

Time 541

Outside Of Time

Chapter 541: Golden Crow Descends Into the Heavenly Palace (2)

This attraction caused him to be unable to feel the slightest bit of disgust. Everything the other party did could only give him a good impression.

Hence, Xu Qing tried his best to calm his emotions and softly recounted his story in the Prison Department, including his acquaintance with Kong Xianglong, his opinion of the unreasonable Palace Master, and so on.

Everything was brief. However, neither he nor Zi Xuan noticed that not far away from the pavilion, a little boy was squatting there and looking at them curiously.

It tilted its small head and its expression was filled with confusion. It carefully sized up Zi Xuan, as though it was trying to determine if the other party had any ill intentions.

Its first feeling was that the other party didn't have any ill intentions, but it also felt that she seemed to be a little possessive, so it didn't dare to get too close.

This made it a little vexed. It simply sat down and ignored them.

Zi Xuan gazed at Xu Qing attentively, taking in every word he said. As the bright moon shone high in the sky, Xu Qing finished talking about his post to her. Zi Xuan's expression remained gentle as she spoke softly.

"I can tell that you're... a little confused about the Sword Holder."

Xu Qing looked at Zi Xuan.

"It's very difficult for you to accept such an organization and you haven't encountered anything similar, so you have doubts. Due to your self-protection instincts, you want to stay away because you don't want to have a shackle."

Zi Xuan smiled gently.

"Follow your heart. Don't think too much and continue to observe calmly. When you start having respect for this organization and the people in it, you might have an answer."

Xu Qing's mind trembled as he fell into deep thought. He then stood up and bowed to Zi Xuan.

"Kid, close your eyes."

Xu Qing hesitated for a moment before closing his eyes.

The instant he closed his eyes, Zi Xuan gently moved closer to Xu Qing.

Xu Qing's breathing hastened slightly. He could sense that the fragrance had become denser at this moment, as though a breath had landed on his face.

The instant he wanted to open his eyes, Zi Xuan's finger gently tapped his forehead.

A lively and seductive voice echoed in his ears.

"Kid, you have to calm your heart. Imagine your Fifth Heavenly Palace becoming it. You might have seen it before, but I don't know if you saw it as clearly as this..."

As Zi Xuan's voice rang out, an image entered Xu Qing's eyes. It was a dragon carriage!

In the deep sea, the dragon carriage was being pulled by a giant.

It was also the sun's carriage.

"This is the way to fuse an emperor-level cultivation art into the Heavenly Palace. Every emperor-level cultivation art is different. Golden Crow Refines All Life... requires a dragon carriage."

Xu Qing's mind shook and he instantly understood. Although the dragon carriage that appeared in his mind was very clear, it was still a little lacking.

This was because Xu Qing had truly stepped onto the dragon carriage.

In fact, he had stayed there longer than most people. That was why he had obtained the complete inheritance of Golden Crow Refines All Life.

However, this image was also extremely important. He could combine it with the dragon carriage in his memories, making this memory clearer and the dragon carriage even clearer in his perception.

At the next instant, Xu Qing's body trembled intensely. The stone stool he was sitting on transformed into a cushion and the pavilion transformed into a pagoda that protected him.

The surrounding grassland turned into countless small people, each with a solemn expression, facing away from Xu Qing and toward the distance, vowing to protect him with their lives.

As for those large mountains, they became giants. After they stood up from the ground, they emitted vast might.

The trees were the same.

Everything here directly became the best shelter Zi Xuan had prepared for Xu Qing. Although the possibility of an accident happening was negligible, she was still worried.

Hence, she sat cross-legged beside Xu Qing and personally protected him.

Just like that, Xu Qing's breakthrough began.

His Fifth Heavenly Palace first changed its appearance and was gradually transforming into the appearance of the dragon carriage. At this moment, the image in his mind that Zi Xuan had paid a huge price to obtain and the memories of the dragon carriage that he had personally experienced played a key role.

His Fifth Heavenly Palace rapidly changed and finally completely transformed into a dragon carriage. Moreover, it was even more realistic than the image and emitted a shocking aura.

After sensing his Fifth Heavenly Palace, Xu Qing's heart was filled with joy and he spoke softly.

"Golden Crow returns to the carriage and the moon rises!"

The totemic tattoo on Xu Qing's back suddenly shone. The Golden Crow manifested and soared toward the sky. It spread its wings in the sky and let out a cheerful cry. After circling several times in the air, it headed straight for Xu Qing.

It directly rushed into Xu Qing's body through the top of his head, flying into his sea of consciousness and into the dragon carriage formed by the Fifth Heavenly Palace. When it reached the depths, the Golden Crow shone and transformed into a blurry youth.

The youth's appearance was actually Xu Qing's.

He was dressed in a black-gold emperor robe and adorned with a matching-colored emperor crown on his head. His noble demeanor and imposing presence were accentuated as he sat upright in the dragon carriage that was formed by the Fifth Heavenly Palace.

In the Fifth Heavenly Palace, rainbow flames flickered and transformed into the shadow of the Golden Crow.

As it rumbled in all directions, the might of Golden Crow Refines All Life also soared. Its tail directly doubled from the previous 19 to 42.

Looking at the tails, Xu Qing suddenly had a realization.

When it reached a hundred, Golden Crow Refines All Life would advance to the third level!

Xu Qing suddenly opened his eyes and everything in the surroundings disappeared. Regardless of whether it was the pagoda or the small people, as well as the giants in the distance, they all disappeared without a trace the instant he opened his eyes.

This was the courtyard outside Building A1. Xu Qing sat cross-legged on the ground. When he lifted his head, he saw Zi Xuan's back view at the door.

"The sky is already bright. Aren't you going to work today?" Zi Xuan stood by the door and turned, smiling at Xu Qing.

The sky was already beginning to lighten as the night had passed.

Xu Qing looked at Zi Xuan and gratitude appeared in his eyes. He stood up and cupped his fists, bowing deeply.

"Thank you..."

"Don't call me Senior. Call me by my name," Zi Xuan said softly.

Xu Qing hesitated.

"Thank you, Zi Xuan."

"Why does it sound so strange..." Zi Xuan shook her head helplessly.

"Come, I'll teach you. You have to say, Zi Xuan, thank you. Your voice has to be gentler." Zi Xuan looked at Xu Qing with anticipation.

Xu Qing fell silent and spoke softly.

"Zi Xuan, thank you."

Upon hearing this, Zi Xuan's eyes lit up. The corners of her mouth curled up into a beautiful smile as she nodded slightly and spoke softly.

"Xu Qing, you don't have to thank me."

As the two of them spoke, the atmosphere seemed to change a little.

A long time later, Xu Qing drew in a deep breath and bowed again.

"Disciple will take his leave first."

As Xu Qing spoke, he walked out. Just as he was about to leave the courtyard, Zi Xuan's lazy and enchanting voice rang out from behind him.

