the Sword Holding Palace. Even when he was walking on the streets, the scenes from the Oath Hall still replayed in his mind.

All of this was completely different from when he was in the sect.

Xu Qing wasn't the only one. The captain was the same. All the Sword Holders were the same. Even someone like Zhang Siyun had a dazed expression.

It was only when he returned to the courtyard of the branch sect and his residence that Xu Qing regained his senses.

He lifted his head and looked at the night sky outside in the direction of the Sword Holding Palace. He couldn't help but take a deep breath. He knew why he was like this. It was because the Oath Hall contained astonishing soul fluctuations.

There were too many heroic souls there. They didn't have any malice toward the new Sword Holders at all. They only expressed their regrets and ambitions that they hadn't fulfilled.

Through this method, they told the new Sword Holders...

What was a Sword Holder!

Xu Qing's heart stirred. In reality, on the trip here, he had already sensed from Chen Tinghao's behaviors that the Sword Holders were very different from the sect cultivators.

He fell silent.

He wouldn't feel a sense of belonging toward any faction, regardless of whether it was the sect or the Sword Holding Palace. Regardless of what he saw or felt, it was impossible for him to lose his vigilance.

He wanted to observe more.

After a long time, Xu Qing took a deep breath and composed himself. He then took out his Sword Holder command sword.

After today's report and oath, this command sword became a little different.

Many of its functions had been activated. As his divine sense fused into it, information about military contribution exchange appeared in his mind.

Military contribution was extremely important to the Sword Holder because any item could be exchanged for military contributions. In this information, Xu Qing even saw life lanterns and the inheritance of emperor-level cultivation arts.

However, the amount of military contributions needed was extremely great. Some even required battle merits.

Military contributions and battle merits were different.

The former could be gained through the various missions issued by the Sword Holding Palace and accumulated through one's posts. As for the latter... it was obtained through issuance and was divided into five levels.

Among them, grade one battle merits were the rarest and so on.

Xu Qing swept his divine sense over and finally looked at the information about exchanging for the inheritance. He found Mount Morning Glow inside.

"3,000,000 military contributions and grade three battle merits can be exchanged for one time comprehension in Mount Morning Glow."

Looking at these, determination appeared in Xu Qing's eyes.

"I have to think of a way to obtain military contributions!"

The captain was also doing the same. At that moment, in his residence, the captain rubbed his forehead while sensing the exchange information in his command sword. His eyes gradually lit up.

"So many good things!"

After his breathing hastened slightly, he quickly locked onto emperor-level cultivation arts. He ignored the others and only stared at one. His eyes revealed an unprecedented desire.

"Ancient Dao Seal Decree, incomplete!"

"I've been searching for this cultivation art for a very, very long time. As expected, it's in the capital!"

The captain's eyes revealed intense desire and another face of his appeared in his pupils. It also opened its eyes, revealing madness.

After a long time, he barely suppressed the desire in his heart. He then took a deep breath and looked in the direction of Xu Qing's residence.

"Little Qing, Eldest Senior Brother said that in this life, he will definitely do his best to travel with you."

"As long as I obtain this decree, I can really... travel with you in this life."

The captain mumbled softly.

After the oath of the new Sword Holders was taken, on the morning of the third day, the seven-day secret training of the Sword Holders began.

The location of this secret training was also in the Sword Holding Palace. It was in the Knowledge Hall.

In the morning, as the time for the secret training arrived, all of the 51 new Sword Holders arrived on time. They were all sitting upright in the Knowledge Hall.

The Knowledge Hall was different from the other halls. There were many tables inside and the layout was like a school.

Xu Qing sat on the right side of the hall, behind the captain.

On his left was Qing Qiu, and on his right was Kong Xianglong.

As usual, Qing Qiu ignored Xu Qing. Kong Xianglong smiled at Xu Qing and spoke kindly.

"I've learned these things when I was a worker in the past. They've been pretty useful when completing missions over the years. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask me."

Xu Qing cupped his fists and thanked him. The captain in front turned his head and glanced at Xu Qing.

"Junior Brother, you can ask me too."

Kong Xianglong smiled but didn't speak.

Xu Qing glanced at the captain and nodded.

The captain was satisfied and was about to continue speaking. However, at the next instant, he quickly turned around and sat upright. The other Sword Holders were the same because a person walked over from outside the hall.

This person was a middle-aged man in a black Daoist robe. His body was very thin and his face was sallow, giving off a sickly feeling. He was a Nascent Soul cultivator and was coughing as he walked over.

This lasted until he shuttled through the tables in the hall and walked to the front. He sat on a chair and looked at everyone in the hall.

"When I speak, I don't like to be interrupted, so if there's anything you don't understand... it's that your comprehension ability isn't good."

"If someone interrupts me, then I'll ask you to leave."

"By the way, you can call me Sick Ghost. I'm in charge of teaching you the Sword Holder's secret art of hiding things." The Sick Ghost coughed again. This time, it was very intense and he spat out a mouthful of blood.

As blood flowed out, the poison hidden in the blood... silently spread out at this moment.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed.

## [Outside Of Time](#)

### **Chapter 514: Poison Demon Takes Action**

This poison was colorless and odorless and extremely difficult to detect. Even if one had some understanding of medicine, they wouldn't be able to sense it immediately.

Only those who specialized in the Dao of Poison would instinctively sense the existence of poison.

Just like Xu Qing.

He instantly sensed this poison and frowned imperceptibly.

This was a poison he had never seen before. He couldn't smell the composition of the medicinal herbs inside and could only sense that it contained biological poison sacs. Moreover, it should be a mix of poison. Just one of them wasn't of much use.

'They still need the cooperation of other poisons to activate.'

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever but he was vigilant inwardly. Although he wasn't afraid of poison and his body contained even more potent poison, his cautious personality still made him flick his fingers slightly and poison spread out in the surroundings.

It was to protect himself.

If the other party's poison contained something unexpected, Xu Qing would have a way to deal with it.

After doing this, Xu Qing was expressionless as he listened attentively to the lesson.

When everyone in the surroundings saw Sick Ghost coughing up blood, they all looked at each other in dismay. However, Kong Xianglong was sitting upright. Respect could be seen in his eyes. Clearly, he knew Sick Ghost. At the same time, the qi and blood in his body instinctively circulated, vaguely forming a protective barrier.