"After some time, accompany me to meet a few of my best friends in the county capital. This is the second thing you promised me."

Zi Xuan's coquettish voice contained a hint of demonic charm. It was like the cry of a kite or the phoenix, but it was also gentle and warm.

It possessed a strange power that could seep into one's heart and transform into water of heart that gradually heated up.

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Chapter 542: Yao Yunhui, Think More About His Goodness (1)

The sun emerged from the horizon, and its rays illuminated the ground. Everywhere they touched, darkness dissipated, and light spread in all directions.

The streets of the county capital also became lively.

Xu Qing walked on the way to work while sensing the Fifth Heavenly Palace within him.

The emperor-level cultivation art's tattoo was still there, and the enhancement to his combat strength didn't disappear because Golden Crow Refines All Life had fused into the Fifth Heavenly Palace.

This emperor-level cultivation art still possessed the power of a palace.

However, its might was clearly greater, and it was the same for the Fifth Heavenly Palace.

It could even be said that if he met someone who also possessed five Heavenly Palaces, and if both sides were to compare from the most basic perspective without looking at any cultivation techniques or magic treasure fragments, even the most stunning and outstanding individual from the myriad races would not have an edge over him.

If they were someone below the outstanding talents, Xu Qing would far surpass them.

This was because any of his Heavenly Palaces was earth-shattering. They might not be unparalleled in the world but they weren't much inferior.

The life palaces formed by the two life lanterns, the palace formed by the Poison Restriction Pill, the Purple Moon Heavenly Palace, and the Golden Crow Dragon Carriage Heavenly Palace.

This was the foundation Xu Qing had formed in his journey to here.

He had risked his life to obtain each of them.

It was a rare occurrence for a person's strength to suddenly emerge. More often than not, strength was developed through gradual accumulation.

Xu Qing was like this.

That was why he could cross realms to fight.

At that moment, Xu Qing was in a very good mood. When he passed by a breakfast stall, the familiar smell reminded him of the fried dough sticks he used to eat at the Seven Blood Eyes.

"I wonder when I can return."

Xu Qing reminisced inwardly and turned his gaze towards the Yinghuang Province. He missed Old Master Seventh and the ancestor Xue Lianzi, as well as the breakfast shop in the Seven Blood Eyes.

Xu Qing retracted his gaze and walked toward the breakfast shop here. He sat down and ordered a serving. After he ate it, a satisfied expression appeared on his face. Although the taste wasn't as good as the one in his memory, it was still alright.

While he was eating breakfast, the little boy squatted not far away and looked at Xu Qing eagerly.

As though it felt very bored, it sized up the surroundings and looked at the bustling streets. As it looked, its gaze suddenly froze and landed on a two-story building not far away.

At the window of the building, there appeared to be a figure who had been standing there earlier, staring at Xu Qing with a resentful gaze.

The little boy was curious and disappeared.

When it appeared, it was already in the building. It saw a very beautiful woman reprimanding a youth.

"Trash, not only did Xu Qing obtain the edict bearer token, but he also became a Pawn of the Prison Department. You're actually in an administrative post, organizing documents!"

"And, you're actually calmly accepting it. Where's your pride as the number one genius in the Yinghuang Province? Why didn't you look for your grandmaster?!"

The person who was reprimanded was Zhang Siyun.

The woman in the little boy's eyes was naturally Zhang Siyun's mother, Yao Yunhui.

Because her identity was too sensitive to head to the Sword Holding Palace and there were some things that couldn't be said on a jade slip, she invited Zhang Siyun's grandmaster who was looking for Zhang Siyun to meet here today. However, on the way, she received a voice transmission from her family telling her about the warning from the Sword Holding Palace's Palace Master.

Her family also solemnly warned her not to provoke the Sword Holding Palace.

This made Yao Yunhui feel very uncomfortable. When she saw Xu Qing earlier, her disgust towards him grew even stronger. As a result, when she looked at her son, anger welled up inside her.

Zhang Siyun lowered his head and hated Xu Qing even more. Every time his mother compared Xu Qing to him, the hostility in his heart grew stronger and stronger.

In reality, he had looked for Grandmaster but the other party had looked at him strangely. He didn't know why but he didn't dare to mention it in the face of his mother's anger and could only silently endure it.

In addition, he actually felt that his work of organizing the documents wasn't completely useless. At the very least, in the past month, he had found a few places where others had recorded wrongly and had even received praise from the department.

However, he knew that he couldn't say it.

'It was better in Yinghuang Province.' Zhang Siyun sighed softly inwardly.

As she cursed, Yao Yunhui suddenly took out a voice transmission jade slip. Soon after, her expression became even more gloomy, and in the end, she crushed the jade slip.

"You have work to do? We clearly made an appointment a few days ago, but you're making excuses now? Is it because you heard about the decree issued by the Sword Holding Palace's Palace Master?!"

"The people from the Grand Affairs Immortal Sect are all spineless and extremely stupid!" Yao Yunhui's expression turned ugly as she rebuked angrily.

Zhang Siyun sighed inwardly and spoke softly.

"Mother..."

"Scram!" Yao Yunhui said coldly.

Zhang Siyun fell silent. After a long time, he stood up and bowed to his mother before turning to leave. His expression became increasingly lonely and he hated Xu Qing even more.

As he walked on the streets for a while, his body suddenly convulsed and he felt dizzy. He quickly leaned against the wall beside him to support himself.

The outline of a red moon flashed in his eyes and a sinister expression appeared on his face, but it disappeared in an instant.

It took him a long time to recover.

"Is there a problem with the cultivation art? This is the seventh time I am feeling such dizziness." Zhang Siyun's expression was ugly. He pondered for a moment and continued walking away.

In the pavilion, the little boy didn't bother with Zhang Siyun who had left.

It stood beside Yao Yunhui and its attention was on the other party. It curiously sized her up and a look of contemplation appeared in its eyes, as though it was analyzing this woman's malice toward Xu Qing.

Yao Yunhui sat there and all the anger on her face disappeared at this moment. She picked up the lotus seed soup on the table and took a sip.

Her movements were very elegant, as though she wasn't the one who had lost her composure earlier.

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Chapter 543: Yao Yunhui, Think More About His Goodness (2)

"Yun'er, Mother's meanness and fierceness are to stimulate your persistence and courage. I hope you can become a talent. Back then, your father wasn't bold enough and didn't understand my good intentions."

Yao Yunhui muttered inwardly as a cold glint appeared in her eyes.

"Xu Qing, you snatched Yun'er's fortune and ruined his future. I won't let go of this matter. I can't touch you in the county capital but as long as you leave the county capital, I have plenty of ways to frame you. I won't kill you either. I want Yun'er to see your downfall and gain confidence."

Sensing the thoughts of the woman in front of it, a look of distress appeared on the little boy's face.

It had promised the young miss that it would protect Xu Qing.

However, it couldn't kill. After thinking about it, it simply blew at Yao Yunhui.

This breath landed on Yao Yunhui's face.

Yao Yunhui's hand that was holding the spoon paused. For some reason, the thoughts in her mind changed a little. It was as though there was a thought spreading in her mind, telling her to think more about the good of others.

"That Xu Qing isn't completely detestable."

Yao Yunhui mumbled. But right when she finished speaking, she was stunned. She looked around suspiciously and stood up.

"Something's wrong!" Her expression was ugly and she immediately used a spell to investigate. However, everything here was normal.

Seeing that the effect wasn't particularly good, the little boy standing beside her was even more vexed. Hence, it blew out another breath.

Yao Yunhui's body trembled and a look of contemplation appeared in her eyes. After a long time, she muttered.

"Xu Qing doesn't seem to be too unreasonable."

Yao Yunhui's eyes widened in shock at her own thoughts. Without a moment's hesitation, she immediately performed a series of hand seals to protect herself. She then conducted a thorough examination of her mind and soul.

Everything was normal.

However, she still left this place immediately. When she reappeared, she was already in an alley in the distance. As she moved forward, she recalled what had happened earlier.

"Although Xu Qing isn't particularly detestable, I still have to punish him a little."

The instant this thought appeared, the little boy who was following her seemed to be a little angry. Hence, it blew nine breaths in a row this time.

Yao Yunhui's entire body trembled intensely and her breathing was hurried. The disgust she felt for Xu Qing rapidly decreased and she even had a good impression of him.

After a long time, she muttered.

"Xu Qing is also innocent. Yun'er was also somewhat wrong in his actions..."

Seeing this, the little boy clapped its hands in satisfaction. It felt that it had done its work, so it left happily.

At that moment, Xu Qing had already finished his breakfast and arrived at the Prison Department. As usual, he walked down the steps to the 57th floor and stepped into D132.

The pitch-black interior became a little brighter the moment he stepped in. Other than that, nothing else changed.

The cloud beast still had its back facing him. The human woman was still coaxing the straw doll to sleep and the millstone was still spinning.

As for the head, it looked like it had nothing to live for at this moment and said something that would be repeated every day.

"Don't step on me. I don't want to be stepped on..."

Xu Qing walked in the corridor and checked the criminals one by one. After checking all the 13 criminals in front, he arrived before the old man from the Painting Race.

The old man respectfully bowed to Xu Qing.

"Good morning, Lord Guardian."

Xu Qing was expressionless. He coldly glanced at him and left. He sat at his usual place of meditation. The shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor also flew out and began their day of fun.

The little boy also appeared. He sat at the side, allowing Xu Qing to see it.

Helplessness appeared in its eyes. It knew that it wouldn't be long before Xu Qing would probably react and wake up.

This was indeed the case. As Xu Qing meditated, he looked at everything in his surroundings and doubts slowly rose in his mind.

"I seem to have forgotten some things. This place seems too peaceful..."

"Why do I have a vague feeling that this place should be red?"

"The Palace Master seemed to have said something to me. Also, why did the little boy look helpless and the head said it was trampled to death many times?"

"My memory won't suddenly deteriorate. It started when I became the guardian of this place..."

"Could it be that I'm affected?" Xu Qing opened his storage bag and rummaged through it, carefully checking all the items. Everything was normal.

He frowned. After a while, he lifted his head and looked at the cell. His expression gradually turned ugly. He suddenly had an intense feeling, as though there was a veil covering everything he was seeing.

Xu Qing's gaze became increasingly cold. The Poison Restriction Pill in his body suddenly spread out and the power of the Purple Moon Heavenly Palace erupted at the same time. At the next instant, his aura changed and his life level increased.

At the same time, a wail rang out from the cage. It was the sound of the head.

"He woke up again! Please don't step on me. Can you use another method?!"

The old man from the Painting Race sighed and closed his eyes, preparing to be burned to death.

Xu Qing stood up with a gloomy expression and walked over.

A moment later, this place fell silent. After destroying everything other than the god's finger, Xu Qing looked at the finger. He could sense a terrifying fluctuation coming from it.

He knew that he couldn't touch it. The huge difference between the two of them would cause him to collapse and die the moment he touched the finger.

He had this understanding.

Hence, a long time later, Xu Qing took out a bamboo slip and carved everything. His entire body was cold as he walked to the cell door. He didn't turn his head and stood there for a long time before he calmly spoke.

"Will I wake up every day? Will I know every day that there are six prisoners here instead of 14 prisoners? Will it be that other than that god's finger, the other five are actually undying here, no matter how many times I kill them?"

The little boy appeared helplessly and nodded.

"Did I carve some words or other measures to remind myself? However, after I leave, they will be erased by the god's power. Even if I use external objects to record them here, they will disappear the moment I bring them out."

The boy continued to nod.

"When I push open the door, I'll forget everything, right? Does the Palace Master know?"

"This is good fortune and a test?"

The little boy still nodded.

Xu Qing fell silent. He knew that the shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor similarly couldn't remember this place.

A long time later, he suddenly laughed.

"Then, let's continue. I think if I push open the gate one day and don't forget all of this, that will be the moment I truly obtain this fortune."

The little boy nodded helplessly.

"I should have said this many times too, right?"

Xu Qing smiled and looked at the bamboo slip in his hand that recorded all of this. A dark glint flashed in his eyes as he muttered inwardly.

'Actually, there's another way, and that is for me to plant karma here. When it matures...'

Xu Qing fell silent for a while before crushing the bamboo slip and throwing it on the ground.

"I'll have to trouble you with something. Help me keep this broken slip and place it where the other bamboo slips are. I think I should have carved many of them."

The little boy nodded and lifted its hands as though it was counting, wanting to tell Xu Qing how many there were...

Xu Qing smiled and took a deep breath. He then pushed open the cell gate and walked out.

On the steps of the Prison Department, Xu Qing pondered about the military contributions as he walked.

"There are no changes to the 14 criminals in D132. All of them are normal. In that case, I have to spend more energy on gaining military contributions."

Just like that, several days passed.

Xu Qing's schedule had changed a little. During the day, he would go to Area D132 as usual to guard it. At night, he would begin to complete various military contribution missions, such as capturing and searching for criminals, assisting other departments, and so on.

On the third day following Kong Xianglong's release from prison, Xu Qing had just gotten off duty and was walking out of the Prison Department when he received a voice transmission from him.

"Xu Qing, there's a big job with a lot of military contributions. Are you coming?"

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Xu Qing was going to participate.

The big job Kong Xianglong was talking about was a secret order given to him by the field office.

Originally, secret order missions didn't allow other departments to participate.

However, Kong Xianglong thought that since Xu Qing and his other friends also needed military contributions, he coaxed and pestered before obtaining this opportunity to let the other Sword Holders participate as helpers.