There were some who did the same, but not everyone.

At that moment, Sick Ghost coughed violently a few more times. A weakened expression appeared on his face as he wiped the corners of his mouth.

"It's fine. Back then, when I was a spy in the Holy Wave Race, I was injured by those bastards."

"As for the secret art of the Sword Holder to hide things, this is very useful. In the future, you will face all kinds of missions and battles. It will definitely involve information and the transfer of items."

"In that case, if you are in the enemy's camp or are about to be killed, how to ensure that the things you hide won't be leaked? This secret art will teach you how to form a small space that belongs to you."

Sick Ghost slowly spoke. Although his voice was weak, it still clearly entered everyone's ears.

"Moreover, this space has a secret key. Everyone's secret key is different, just like a true spirit incantation. However, since you set it up yourself, you naturally have to remember to turn in a backup of the secret key. Don't worry, in the entire Sword Holding Palace, only the Palace Master has the right to know everyone's secret key. Others will only be told when the missions require it."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought. This method of hiding items was novel to him.

The captain's eyes lit up.

'Only the Palace Master knows everyone's secret key. In that case, if I change the secret key to a sentence, such as protecting the human race, won't it indirectly increase his good impression of me? When others find out, they will also feel deep veneration.'

While the captain was thinking about the feasibility of this matter, Sick Ghost continued to speak.

"The purpose of this backup is to ensure that the other Sword Holders can find that storage space on your body and take out your last words and items when you are dead."

The captain blinked and felt that his thoughts were a little inauspicious, so he dismissed them.

After Sick Ghost finished introducing the art, he began to impart relevant cultivation art.

Although he didn't allow others to speak, Sick Ghost's teaching was very detailed. However, during this period, he spat out blood many times and his body seemed to be on the verge of collapse. He only finished the lesson after the morning passed.

Very soon, the Sword Holders began to try using the secret art.

"You guys can cultivate on your own after you return." After Sick Ghost finished speaking, he stood up. As though he had stood up too quickly, blood flowed out of the corner of his mouth. After wiping it away with an indifferent expression, he walked to the entrance of the Knowledge Hall.

Just as he was about to leave, he suddenly turned his head and looked at everyone in the hall with a smile.

"By the way, I'm actually not only talking about the secret art to hide things in this lesson. I'm also using my actions to tell you that as a Sword Holder, you have to be vigilant at all times."

"Didn't you notice that I'm not wearing the Sword Holder's Daoist robe?"

"Have you seen anyone in the Sword Holding Palace who doesn't wear the Sword Holder's Daoist robe?"

"Must the people who entered the class be Sword Holders? Where's your vigilance? Have you forgotten three rules, seven principles, and sixty-nine articles?"

"Even if there are really plainclothes, the normal process would require the Sword Holders to introduce their identities. This is a very simple test. The results of the test... Some of you are too inexperienced." As Sick Ghost spoke, he waved his right hand.

Immediately, more than ten of the 51 Sword Holders fell to the ground and fainted. The remaining ones looked at Sick Ghost.

The captain, Qing Qiu, Kong Xianglong, and the others were among them.

"If I was really an enemy, then these people would be dead."

Sick Ghost glanced at the ones who didn't collapse and smiled.

"This batch of Sword Holders is indeed different from the past. However, from the start to the end, not many people noticed the abnormality of my uniform, so you still failed."

"Being unconscious is bad, but you guys are not much better. This will be recorded in the assessment." After Sick Ghost finished speaking, he flicked his sleeve and his clothes changed, becoming the Daoist robe of the Sword Holder.

After that, he took out some pills and threw them at the unconscious Sword Holders. He then looked at Xu Qing and the others with a spurious smile.

"However, there were a few who passed the test. Whose eye is this?" As Sick Ghost spoke, he grabbed an eye from behind him.

The captain coughed.

"And this melon seed."

"There's also this trace of evil ghost intent."

"And this hair that suddenly appeared."

"And this wisp of fog, could it be that you enslaved a member of the Smoke Race?" Sick Ghost's gaze swept past the captain, Night Spirit, Qing Qiu, Shan He, and Wang Chen.

"The five of you pass!"

As soon as he finished speaking, footsteps rang out from outside the hall. Four figures that emitted a murderous aura suddenly appeared. The Sword Holder Daoist robes on their bodies were a little different. There was a black sword embroidered on their collars.

"Sick Ghost, someone saw through your test. Someone sent a voice transmission to our Law Enforcement Department and asked us to capture you." Among the four of them, a middle-aged law enforcer calmly spoke.

"Oh? Who is it?" Sick Ghost smiled. When he looked at everyone in the hall, Kong Xianglong stood up and cupped his fists at him.

"Kid, you're good. You clearly know me but you can still look past the barrier formed by cognition and see the essence. This is much more amazing. Your results are excellent!" Sick Ghost's eyes lit up and he nodded in admiration. He was about to leave.

The captain coughed again and spoke somewhat embarrassedly.

"Sir, there's another eye..."

Sick Ghost was stunned and looked at the captain.

"It's in your storage bag." The captain blinked.

After Sick Ghost lowered his head and checked, he waved his hand and took out an eye from his storage bag. He held it in his hand and looked at it. His eyes revealed a strange glint as he carefully sized up the captain a few times.

"Not bad, to be able to make me not notice it. Although there are tricks, it's also extremely good. Your results are also excellent. Oh right, what's your name?"

"Chen Erniu..." The captain replied carefully.

Sick Ghost fell silent and cast a deep glance at the captain.

He had heard of this name before. At this moment, he shook his head and turned to leave.

Xu Qing hesitated for a moment and looked at the other party's weakened body that was filled with his poison.

He could tell that the other party wasn't someone who was proficient in the Dao of Poison. It should be poison formed naturally from the injuries in his body and he used it as a weapon.

Previously, this person had spat out blood many times, so Xu Qing couldn't help but release more poison as he was on guard. He wasn't sure if this poison would cause a drastic change when mixed with Sick Ghost's injuries.

However, just in case, Xu Qing still stood up.

"Lord."

Sick Ghost stopped in his tracks again and turned to look at Xu Qing. In reality, he had been paying attention to Xu Qing previously and knew that the other party had 100,00 feet of light. However, in the end, he was still a little disappointed.