Moreover, he was willing to act as a guarantor for this.

Other than some Sword Holders from the field office, Xu Qing, Shan He, Wang Chen, and Night Spirit were also participating.

As for the mission...

"This is a rescue mission."

In the Sword Holding Palace's field office late at night, Xu Qing and the others arrived one after another. A total of 17 Sword Holders had gathered here and were looking at Kong Xianglong, who had a solemn expression on his face.

"We'll set off first. I'll tell you in detail about the missions on the way. However, according to the rules, any voice transmission jade slips you have will have to be sealed."

"Until we return after completing the mission, you won't be able to transmit any messages to the outside world through jade slips. Only I, as the person in charge of this task, can do it."

Kong Xianglong's expression was solemn. After he finished speaking, he waved his hand. Immediately, the Sword Holder in charge of this matter walked out. After cupping his fists at everyone, he stepped forward and sealed the voice transmission jade slips.

The method of sealing was very simple and was done using restrictions.

As this person performed a series of hand seals, restrictions landed on everyone.

He looked at the others and found that no one had any objections. He also knew that this was something that should be done when going on a mission. After carefully checking the restrictions, he allowed his communication jade slip to lose its effect.

This restriction indeed only had this effect and nothing else.

Before he came here, he sent a voice transmission to Fairy Zi Xuan to tell her that he was going out for a task. At the same time, he also applied for leave from the Prison Department.

At that moment, the restriction seals were completed. With a wave of Kong Xianglong's hand, everyone set off for the teleportation hall of the Sword Holding Palace. They stepped in one after another and teleported together.

As the array formation shone, the figures of the 17 of them disappeared.

When they appeared, they were already in a place that was very far away from the county capital. That was the border between the county capital and Tianyun Province.

"In three days, we will reach another teleportation point. However, from now on, we have to hide our tracks. Everyone, change out of the Sword Holder's clothes and let's set off."

Under the pitch-black night sky, Kong Xianglong looked at everyone beside him and spoke in a low voice.

Xu Qing's expression was solemn. He could already tell that this mission was not an ordinary one. After all, it gave a lot of military contributions, so it made sense for it to have a certain level of danger. He changed out of the Sword Holder Daoist robe.

No one spoke. After they were done, they sped through the night under Kong Xianglong's lead.

"Now, I'll tell you about the mission."

"The mission this time is to receive a spy from our Sword Holding Palace who was hiding in the Holy Wave Race!"

"This spy has been hiding in the Holy Wave Race for many years and has returned recently. Our mission is to receive him at the border and protect him all the way back to the Sword Holding Palace."

As Kong Xianglong sprinted, he spoke to the people around him.

"As for whether his identity was exposed, whether he found any significant clues, and why he couldn't teleport back and escape, you might have some thoughts about this. However, I'm telling you now that you don't have to think about it. This isn't something we should know."

Kong Xianglong looked at Xu Qing, Shan He, and the others. Clearly, he wasn't saying this to the Sword Holders from the field office but to remind Xu Qing and the others.

Xu Qing nodded. As an old member of the Homicide Department, he naturally understood this logic.

Shan He and the others also indicated that they understood.

"However, there's one thing I firmly believe in. There will be no problem with this spy's identity. It's absolutely impossible for him to betray the Sword Holder."

"Also, I personally analyzed that this spy's return should have its own cover. The person we're going to receive might not be him. It might be a waste of effort."

"There's a high chance that there are other teams carrying out this mission as well, but the direction should be different from ours."

"The palace must have arranged for experts as well, but I don't know if they are around us." Kong Xianglong looked at Xu Qing and the others and spoke in a low voice.

"Big Brother Kong, why did you have to go into such detail this time around?" Shan He's gaze swept past Xu Qing.

Night Spirit frowned and also glanced at Xu Qing.

In reality, they also felt a little repulsed by Xu Qing's participation this time around. It wasn't that they were annoyed but they weren't used to it.

After all, as a team, they had never let anyone else join them.

Xu Qing was the only one in all these years.

Wang Chen, on the other hand, had an indifferent expression as he yawned and sat on the coffin.

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever and he didn't speak.

"This is Xu Qing's first time participating in a mission with us. To avoid misunderstandings, we naturally have to make things clear in advance," Kong Xianglong said with a smile.

Hearing Kong Xianglong's words, Night Spirit and Shan He fell silent.

The Sword Holders from the field office pretended not to see all of this. In reality, they were very familiar with Shan He and the others. After all, these three people would always be around for Kong Xianglong's field missions.

Just like that, the group sped through the night.

Xu Qing wasn't the fastest but he wasn't the slowest either. As he followed, he analyzed the mission inwardly. At the same time, he recalled the history of the myriad races explained by the Deputy Governor during the secret training.

The Holy Wave Race was a race formed after the Grand Duke Holy Wave betrayed the human race back then. As traitors of the human race, they were mortal enemies like fire and water...

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They had integrated themselves with the Black Heaven Race and even received blood from them to merge with their own people. As a result, for generations, a trace of black blood remained in the red blood of the Holy Wave Race.

Moreover, during the friction in the past years, the Holy Wave Race was even more savage than the Black Heaven Race when it came to fighting against the human race. It was as though the more cruel they were to the human race, the more they could prove themselves.

At the same time, they were also covetous of the only Fenghai County in the Holy Wave Large Region that hadn't been unified by him.

If it wasn't for the fact that it still had scruples about the human emperor's region, it would have devoured Fenghai County long ago.

However, both the human race and Fenghai County knew that there would eventually be a battle between the two sides in the future.

The current balance was so fragile that it could be broken by any disturbance.

In reality, it wasn't just Fenghai County. During the secret training, Xu Qing knew that the other six counties were in a similar situation. Some counties had even lost several provinces.

"The storm is moving and the buildings are collapsing." This was the helpless voice of the Deputy Governor that day.

As Xu Qing pondered, three days passed in the blink of an eye. During this time, Kong Xianglong told him about the code names.

Every time they went out on a task, no one would call out their names. They would each have a temporary code name.

"Kid."

Xu Qing said softly. This was his code name for this mission. He also planned to keep using this code name.

"Alright, this time, I'm called Brother Long. Haha, just call me that." Kong Xianglong smiled.

Very soon, everyone arrived at the second teleportation point. Through this place, they teleported to another place. After a few more days, they finally arrived at the Lin Lan province.

This was one of the border provinces between Fenghai County and the Holy Wave Race.

"There's one last teleportation and we can reach the border area."

After arriving here, everyone's vigilance was incomparably intense. Although this place was still within the territory of Fenghai County, it was still connected to the Holy Wave territory.

Even though there was a rule between the two races that if any Nascent Soul cultivator dared to take half a step out of their respective borders, they would immediately be killed by Taboo magic treasures, they had no choice but to be wary.

Moreover, high-level Heavenly Palace Golden Core cultivators were equipped with some items with great lethality.

It was late at night, the moon obscured by dark clouds. Bolts of lightning swam across the sky, accompanied by deafening rumbles. The rain poured down heavily at this moment.

In the heavy rain, the 17 figures continued to move toward the teleportation array.

Not long after, as the rain intensified, a simple stone fortress city appeared in the distance. Xu Qing's eyes turned cold as he sensed the smell of blood.

The expressions of Shan He, Wang Chen, and Night Spirit also changed slightly.

Kong Xianglong's eyes had narrowed long before they reached their destination. The moment he lifted his right hand, everyone immediately squatted down, their faces serious and alert.

"There was no signal from the teleportation point at the designated time. Something went wrong."

"Kid, Enchantress, Sun Spirit, and River Path, the four of you will each move with three people. As for me, I'll go alone. We will enter from five different directions simultaneously and eliminate any nonhuman races we encounter!"

"If you encounter a high ranked Golden Core, delay and wait for me." Kong Xianglong immediately made a decision.

After saying that, he rushed out and headed straight for the fortress in front. Xu Qing turned his head and looked at the Sword Holders from the field office. These people instantly chose Shan He's group.

The remaining three were too late and they looked at Xu Qing.

"Fellow Daoists, don't follow too closely." Xu Qing threw out three pill bottles that contained specialized antidotes.

After Xu Qing joined the Sword Holder, in order to avoid what happened in the Knowledge Hall back then from happening again, he prepared some antidotes that could somewhat neutralize the poison that wasn't from the Poison Restriction.

However, his poison was a compound poison. Although the antidote had an effect, they couldn't inhale the poisoned air.

However, if they were a little further away, it was okay for them to follow since the poison would be diluted.

Xu Qing then set off. The others were the same. The three of the field officers looked at each other and followed behind Xu Qing.

Very soon, the 17 Sword Holders split into five directions and approached the fortress.

Xu Qing didn't stop at all. His body instantly rushed over and the Poison Restriction Pill in his body shook. Poison intent permeated his entire body without spreading out. He then waved his hand; immediately, a large amount of poison powder spread out.

After doing all this, he had already stepped into the fortress. As soon as he entered, he heard the rumbling of spells in the distance. A cold snort rang out from ahead, and at the next instant, a figure approached at an extremely fast speed.

The other party was a middle-aged man in a black robe. His appearance was no different from a human's except for a black line between his brows. His Golden Core cultivation base of five palaces erupted. However, before he could get close to Xu Qing, his expression changed and horror appeared in his eyes as he spat out a large mouthful of black blood.

"What poison is this!"

He wasn't surprised by the poison. What he was surprised about was that the poison was too intense. Just by taking a breath, he felt his internal organs burning and his vision turning black.

However, he no longer had the qualifications to continue being shocked. Xu Qing's speed was too fast. He got close in an instant, and the dagger given by the captain appeared in his hand. He grabbed the handle wrapped in the shroud cloth and flashed past the middle-aged man.

The dagger grazed the middle-aged man's neck and his head flew up.

Xu Qing crouched down and stepped into the night, changing from prey to a hunter. He walked all the way to a dark corner. As he moved forward, he suddenly sped up and waved his dagger in front of him.

Before a figure who suddenly rushed out could make a move, its head seemed to have been delivered to Xu Qing. It flew up high in disbelief.

Xu Qing didn't even glance at it. With a sway, he disappeared again.

A Holy Wave Race cultivator who was hiding in the dark was looking around, ready to attack, when his expression suddenly changed. He was about to counterattack but it was too late.

Xu Qing's figure strangely appeared behind him. The dagger didn't stop at all and slashed across his neck.

Xu Qing frowned as a whistling sound rang out from behind him. However, as red lightning and the shadow's eyes opened, the body of the person who ambushed Xu Qing shook and the iron stick directly pierced through his forehead.

Spells continued to erupt from everywhere in the fortress and the sounds of fighting rang out non-stop. Kong Xianglong's low shout rang out in the air as he rose into the air. There were four Holy Wave Race members with the combat strength of eight palaces around him.

To have the combat strength of eight palaces, it could be seen that these four people shouldn't be ordinary people in the Holy Wave Race. Each of them had an emperor-level cultivation art.

They were clearly using standardized emperor-level cultivation art. They each manifested black demonic hands that overlapped and emitted astonishing might. Moreover, they formed a formation and even used four magic treasure fragments.

All of this wasn't for the sake of killing. This was because it was too difficult to kill Kong Xianglong. Hence, their goal was only to form a trapping array to trap Kong Xianglong.

At the same time, lightning filled the sky, as though it was attracted and was about to descend. Its target was Kong Xianglong.

When Xu Qing saw all of this, his eyes turned even colder. However, he didn't rush over. Instead, he turned his head and looked at the darkness ahead.

A figure was walking over step by step.

"Interesting. The Sword Holders of the human race this time are a little different from the ones we, the black-clothed guards, usually encounter."

The Holy Wave Race also had a department similar to the Sword Holding Palace called the Black-Clothed Guard.

At that moment, the whistling sound of wind rang out from behind Xu Qing. The three Sword Holders from the field office rushed over. After they sensed the poison on the way, they ate many antidotes.

This was after Xu Qing had restrained himself after killing people and retracted a portion of the poison. Otherwise, the antidotes would be useless.

On the way, they also saw many Holy Wave Race members who had lost their heads and died in one strike.

Every one of them had the combat strength of the five palaces like them.

Hence, their minds were already shaken by Xu Qing.

They had heard that this batch of new Sword Holders was different from the past. There were a few monstrous geniuses among them and Xu Qing was among them. However, they had never seen him make a move before.

Now that they had personally seen how terrifying Xu Qing was, they had a deep impression of him.

In reality, they were also outstanding talents. They had remarkable battle results when they carried out missions alone. However, in comparison, they were still inferior.

"There are three more." As the three Sword Holders from the field office appeared, a figure emerged from the darkness. He was dressed in a black Daoist robe embroidered with golden flames, and in the dark night, it appeared as though holy fire was burning, emanating extraordinary fluctuations.

A massive black hand, formed by an emperor-level cultivation art, rose behind him. The hand bore six Heavenly Palaces, revealing the immense combat strength of this individual's seven palaces as the pressure spread out.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 546: The Strength of the Strongest Generation (1)

Noticing the arrival of the three Sword Holders behind him, Xu Qing decided to end the battle quickly.

These three people's cultivation levels were all at the five Heavenly Palaces. Perhaps they each had their own methods, but it was obvious that they were no match for the black-clothed guard of the Holy Wave Race.

The three Sword Holders looked grim when they saw the black-clothed guard walking out from the darkness.

As Sword Holders, their honor and principles prevented them from choosing to flee. Instead, they closed in immediately and circulated their cultivation bases. One of them spoke quickly.