In his opinion, although Xu Qing didn't fall for his move, he didn't hide any tricks on him. Also, he didn't see the problem with his robe. This made him look slightly mediocre and stiff.

However, now that he was stopped, he still felt some anticipation.

"Xu Qing, did you secretly hide anything on me?"

Xu Qing nodded.

"What is it?" Sick Ghost was curious. He couldn't sense anything else.

"Poison..." Xu Qing said apologetically.

Sick Ghost was stunned.

"There are many poisons mixed together. I wonder if it will affect Lord's injuries. It's very easy for the poison to undergo drastic changes when they are mixed."

The expression of Sick Ghost changed.

"Lord, you... should hurry up and go back to find someone to detoxify the poison."

"Also, fellow colleagues, the same goes for you. I'm sorry about this but you don't have any hidden injuries, so the poison is on the surface. I haven't activated it yet, so it can be neutralized."

Xu Qing finished speaking in one breath and took out a large number of antidotes, distributing them to the dumbfounded crowd. After that, he apologetically looked at Sick Ghost who was standing there in a daze with a rapidly changing expression.



"Lord, your body has been stimulated by your poison. I don't have an antidote. Hurry up and find an alchemy expert..."

The surroundings were completely silent. Everyone looked at Xu Qing with shock in their eyes. Regardless of whether it was Shan He, Wang Chen, or Kong Xianglong, they were all the same.

Only the captain looked like he knew this would happen and calmly swallowed a large number of antidotes.

Just as Sick Ghost was about to say something, he spat out a mouthful of black blood and his face instantly turned greenish-black. He was quickly supported by the four law enforcers beside him to look for the alchemy masters of the Sword Holding Palace.

The hall fell silent again.

Immediately after, the sound of gulping rang out. Everyone was swallowing antidotes. After those unconscious people woke up and were informed of the situation, their expressions changed drastically and they quickly swallowed the pills.

There were also whooshing sounds. All the tables around Xu Qing were moved away. Kong Xianglong also instinctively moved away. Qing Qiu was even faster.

Xu Qing sat down silently. He was already used to this loneliness. At least he still had Eldest Senior Brother.

The captain was still as calm as ever. Ever since he got to know Xu Qing, the number of antidotes in his storage bag hadn't decreased. At this moment, he took out another handful and ate them like they were candies. At the same time, he looked proudly at Kong Xianglong and thought to himself.

'What's the big deal? One look and I can tell that you don't have enough foresight.'

Being swept by the captain's gaze, Kong Xianglong smiled bitterly. He braced himself and moved the table over again. He then laughed at Xu Qing and took out a few antidote pills to eat.

Xu Qing fell silent.

At that moment, the atmosphere in the hall revealed a strangeness amidst the relative silence. Many Sword Holders secretly glanced at Xu Qing.

One could imagine that this matter would soon spread throughout the Sword Holding Palace...

Not long later, footsteps rang out from the hall and another Sword Holder walked over.

This person was an old man. Different from Sick Ghost, the sense of dignity he emitted was very strong and even more gloomy. When he walked over, his footsteps landed on the ground and popping sounds rang out. His qi and blood were violent.

When he reached the front, the old man turned and coldly swept his gaze across everyone. Finally, his gaze landed on Xu Qing.

"You're the one who intensified Sick Ghost's poison?"

## Outside Of Time

### **Chapter 515: Sovereigns of the Human Race! (1)**

The old man's voice was cold and contained a hint of killing intent.

There was also a baleful aura that instinctively emitted from him, which was further enhanced by his serious expression that concealed malevolence.

Xu Qing could sense that this old man was also at the Nascent Soul realm but his aura felt stronger than Sick Ghost's. He nodded in acknowledgment.

"Very good." The old man looked at Xu Qing and laughed a cold laugh.

"Sick Ghost relied on the characteristic of coexisting with the Holy Wave Race's poison to always release poison. However, he has limited knowledge when it comes to the Dao of Poison. This batch of Sword Holders is quite impressive!"

"Your name is Xu Qing, isn't it? Come over here. As a reward for poisoning Sick Ghost, I'll allow you to assist me in explaining the myriad races."

Xu Qing stood up and walked toward the old man, and stood by his side.

The old man's gaze moved away from Xu Qing and looked at everyone in the hall.

"You can call me Ghost Hand. I'm in charge of explaining some common characteristics and fatal points of the myriad races to you."

Qing Qiu instinctively glanced at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing focused. He could sense a strong smell of blood from the old man. At the same time, he also noticed that the reverence in Kong Xianglong's expression surpassed the latter's reverence for Sick Ghost.

Just as Xu Qing was in deep thought, Kong Xianglong's voice transmission rang out in his ears.

'Pawn.'

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. He knew the meaning of Pawn. This meant that this old man in front of him was from the Prison Department.

His interest in the content the other party was about to explain increased greatly.

Previously, when he was in the Seven Blood Eyes' Homicide Department, he had interacted with some nonhuman races and knew that the body structures of many races were extremely different from the human race. This also made their fatal points different.

For example, the Bizarre Fiend Race and the Starfish Race had different fatal points.

"Smoke Race, this race was born under the sun and lives within the breath of the heavens. They don't seem to have any fatal points, but in reality, their bodies are riddled with them. You need to use wind spells to stimulate..."

"Xu Qing, catch."

The old man spoke calmly, then waved his right hand. Immediately, a piece of ice appeared in front of him and floated in front of Xu Qing.

Xu Qing immediately caught it.

Being at such a close distance, he could sense it more clearly than others.

This ice was transparent and he could faintly see a wisp of smoke sealed inside.

"You can even make it more simple. For example, you can seal them in ice."

After introducing the Smoke Race, the old man flicked his sleeve and kept the ice before continuing to introduce the other races.

"The Cloth Hair Race can turn their enemies into puppets using their innate talent. Their fatal area is their third finger. That's where their lifeline is."

The old man waved his hand again, and a small, skinny corpse appeared in front of him. It also floated in front of Xu Qing and was controlled by Xu Qing with a spell. He then moved the corpse around according to the old man's request.

This corpse was green and there was a horn on its head. Its entire body was naked and wrinkled.

"Xu Qing, find his third finger."