"Kid, let's stall this person together."

"You guys can't hold me back." The black-clothed guard of the Holy Wave Race who walked out had a disdainful expression that contained cruelty. Just as he was about to attack, a sharp glint rose in Xu Qing's eyes.

"Shadow Prisoner's Restriction, Devil's Decree."

"Immortal art breaks the spirit, heaven and earth is my fate."

Xu Qing had asked the Diamond Sect's ancestor to create these 16 words back then. It was to ensure that he wouldn't be suspected when he fused with the shadow in front of outsiders.

As he spoke, with a thought from Xu Qing, the shadow suddenly spread out from the dagger in his hand, forming a coffin that instantly enveloped Xu Qing.

At the next instant, Xu Qing's entire body turned dark, emitting dense anomalous substances. Even though the surroundings were pitch-black at this moment, with the help of the lightning that flashed across the sky, one could still see the space around Xu Qing distorting.

There was also a sense of horror that instinctively rose in the hearts of everyone who was watching, as though their life level had been shaken.

However, because of Xu Qing's words earlier, this scene gave people the feeling that it was a unique secret technique.

Even though the anomalous substances made their hearts palpitate, most of them only felt that this secret technique was eerie and mysterious.

Just as the three Sword Holders were feeling shocked, Xu Qing suddenly lifted his head. Rampant physical strength erupted from his body.

The shadow fusion technique sacrificed the power of his spell cultivation in exchange for extreme physical might.

When Xu Qing had four Heavenly Palaces, he could display the physical strength of the six palaces under this technique. Now that he had five Heavenly Palaces, the physical combat strength he erupted with had reached seven palaces.

The battle prowess of the seven palaces of the physical body was even more powerful than spells. In terms of lethality and explosive power, it was also extremely astonishing.

As the secret technique was activated and a violent aura erupted from Xu Qing's body, a storm rose in the surroundings, rumbling in all directions.

Airwaves surged in all directions. The three Sword Holders from the field office retreated in shock and fear.

Even the Holy Wave Race cultivator's expression changed.

Xu Qing made his move.

He was like lightning, so fast that it was difficult for others to see him clearly. Amidst the intense sounds, Xu Qing appeared in front of the black-clothed guard and punched out.

The first punch gathered all of Xu Qing's physical strength.

The Holy Wave Race cultivator's pupils constricted. The changes in this human in front of him were too great and his entire body was filled with anomalous substances. His heart sank and he performed a series of hand seals to form a protective barrier around his body. He even took out a magic artifact to block the punch.

In the blink of an eye, the two sides came into contact.

A shocking boom rang out and the Holy Wave Race cultivator's body trembled. He felt his internal organs churning and his breathing was hurried as he staggered back.

Xu Qing didn't stop. He took a step forward and caught up, continuing to punch.

The second punch, the third punch.

The power in them shattered the surroundings.

The Holy Wave Race cultivator didn't dare to be careless. He performed another series of hand seals and the black hand formed by the emperor-level cultivation art behind him suddenly descended with a terrifying fluctuation, slapping toward Xu Qing with a thunderous force.

Xu Qing didn't dodge at all and attacked with all his might.

The fourth punch, the fifth punch, the sixth punch.

Booming sounds rang out through the area. The Holy Wave Race cultivator retreated step by step and his countenance became increasingly pale. All the protective barriers around his body collapsed one after another. That huge black hand also found it difficult to block Xu Qing's power.

Xu Qing's speed became even faster. He threw out the seventh punch, the eighth punch, and the ninth punch.

With a cracking sound, the Holy Wave Race cultivator spat out a mouthful of blood. One of the magic apertures in his body directly collapsed, and even a Heavenly Palace collapsed. His body rolled back and he cried out involuntarily with a horrified expression.

"What cultivation art is this!"

It was Under the Nine Springs.

This move looked like a spell but it was actually a physical secret technique!

In Foundation Building, it could destroy magic apertures, and after reaching the Golden Core realm, it could shatter the Heavenly Palace.

As a Heavenly Palace collapsed, this Holy Wave Race cultivator sensed how terrifying Xu Qing was. The feeling of life-and-death crisis became intense, and he desperately wanted to escape.

His mission was to not let the Sword Holders in this direction rush in. At the very least, he had to stall for time.

However, his life was more important than the mission.

He rapidly retreated. However... it was too late.

The instant he retreated, he didn't notice that his body was already filled with countless little black bugs. They were biting crazily. Under their devouring and poison, the expression of the Holy Wave Race cultivator changed drastically and he let out a miserable cry.

Black blood gushed out and his complexion turned greenish-black. The horror in his eyes grew denser as Xu Qing approached him like a ghost soldier seeking death.

He didn't delay the kill just to get the other party's golden cores. This wasn't his personality. He directly stabbed at the Holy Wave Race cultivator's chest.

However, the black-clothed guard from the Holy Wave Race was no ordinary opponent. He quickly evaded the attack and performed a series of hand seals with both hands. Then, he took out a magic treasure fragment to form a protective barrier that resembled a turtle shell. He blocked with all his

might, while the black line between his brows split open, and black threads shot out like needles, aiming directly at Xu Qing.

The opponent dodged in time, and Xu Qing's remaining strength dissipated, making it difficult for him to continue his attack. However, his reaction speed was still extremely fast.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 547: The Strength of the Strongest Generation (2)

With a sudden roll forward, Xu Qing propped himself up using his hands, and as he did so, he gathered all his leg strength and delivered a powerful kick to the black-clothed guard's chest.

The turtle shell shone as it made contact with Xu Qing, and it caved in before shattering. Despite this, it was able to hold up against the attack. However, the force of Xu Qing's strike was too powerful, and it caused the black-clothed guard's body to be lifted off the ground slightly. The black threads emanating from his forehead also became slightly disordered.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Xu Qing also leaped into the air and closed the distance again. The dagger in his hand flashed with a cold light as he stabbed at the depression in the turtle shell. Coupled with the power of the shroud cloth, he ignored the defense and directly penetrated it.

The black-clothed guard let out a mournful cry. The instant Xu Qing stabbed the dagger in, he moved it upward.

It directly cut through the Holy Wave Race cultivator's chest to his neck, his mouth, and his forehead!

With blood gushing out, the upper body of the Seven Palaces cultivator from the Holy Wave Race was split into two by Xu Qing's dagger. As his body split apart and spread to both sides, he died instantly.

This series of attacks had astonishing speed and also displayed Xu Qing's combat style.

Looking at the corpse, Xu Qing's expression changed. He sensed a familiar aura from the Holy Wave Race's corpse.

The purple moon in the Fifth Heavenly Palace in his body also swayed slightly at this moment.

"Red moon's aura?"

A strange look appeared in Xu Qing's eyes but it quickly dissipated. He knew that now wasn't the time to think about this matter. Hence, he put away the other party's storage bag and turtle shell fragment and sensed the dim Heavenly Palaces in the corpse.

"The Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art can't be used in the state of shadow fusion. After a cultivator dies, their sea of consciousness will collapse and the Heavenly Palaces will also collapse. Their Golden Cores will be tainted and can't be used anymore."

Xu Qing didn't have any regrets.

If there were no outsiders here and he wasn't on a mission, then regardless of whether he released the Poison Restriction or used other methods, he would have prolonged the battle a little longer so that he could extract the cores.

However, with others around, although he could obtain the golden cores if he delayed, the three Sword Holders from the field office would definitely be in danger. Moreover, if other black-clothed guards came to reinforce, the final outcome would be hard to say.

After weighing the pros and cons, it was better to end the battle quickly. After all, there were many opportunities to obtain the cores.

After killing the man, the shadow covering Xu Qing's body quickly gathered on his forehead and transformed into an eye. He then nodded at the three shocked Sword Holders and disappeared into the night.

The three of them looked at the Holy Wave Race cultivator who had died tragically on the ground and then in the direction Xu Qing had left in. They looked at each other and each took a deep breath.

They were once heaven's chosen from their respective provinces. However, after coming to the county capital, they realized that there was always someone better. There were many people who were stronger and more talented than them.

Regardless of whether it was Kong Xianglong, Shan He, or the current Xu Qing, they were all much more powerful.

"It's said that the Sword Holders of this batch have surpassed the past. There are a few monstrous geniuses among them. As expected!"

However, the three of them didn't lose their confidence because of this. Their eyes revealed sharpness as they sped forward. However, they no longer chose Xu Qing's location but another location.

At the same time, Xu Qing's figure also arrived at the center of the fortress.

The battle here was equally intense.

There were many black-clothed guards lying in ambush here. At this moment, when Shan He, whose code name was River Path, attacked, his blood qi erupted and a chill enveloped the surroundings. Wherever he passed, rumbling sounds would ring out in all directions.

Moreover, the more he killed, the denser the blood intent became and his combat strength continued to increase.

This was a secret art of the Blood Frost Sect. It cultivated a lump of killing aura. If this aura didn't dissipate, it would become stronger the more one killed.

Towards the end, he even laughed loudly as though he had fallen into madness. This was very different from the usually gloomy him.

As for Night Spirit whose code name was Enchantress, she was also extraordinary.

She, who came from the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect, transformed into a green-skinned demon that was 30 feet tall. Her entire body emitted green fog and her body was translucent. She would pass through everything and only take the heart and brain. She was incomparably savage.

Her special cultivation art allowed her to ignore all physical attacks and her attacks were even more cruel. Occasionally, she would devour the enemies.

As for everyone who fought against her, were covered in bruises and injuries.

Also, Wang Chen, whose code name was Sun Spirit, was also ferocious. His main body didn't step out from the coffin.

That clone was a natural assassin. It fused into all auras and appeared and disappeared mysteriously.

Occasionally, it would dissipate and form in the enemy's body, directly tearing through their body. Blood would taint the fog, but it only needed to sway to splatter blood in all directions and its misty body would continue forward.

There were also bolts of heavenly lightning that were attracted from the sky and descended in all directions, exploding wildly.

As a disciple of the Primordial Lightning Lineage, his combat strength was 30% stronger than usual in this thunderous weather.

Xu Qing could sense how powerful any of these three people were when he saw them attacking.

Similarly, the three figures who had noticed Xu Qing's arrival saw the strange eye on his forehead and sensed the fluctuations from the seven palaces from Xu Qing's body. Their minds shook.

What gave Xu Qing the most intense impact was Kong Xianglong in the sky.

Even though the four black-clothed guards of the Holy Wave Race with the combat strength of eight palaces trapped him with emperor-level cultivation arts and magic treasures fragments and even guided the lightning tribulation to descend, they were still helpless against him.

After noticing that his companions had all displayed their abilities to kill their way here, Kong Xianglong seemed to feel a little embarrassed. He glared and let out a loud shout.

The ten Heavenly Palaces on his body erupted in unison. The golden dragon roared and rushed into the clouds, tearing the sky apart. As the clouds shattered, he slapped his forehead and a red robe instantly flew out from the top of his head. After it manifested outside, it directly draped over his body.

The moment the red robe covered his body, blood mist erupted into the sky and the night turned into a blood-colored night.

Kong Xianglong's combat strength also rose on a large scale at this moment. An earth-shattering baleful aura rose from his body and swept out fiercely.

Amidst the rumbling, the four black-clothed guards all spat out blood. The black hands formed by the emperor-level cultivation arts collapsed and the fragments of their magic treasures were sent flying. All of them quickly retreated, wanting to leave.

However, it was too late. Kong Xianglong's body swayed and he directly appeared in front of someone. With a cruel expression, he slapped the other party's head. With a boom, the black-clothed guard's head exploded and his upper body also collapsed.

Kong Xianglong moved again and arrived in front of the second black-clothed guard. While the other party was shocked, he lifted his hands and directly pierced into the other party's chest, ruthlessly tearing him apart. Amidst a mournful cry, this person was torn into two alive.

As for the other two, they couldn't escape either. One of them was devoured by the golden dragon and the other was enveloped by the blood fog, corroding into blood.

Upon seeing this scene, Xu Qing recalled what the captain had said about Kong Xianglong being extremely cruel to nonhuman races.

As for that red robe, Xu Qing could sense the fluctuations of the Cloth Race from it.

"That is the Taboo magic treasure fragment that Brother Long refined five times." Wang Chen's misty body manifested beside Xu Qing. His eyes contained a dark glint as he looked at Xu Qing.

"Kid, your physical body secret art... is very strong! Let's find a time later to spar?"

"You'd better stay away from me," Xu Qing calmly said.

"What if I don't?" Wang Chen raised his brows.

"Then I won't restrain my poison anymore. You might have to change your clone," Xu Qing said calmly.

At the next instant, Wang Chen disappeared. When he reappeared, he was already in the distance and coughed awkwardly at Xu Qing.

At that moment, Kong Xianglong also returned from the sky and landed on the ground. His gaze swept across everyone and he discovered that although the Sword Holders from the field office were injured and some even heavily injured, there were no deaths. Hence, he was relieved.

He then looked at Xu Qing and nodded before shouting at Wang Chen.

"Sun Spirit, you made a clone of the Smoke Race and you're complacent? Ah, you didn't learn anything else but you learned to be proud quite quickly. How about you spar with me?!"

"Brother Long, I was wrong," Wang Chen hurriedly said.

"Hurry up and repair the teleportation array!"

"Roger." Wang Chen hurriedly ran over and began to repair the array formation.

When Xu Qing saw this scene, he suddenly felt that the Kong Xianglong at this moment was somewhat similar to when the Palace Master criticized the latter.