Upon hearing this, Xu Qing immediately lifted the right hand of the corpse and showed the half-broken third finger to all the Sword Holders.

"There's also the Two Faces Race, a close relative branch of the Holy Demon Race."

"Due to the alliance agreement, the Holy Demon Race can't kill wantonly, but the Two Faces Race can. Like the Holy Demon Race, they have powerful physical prowess. The moment their two faces rotate, strike their glabellas."

The old man waved his hand again and took out a Two Faces Race's corpse that was more than 20 feet tall. Blood was dripping from his glabella.

Xu Qing's perception was even clearer. He could tell that the injury on the Two Faces was a sword mark. The sword had penetrated through the entire head and the two glabellas.

The expressions of the Sword Holders in the surroundings turned solemn. All of them became fully engrossed in what was being said.

The old man continued to speak, describing a hundred nonhuman races in great detail. With each explanation, he would take out a specimen of that race. Every specimen looked like they had died not long ago.

There were also some who were still alive and were directly killed by the old man in front of everyone.

Gradually, the stench of blood in the hall became denser.

During this process, Xu Qing gained a lot.

Not only could he see clearly, but his perception was also thorough. He could also sense many details.

"The last one is a Quasi-Immortal." At this point, the old man grinned as though his mood became better from killing earlier. He took out a wine gourd and took a big gulp.

"The ones you saw earlier were all hunted down and killed by me to use in this presentation. Every one of them has cruelly killed human cultivators which includes Sword Holders as well. All of them are wanted by the Sword Holding Palace."

"I'm very happy that there aren't any pedantic people in your batch who feel sympathy for the foreign races. There were occasionally such idiots in the early years."

"It's not easy to get close to the Quasi-Immortals. I brought this one out of the Prison Department. Unfortunately, it's the same as the Holy Demon Race, it can't be killed." As the old man spoke, he waved his hand and the Quasi-Immortal appeared in front of everyone.

This Quasi-Immortal cultivator was unconscious and was floating in the air.

"Look carefully. The Quasi-Immortal Race is similar to the human race but they have five hearts. This is their strength and their regenerative ability is very strong. They have few fatal points. Compared to the hearts, I personally feel that their kidneys are more fatal."

"Of course, if you encounter it in the future, you can try to dismember it. That way, nothing will go wrong."

"What I'm talking about is the fatal points of the physical bodies of the various races. There are differences because of different arts and techniques, so you'll have to assess these on the spot."

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### **Chapter 516: Sovereigns of the Human Race! (2)**

"There's one more thing I have to remind you about the Quasi-Immortals. The immortal puppets of the Quasi-Immortals are stronger than their clansmen. They are killing machines that were created for battle."

"Every immortal puppet is at least in the Nascent Soul realm. I don't know the details of the production process, but I know that it was refined using live Quasi-Immortals. You can imagine how cruel the process is. The goal is to stimulate their resentment and madness, and then combine it with some special anomalous substances to produce an ability similar to invading all things."

With that, the old man put away the Quasi-Immortal cultivator and took another large gulp of wine.

"It's a pity that I can't dismember this Quasi-Immortal in front of you. The three races have an alliance. One of them stipulates that if the criminals of the three races are caught committing crimes in the territory of another race, they can only be imprisoned for ten years at most before they have to be transferred back to their own race."

"It's the same for the Holy Demon Race, the Quasi-Immortal Race, and our human race."

The old man shook his head and no longer bothered everyone as he walked out.

Xu Qing also returned to his chair and sat down.

At that moment, it was already afternoon outside, and the sun was already setting on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky.

As the sunset deepened, a figure walked into the Sword Holding Palace.

He was an old man clothed in a green robe. His hair was white and his eyes sparkled. The scholarly aura coming from him was unmistakable even from a distance.

As he walked over, all the Sword Holders who saw him greeted him respectfully.

"Greetings, Deputy Governor."

The Palace Masters of the three palaces were second only to the County Governor in terms of authority. Below this level was the Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor had a smile on his face as he walked toward the Knowledge Hall. On the way, he looked at the surrounding halls and smiled as he spoke to the Sword Holder beside him.

"Thinking about it, the last time I came here was ten years ago. Yesterday, I heard from the county governor that the new Sword Holders are impressive. I can take this opportunity to take a look at the elites of our human race."

The Deputy Governor was accompanied by the leader of the four deacons of the Sword Holding Palace, who broke into a smile upon hearing this.

"These brats still have much to learn. The Deputy Governor is very knowledgeable. If you could give them some pointers, it would be their great fortune."

The Deputy Governor nodded happily and followed the deacon to the Knowledge Hall.

The moment they entered, everyone in the hall saw the deacon escorting someone and stood up to greet him. Xu Qing was the same and looked at the two people walking over.

"This is the Deputy Governor of my Fenghai County. He will explain to you about the history of the human race and how to save yourself through plants and vegetation when you are in danger."

The deacon spoke solemnly.

"The Deputy Governor is a paragon of virtue and benevolence. Six years ago, he improved the white pills and developed the plain pills. The effect of this pill on dissipating anomalous substances has more than doubled. This great feat has alleviated the sufferings of the people in the county, sparing them from the torment of the anomalous substances."

At this point, the deacon cupped his fists and bowed to the Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor returned the greeting and sighed with emotion.

"I cannot accept the praise of immeasurable virtue. It takes time to nurture the herbs for the plain pills. Right now, they can only be provided to the commoners in the county capital. If it can be popularized in

the entire 13 provinces of the county and even the entire human race, it can then be considered a virtue."

"Lord is humble." The deacon spoke respectfully before bidding farewell and leaving. It was only when he walked out of the Knowledge Hall that the Deputy Governor, who was the focus of Xu Qing and the others, smiled and walked to the chair. After taking his seat, he spoke warmly.

"Everyone, sit down. Your deacon overpraised me. I'm just a scholar."

Everyone bowed respectfully before sitting down. They then looked at the Deputy Governor in front of them.

Xu Qing looked at the other party and sensed an aura similar to Grandmaster Bai and the Great Elder of the Sword Holding Court. This made him instinctively have a good impression of him.

This was especially so when he heard about the plain pills earlier. It aroused his interest and he prepared to buy one to study later.

The Deputy Governor's lesson was also very interesting. He explained the history of the human race. From the glory of the Ancient Sovereign Mystic Nether to the worship of the myriad races in the Wanggu Continent until the god's fragmented-face arrived and the Wanggu faced its calamity.

After that, the focus was on the successive human emperors of the human race in the era after the god's fragmented-face.

Some of them were muddle-headed, some were wise. Some were trying to revive the human race, while some were content with the status quo.

"In the year 37938 of the Eastern Triumph Calendar, the Human Sovereign Eastern Triumph was eager for military glory. He ignored the dissuasion and mobilized the entire race to start a war with the Flame Moon Mystic Heaven Race. This battle ended in a huge defeat, with tens of thousands of years of accumulation of our human race gone to waste, and countless young men buried in the foreign soil. After that, our strength declined sharply, and it became a turning point for our human race. History calls it the Mystic Heaven Incident."

"In the year 21435 of the Holy Sky Calendar, the series of consequences of the Mystic Heaven Incident erupted cumulatively. Our human race lost 39 regions that had been ours for tens of thousands of years. Billions of our people became refugees, enslaved by the nonhuman races and scattered throughout Wanggu."

"Those commoners who are scattered in the nonhuman races' territories, generations after generations, live without knowledge of their race and die without knowing where their homes are. Some of the better off can form small countries but they are also facing enslavement and destruction at all times."

"It was only during the Mirror Cloud Era, several years later, that our human race had a chance to rise again. The Human Sovereign Mirror Cloud was wise and virtuous. There was also a small country in the Purple Green Region that was able to rise against the heavens and occupied the region."

"This country's name was Purple Green. Its king was ordinary, but its crown prince was peerlessly shocking and is known as the number one outstanding talent of the human race after the god's

fragmented-face arrived. He was born with the luck of the human race. The moment he was born, wails rang out from all the forbidden regions in the Wanggu Continent. Strange blood flowed and spread outside the various forbidden regions."

"Later generations researched and believed that he was the savior created by the vast world of the Wanggu Continent with the power of the world. He was given the mission of unifying the Wanggu Continent."

"This Crown Prince Purple Green, who could suppress an era, and the Human Sovereign Mirror Cloud suppressed two opposite directions. Under the joint efforts of the two of them, our human race finally stabilized the situation of constantly losing our territories."

"At that time, the human race still had three regions and 27 counties, with the large region of Purple Green under our feet, which is now the Holy Wave Large Region!"

"This peerless heaven's chosen fell."

"He died on the soil of the Purple Green Kingdom. Those who participated in the killing were all terrifying individuals, including the sleeping god of the earth who also took action. The Human Sovereign Mirror Cloud was unable to reinforce him in time. From then on... there was no longer Purple Green in this world. That peerless heaven's chosen finally died in an overseas continent far away from here."

"On the day he died, the Wanggu's mountain ranges quaked as though they were shouting. The billions of rivers flowed against the current as though they were crying. The fragmented-face of the god in the sky also opened its eyes because of this."

"Years later, as the Purple Green disappeared and the Grand Duke Holy Wave was appointed as the region lord, in the year 1257 of the Dao World Calendar, even though the Human Sovereign Dao World was wise and virtuous, everything still changed. The Black Heaven Race rose and invaded our human race!"

"The human sovereign personally led the expedition and the entire race resisted. We could have successfully repelled the Black Heaven Race but at the critical moment, the Grand Duke Holy Wave rebelled and handed a region to Black Heaven. He even mixed his blood with theirs and turned against his own race!"

"After this battle, the human race lost two regions and 20 counties... This incident is known as the Rebellion of the Holy Wave."

"From that moment on, the name of the large region of Purple Green was changed to Holy Wave."

As the Deputy Governor spoke, his voice seemed to lead everyone on a journey through time, allowing them to witness the history of the human race. The story was poignant and emotional, filled with moments of excitement as well as sorrow.

"Just like that, the territory of our human race went from covering the entire Wanggu Continent to only one region and seven counties. Now, it's year 2931 of the Mystic War Calendar. I hope that our Human Sovereign Mystic War will bring back the holy light."

The Deputy Governor sighed softly.

"The future depends on you. I hope you can inherit the ancient style and become Sword Holders who can truly protect the human race and not just look for your own benefits!"

Everyone fell silent.

Xu Qing lowered his head. His hands had clenched tightly at some point in time. They were clenched so tightly that they turned white.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 517: Everything Follows the Environment (1)**

Accidents always appeared suddenly, stirring up waves that flooded one's mind.

Xu Qing was listening to the Deputy Governor talk about the history of the human race. This was the first time he had heard of the human race's past. He was instinctively immersed and wasn't prepared at all when he heard the name he didn't want to hear the most.

From the Deputy Governor's words, it seemed that this person... had once made a major contribution to the human race.

Xu Qing wasn't that great. His thoughts were very simple. He would find that crow and kill it.

As for what the other party had done in the past, whether it was really as the Deputy Governor had said or it was fabricated by later generations. Xu Qing felt that there was no need for him to think about it.

Perhaps there was indeed a concept of good and evil in this world, but most of the time, things weren't that simple between humans, but rather complex.

So, good and evil were rare in the true sense of the word, and they were mostly rooted in differences in standpoints.

In order to survive, a person snatched the last white pill of another person. As a result, that person mutated and died. The robber continued to commit such acts and eventually managed to survive.

In the eyes of everyone who was killed by him and the world, he was evil.

However, after he survived, he went on to do many good deeds that saved even more people. In the eyes of those people, he was a good person.

So, was he evil or good?

Some things were not easy to distinguish. This was because no matter what choice was made, it would be considered wrong by someone. The act of distinguishing itself contained different standpoints.

The answer to a question from different perspectives was different.

Xu Qing had seen too many real-life cases when he was young and was also ignorant about this.

Although he hadn't understood everything yet, he knew the direction.

Stick to his heart.

It was enough.



If you want to kill me, I'll kill you.

If you try to rob me, I'll kill you.

If you want to harm me, I'll kill you.

You killed my parents, so I want to kill you even more!

Xu Qing lifted his head from his lowered posture. His gaze was clear as he looked at the Deputy Governor.

After the Deputy Governor finished narrating the history of the human race, his gaze fell upon the outstanding talents gathered in the hall. Coincidentally, at this moment, his gaze landed upon Xu Qing.

The two of them looked at each other.

The Deputy Governor nodded.

"Next, I will explain to you how to survive in a desperate situation by relying on vegetation. Of course, the limitation here is that the desperate situation you're in contains vegetation."

"This is actually very common. The number of vegetation in the Wanggu Continent surpasses the myriad races themselves."

"If you can stand at an absolute height and look down upon the entirety of Wanggu, you will discover that even after the eradication of myriad races, Wanggu remains relatively unchanged. However, if all vegetation were to be wiped out, the changes in Wanggu would be extremely obvious."

The Deputy Governor's voice was hoarse, and against the backdrop of his aged figure, this voice seemed to carry the weight of time itself, gradually seeping into the minds of all those present.

"I won't teach you specific methods. You have to figure that out on your own after class. I'll only present you with a framework. This is also the direction of my research over the years."

"That is... to change the characteristics of a plant. For example, turning an ordinary plant into a medicinal herb, a spirit grass into a poisonous grass, or a poisonous grass into a spirit grass. This will give you one more way to save yourself in a dangerous environment."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought. He had thought about this direction before.

According to Grandmaster Bai, he could use the technique of balancing yin and yang to change the properties of the herbs. This change could be achieved by using other herbs to match with the harvested herbs according to their different properties.

However, this method had some flaws. There were some medicinal herbs that couldn't be changed by adjusting the two extremes of yin and yang.

While Xu Qing was pondering, so too were the others.

Although everyone's attainments in plants and vegetation were ordinary, they still had some understanding of it. After all, in this world, alchemy pills were indispensable.

The Deputy Governor smiled and looked at everyone. After that, he waved his hand and took out a flower pot. There was a small red flower in it.

The stem of this flower was green. It had three petals, each of which had many small scales like that of a fish. Due to the scales, the red flower gave off a demonic feeling.

"Red Phosphorus Flower." Xu Qing recognized it at a glance. This highly toxic flower was rare and was one of the plants that couldn't be altered by adjusting the two extremes of yin and yang.

"Watch carefully."

The Deputy Governor took out a small bottle and poured the liquid inside into the soil. As he observed the changes in the red-scaled flower, he continued to pour different medicinal liquids.

After doing this, he waved his hands; immediately, his dense cultivation base energy spread out and augmented the flower pot, accelerating the absorption of the medicinal liquid by the red phosphorus flower in the soil.

Gradually, a miraculous scene appeared.

The color of the red-scaled flower gradually shifted to white and a fragrant aroma wafted out in all directions.

Everyone in the hall was amazed, while Xu Qing was shocked.

This scene looked simple but the more one understood, the more shocked they would be.

Xu Qing was very clear that the yin-yang extreme technique couldn't change the red-scaled flower. However, the method used by the Deputy Governor had actually achieved this. This caused Xu Qing's eyes to reveal an intense glint.

"Do you understand?"

"If you want to change the state of a medicinal herb, you don't need to use a drastic approach, nor do you need to transform it externally by harmonizing yin and yang. In my opinion, what is needed is to transform it in a subtle way."

"Subtly, you change the environment it is in and change its nutrients. Let it slowly absorb them without knowing it and influence it from the inside."

"To be precise, it wasn't me who changed its state but its own strength that changed its state. What I did was to create an environment and nutrients that guided its direction."

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 518: Everything Follows the Environment (2)**

The Deputy Governor's eyes were filled with encouragement as he looked at everyone who was deep in thought in the hall.

"This is the framework I am imparting to you. With this as the foundation, you'll be able to achieve twice the result with half the effort if you study the Dao of plants and vegetation."

"I will explain some of this knowledge to you for the next seven days. If you can't fully comprehend it by then, you can spend your military contributions to come to my office and continue learning from me."

With that, the Deputy Governor rose from his seat and walked out of the hall.

Everyone stood and bowed respectfully to the Deputy Governor.

Xu Qing was the same. He found this lesson to be greatly inspiring.

With the departure of the Deputy Governor, today's class came to an end. Everyone walked out of the hall one after another.

At that moment, dusk had passed and the bright moon had risen.

The moon today was very beautiful. There were no clouds in the sky and the moon shone brightly.

Xu Qing, who was about to return to the branch sect with the captain, had just left the main hall when Kong Xianglong's hearty voice rang out from behind him.

"Xu Qing."

"We'll all be comrades in the future, so let me treat you to a drink. I won't beat around the bush - I want to make friends with you."

"These friends of mine are also curious about you. You've just arrived in the county capital, so you might not know much about the Sword Holding Palace. I'll explain it to you later."

"What do you think?"

When Xu Qing heard this, he halted in his steps and turned his head to look at Kong Xianglong who was walking over. The other party had a sincere expression on his face, and his smile was warm. Behind him were Shan He and the others.

Xu Qing hesitated. The other party was so sincere in inviting him and he indeed planned to understand more about the Sword Holders. However, it seemed that the other party didn't like the captain.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, if you don't have time..." Kong Xianglong appeared carefree, but that was simply his personality. It was just that he couldn't be bothered to use his brain. However, this didn't mean that he was stupid. At this moment, he could naturally perceive the source of Xu Qing's hesitation.

Hence, he suppressed the vigilance he had against Chen Erniu and calmly spoke.

"I have time!" The captain coughed. He was very satisfied with Xu Qing's way of taking care of him.

Xu Qing nodded.

Kong Xianglong didn't care too much if there was an additional person. Just as the group was about to leave, Night Spirit grabbed Qing Qiu, who was about to leave.

Qing Qiu had no choice but to tag along.

Just like that, the seven of them flew out of the Sword Holding Palace.

Behind them, Zhang Siyun walked out of the Knowledge Hall. When he saw this scene, he let out a cold snort and left alone.

Kong Xianglong and the others had grown up in the county capital and were naturally very familiar with taverns and restaurants. However, they didn't choose a luxurious place, but rather an ordinary tavern.

There weren't many customers inside. The owners were an old couple and were clearly familiar with Kong Xianglong's group. When they came out with the dishes and saw them, they immediately smiled

"Little Kong is here. You made new friends?"

"Uncle Zhou, Auntie Zhou." After Kong Xianglong arrived, he hurriedly ran over and took the plates of dishes, helping to deliver them to the next table. The customers at the table weren't intimidated by the presence of a group of Sword Holders and instead teased.

"Little Kong, are you here to help again?"

"That's right. I'm drinking while doing miscellaneous chores." Kong Xianglong chuckled. After putting down the plates, he took some wine pots and walked over to Xu Qing.

"Why are you all standing there? Sit down. I brewed the wine here. It's not mixed with water at all." Kong Xianglong pulled everyone to a table and sat down. He placed the wine pots down, looking like the owner.

Qing Qiu was amazed by this scene. Xu Qing also took a few more glances at Kong Xianglong, while the captain seemed to have been aware of it all along.

Just as Kong Xianglong was about to speak, another table of customers shouted for the bill. He hurriedly got up and ran over. His movements were very familiar, and he didn't seem to be the same person as back then at the Sword Holding Palace.

"Big Brother Kong has lived in poverty since young. He used to work as a laborer in the Sword Holding Palace and also took on a few odd jobs outside to earn spirit coins." Night Spirit glanced at Xu Qing and the others and explained.

"He worked as a server for three years in this tavern. He only resigned after he started cultivating and had more missions outside. However, every time we gather, he still chooses this place because Uncle Zhou and Auntie Zhou have been very kind to him."

"Brother Kong is a nostalgic person." Shan He instinctively maintained a gloomy expression and spoke coldly.

Xu Qing looked at the busy Kong Xianglong. He had never encountered such a person before.

Very soon, Kong Xianglong ran back. After he sat down, he picked up a wine pot and laughed at everyone.

"I'm happy today to have made new friends. Come, let's drink!"

Shan He and the others lifted the wine pots. Xu Qing, the captain, and Qing Qiu also picked up the wine pots. After everyone looked at each other, they drank it together.

They were all young people and drank quickly. Although alcohol was nothing to cultivators, it could still liven up the atmosphere, especially with Kong Xianglong's hearty laughter and enthusiasm.

Kong Xianglong's boldness was also reflected in his drinking habits. It was clear that he was a person who loved wine, as he continued to empty one pot after another.

Gradually, Xu Qing and Qing Qiu relaxed. However, the two of them still couldn't stand each other and ignored each other.

As for the captain, he was very sociable and kept drinking with Shan He and the others.

"Little He, Night Spirit, and Wang Chen, I know the three of you aren't convinced about Xu Qing being appointed by the Emperor, but let me tell you, the greatest taboo among the heaven's chosens of the human race is jealousy. You've heard the history of the human race today. Our human race isn't as strong as it used to be, and if we still fight among ourselves, our future will be bleak."

"I don't care what you guys think, but I'm convinced by Xu Qing. A hundred thousand feet is a hundred thousand feet."

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 519: Everything Follows the Environment (3)**

Kong Xianglong sighed. Under his words, the expressions of Shan He and the other two relaxed a little. They tried to approach Xu Qing and the others but they were clearly guarded against the captain and couldn't relax for a while.

Just like that, after three rounds of wine, when the dishes were served, Kong Xianglong smiled and looked at Xu Qing.

"Xu Qing, you guys haven't gone to comprehend the Emperor Sword yet, right? It's the same for Little Night Spirit. I succeeded in comprehending it last year, so I can share some experience with you guys."

Xu Qing was a little moved. Such experiences of insight were extremely precious and generally, few people would talk about them. The captain was also surprised and even Qing Qiu lifted her head.

"Why are you making such expressions? It's just the experiences and insights into the Emperor Sword." Kong Xianglong laughed.

Wang Chen, who had been silent the entire time, spoke softly.

"Brother Kong's personality is like this. He was the one who gave me my life lantern."

"I didn't give you your life lantern. We snatched it together." Kong Xianglong slapped Wang Chen's shoulder, but his hand passed through it.

"Brother Kong, my main body is at a critical moment in cultivation..."

Kong Xianglong smiled but didn't mind. He told about his experience of the Emperor Sword to Xu Qing and the others.

As time passed, the group continued to drink more, especially after the captain brought out some spirit wine brewed by the Seven Blood Eyes. Mortals couldn't drink this wine as even a single sip would cause them to die from drunkenness.

However, to cultivators, it was considered a good wine.

This made Kong Xianglong have a better impression of his captain.

In the end, even though everyone was a cultivator, they still felt a little drunk.

This was because no one circulated their cultivation base to dissipate the effect of alcohol.

This naturally made them more talkative. Shan He was no longer gloomy. Instead, he started cursing the Yao family. He expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the Yao family's close relationship to the nonhuman races.

Even the County Governor and Deputy Governor were mentioned. People sighed at the former and also expressed their understanding and admiration for him, while the latter was widely recognized for his vast knowledge, extraordinary talents, and contributions to the prosperity of the capital.

In the end, the captain even competed in drinking with Kong Xianglong, causing the atmosphere to be extremely lively.

Only around midnight did everyone leave the tavern and go their separate ways.

Although this gathering couldn't turn them into friends immediately, it did help them become somewhat more familiar with each other.

On the way back to the branch sect, the captain put his arm around Xu Qing's neck and looked like he was looking down on the world.

"Let me tell you, Little Qing, these people can't hold their alcohol well. I only used 10% of my abilities. And that Kong Xianglong is even worse, he can't outdrink me!"

Xu Qing smiled and nodded in agreement.

It was a night of silence.

In the next six days, the lessons in the Knowledge Hall continued. This batch of new Sword Holders learned more Sword Holder secret arts and knowledge.

In the middle, the Sword Holding Palace also organized training courses in smaller groups.

Under the arrangements of the Sword Holding Palace, although the classes were held in some halls of the Sword Holding Palace, the space within was transformed into an otherworldly environment.

Under the continuous grouping, everyone slowly became familiar with each other.

There was once when Xu Qing and Qing Qiu were assigned to a group. The two of them completed an ambush test together. Although they both kept cold expressions, their cooperation was surprisingly seamless. This made Qing Qiu feel disgusted.

There was also a time when Kong Xianglong and the captain formed a team for a search operation.

However, they failed.

Because the captain couldn't help taking a bite of the item.

After that, Kong Xianglong secretly reminded Shan He and the others to be careful of Chen Erniu.

"That fellow has a dog's nose and searches based on instinct. His eyes even glow and he likes to take a bite of whatever things there are. When you go out on missions with him in the future, you must pay close attention to the mission items!"

Just like that, seven days passed in the blink of an eye and the secret training ended.

It had to be said that the seven days of secret training in the Sword Holding Palace was very useful. Seven days ago, everyone was unfamiliar with each other. However, seven days later, other than familiarity, there was even some friendship.

Although it wasn't deep, this was a seed.

The seed that would make them into comrades.

Of course, Zhang Siyun was an exception.

While everyone was participating in the final assessment of the secret training, Xu Qing obtained an appointment token. He was told that there was no need for him to undergo the assessment and he would need to report for duty to the Palace Master.

The Palace Master wasn't in the Sword Holding Palace.

He was in the Prison Department.

Guarding the Prison Department was the responsibility of all the Sword Holder Palace Masters of Fenghai County.

Hence, Xu Qing left the Knowledge Hall. He took the appointment token and headed toward the first prison in Fenghai County.

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### **Chapter 520: Fenghai's First Prison (1)**

The first prison in Fenghai County belonged to the Sword Holding Palace. Its reputation spread far and wide, striking fear into the hearts of many.

The people imprisoned inside were wicked criminals from all races, including the Holy Demon Race, the Quasi-Immortal Race, and even the Holy Wave Race. Humans who had committed major crimes were also incarcerated here.

Since ancient times, other than the Holy Demon and the Quasi-Immortal who had an agreement with the human race, none of the criminals from the other races could come out alive.

The reason why these criminals were suppressed and not killed immediately was because their cultivation bases were used as a power source of the county's Taboo magic treasure.

Therefore, as long as the prisoners weren't wiped out in one go and as long as there were replenishments, it didn't matter if thousands or tens of thousands of them died. To a certain extent, the criminals here could be arbitrarily dealt with by the Prison Department.

As a result, this prison was filled with the aura of death, so sinister that one could imagine how terrifying and cruel the Pawns working here were.

For example, the Ghost Hand that had taught Xu Qing previously was one of the Pawns. The baleful aura on him was so strong that Xu Qing clearly sensed it.

In addition, according to Xu Qing's understanding of the seven days of secret training, this prison in Fenghai County had a very long history, and was built in the same era as Fenghai County.

Its construction was personally supervised by the first Sword Holding Palace Master of Fenghai County.

It had a total of 177 floors. Every floor was tampered with spatial methods, endless restrictions, and countless array formations.

Even a Nihilism expert wouldn't be able to escape.

This was because other than the terrifying defense of this prison, the Sword Holding Palace Master guarded it all year round.

This tradition of the Palace Master guarding the prison had existed from the moment the prison was built. It was proposed by the first Sword Holding Palace Master. From then on, the successive Palace Masters of Fenghai County's Sword Holding Palace followed this tradition for generations. They placed their office and residence in the prison and guarded it themselves.

Hence, every Palace Master would also be the head of the Prison Department.

Other than imprisoning and providing a power source for the Taboo magic treasure, this prison also had another use, and that was intimidation.

This was one of the methods the human race used to intimidate the nonhuman races in Fenghai County.

For countless years, the number of cultivators imprisoned in the prison was a secret. Only the Prison Department knew.

According to the rough statistics made by outsiders, this number... was like the stars in the sky.

When this information appeared in Xu Qing's mind, he had already left the Sword Holding Palace. At that moment, he was speeding through the sky toward the Prison Department on the ground.

From the sky, the entrance of the prison on the ground was transparent, allowing one's vision to penetrate the barrier without obstruction and see into the depths of the prison.

Except for the first dozen or so floors, which were still visible, the lower floors were pitch-black, like an endless abyss or a frigid ghost cave, exuding a palpable chill.

As Xu Qing approached the prison, the oppressive atmosphere became even more intense. When he finally reached the ground level, he stood at the edge of the deep pit of the Prison Department and personally experienced the pressure emanating from this Abyss Prison.



He even felt a tremor under his feet, as though a behemoth was struggling underground.

At the same time, the fiendish aura rising from the deep pit intensified, accompanied by waves of mournful roars.

Xu Qing took a deep breath and took out his appointment token before proceeding toward the entrance.

As he got closer, an invisible barrier appeared in Xu Qing's perception. Then, a terrifying divine sense, like angry waves, pressed down from all directions.

It contained brutality and a sense of expulsion.

It was as though an invisible giant was waving its massive hand and slapping at him.

Xu Qing's mind shook but he stood his ground. He raised the appointment token in his hand and spoke calmly.

"Sword Holder Xu Qing, reporting for duty."

As soon as these words were spoken, the terrifying divine sense instantly gathered on the appointment token in Xu Qing's hand.

A moment later, this divine sense slowly dissipated. The invisible barrier shone with a red light. After it became tangible, it transformed into a gate that was still flowing with blood.

This gate emitted an ancient and profound, filled with the sense of the passage of time. Countless runes surfaced on it, each exuding a powerful intent. They combined into a huge beast head that glared at Xu Qing angrily.

Xu Qing looked at it with a calm expression.

After a long time, the gate creaked and slowly opened, and an ordinary-looking middle-aged cultivator stepped out.

He wore the Daoist robe of a Sword Holder, similar in appearance to Xu Qing's own, but with one key difference: instead of the fiery red patterns on Xu Qing's robe, the patterns on his robe were black.

There was also a scar on his face, formed by some kind of spell that could not be removed. The skin in that area withered, giving him an extremely sinister appearance.

His eyes were slanted like triangles. As he lifted his eyelids slightly, he swept his gaze across Xu Qing, paying particular attention to his face. He then spoke with a sinister smile.

"Welcome to the Prison Department."

With that, he turned and stepped into the gate.

Xu Qing glanced around before following the middle-aged cultivator. The moment he stepped through the red gate, he passed through the barrier and appeared on the other side of it.

Other than the huge deep pit in front of him, there was also a staircase that circled down the edge of the deep pit.

Xu Qing followed the Pawn along the stairs.

A chilling aura gushed over from below, accompanied by waves of howls and mournful cries that continued to reverberate. The tremors formed by the tumbling of the behemoth were even more intense here.

At the same time, black was the main theme here, and darkness pervaded everything.