[Outside Of Time](#)

Chapter 548: Dream That Will Never Fade (1)

The torrential rain persisted, saturating the earth and beating relentlessly against the fortress walls.

As the teleportation array was located in an open area, the rain quickly washed away the blood on the ground.

From time to time, thunder rumbled and lightning flashed. Wang Chen's smoke clone was quickly repairing the array formation and adjusting its destination.

After all, this place had been infiltrated by the black-clothed guards, so even if the teleportation array was repaired, it would be hard to guarantee the safety of the intended destination.

Hence, the safer way was to change the destination of the teleportation.

During the repair process, Kong Xianglong frequently looked in the direction of the Holy Wave Race's borders with a gloomy expression.

"This place doesn't seem like it was specially set up for me. It's impossible for them to know my whereabouts. Moreover, if they were targeting me, they wouldn't have sent so few people."

"It's more like they are stopping everyone who approaches the border. There shouldn't be a problem with this teleportation array fortress." Xu Qing spoke in a low voice from the side.

"The Holy Wave Race should be searching for the spy." Shan He walked over and slowly said.

"Could it be that our route is the real one?" Night Spirit asked in surprise. After that, she instinctively looked around. This was because according to their previous analysis, there was a high chance that there would be experts secretly following the true rescue route.

"Not necessarily. The performance of the Holy Wave Race has also exposed that they haven't grasped our spy's true route yet. Therefore, they should be searching the border areas of many provinces."

Kong Xianglong's eyes gleamed.

Xu Qing nodded inwardly.

For this mission, everyone understood that there was a high chance that they were just a diversion. The return of the spy who was hiding in the Holy Wave Race must be something similar to nine falsehoods and one truth.

This makes it difficult for the Holy Wave Race to accurately locate and kill him, and there are also spies of the Holy Wave Race in Fenghai County. Therefore, the movements of the Sword Sect to some extent represent the accurate route of the spy.

This was also the reason why the field office had sent many teams.

In fact, Xu Qing even felt that it was possible that all the support teams on the surface were smoke to confuse the Holy Wave Race. There might even be a secret team taking action.

In addition, it was also possible that the spy who had returned from the Holy Wave Race didn't need any support.

This was a game of chess between the two sides.

However, through this matter, Xu Qing once again sensed the decline of the human race.

For example, although there were restrictions on the entry of Nascent Soul cultivators, the fact that so many Holy Wave Race cultivators below the Nascent Soul realm could come was enough to show that the defense line of Fenghai County was weak.

Everyone understood this.

Not long later, amidst a series of thunderous explosions, the teleportation array was repaired.

Regardless of whether the support this time was real or fake, the group had confirmed that they were going to continue forward. At this moment, they quickly stepped into the teleportation array and disappeared in the heavy rain.

When they reappeared, they were in a secluded valley at the boundary of the Lin Lan province.

"Stay vigilant. There should be quite a lot of infiltrators from the Holy Wave Race here. I'll first investigate the hiding place of the spy we're going to receive. I hope he's still alive."

The moment he walked out, Kong Xianglong spoke in a low voice. At the same time, he took out a compass.

There was a series of secret communication methods between the Sword Holders, and the usage was different for each mission. Only the person in charge of the mission knew.

For example, this compass was the special magic artifact assigned for this mission. It would guide them to the location of the spy.

Their mission was to find the other party and leave.

During the secret training, the Sword Holding Palace had imparted this knowledge to everyone.

Kong Xianglong performed a series of hand seals and pointed at the compass. Immediately, the needle on it spun rapidly. It didn't simply point in a direction but transformed into an image.

There was a red dot on the screen that was some distance away from here. At that moment, it was flickering weakly.

Seeing the blinking red dot, everyone heaved a sigh of relief inwardly.

This meant that the other party was still alive.

Kong Xianglong's spirits were also lifted as he began to make arrangements for everyone.

He couldn't be rash in receiving the spy. If he went over directly, it was very likely that the other party's location would be exposed.

Therefore, the first thing he had to do was to attract the Holy Wave Race away and cleanse them at the same time. At the same time, he had to receive the spy. These three steps had to be carried out together.

Xu Qing's task was to clean up this area as much as possible. He was cooperating with Night Spirit.

As for the team who would lure the Holy Wave Race, it consisted of Shan He, Wang Chen, and the others.

Kong Xianglong would go to receive the spy by himself.

Hearing Kong Xianglong's arrangements, Xu Qing nodded. Their approach was conventional and a necessity. Hence, they quickly split into three parties.

Xu Qing's body swayed and he fused into the night. He then began to search for the Holy Wave Race members in the surroundings.

It was the same for Night Spirit. The field office Sword Holders in their team also spread out.

Time flowed by. An hour later, as rumbling sounds echoed, fluctuations of spells rang out from afar.

Xu Qing lifted his head and looked over. That was the location of Shan He and Wang Chen. They were in charge of attracting the attention of the Holy Wave Race.

However, very soon, Xu Qing frowned.

This was because as he moved forward, he didn't find any traces of the Holy Wave Race in this area. It was as though the other party didn't exist. This didn't match with their previous assessment that the other party was searching for the spy.

"Something's wrong!" Xu Qing became even more vigilant.

Shan He and Wang Chen also discovered that something was amiss. Their baiting operation didn't attract any members of the Holy Wave Race.

This bizarre scene caused everyone's hearts to sink.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 549: Dream That Will Never Fade (2)

Not long after, a spell was cast, and a bright signal flare shot up into the sky, illuminating the area. This was the emergency gathering signal.

Looking at the signal flare, Xu Qing's heart sank. He knew that there was indeed a problem.

This was because the signal had been sent from the location where Kong Xianglong had gone to.

If everything went according to plan, Kong Xianglong wouldn't have released the signal flare there. He would have only informed everyone after he had left with the spy.

Xu Qing immediately changed directions and rushed toward the location of the signal. After the amount of time it took for an incense stick to burn out, he finally arrived. From afar, he could see Kong Xianglong, Shan He, and the others.

This was a plain and about a thousand feet in front of them, there was a person lying on the ground, on the verge of death.

The person lying on the ground was a young man of about 15 or 16 years old. His body was drenched in blood and he had numerous wounds all over his body, some of which were so deep that his bones were visible.

In fact, upon closer inspection, one could see that other than the skin on his face, the other areas were peeled off!

Clearly, he had experienced unimaginable torture.

Most of his bones were shattered and not a single magic aperture was left in his body.

From the points of collapse, it could be seen that this youth was actually a heaven's chosen with 120 magic apertures.

He was also blind in one eye. His eyeball had been dug out and placed in his mouth, and his two ears were cut off.

He was even poisoned and was rotting.

He wouldn't be able to survive. At this moment, he only had a few moments of life left.

It was a shocking sight.

Xu Qing's expression was solemn and a cold glint flashed in his eyes. When he quickly walked over, he noticed that there was an array formation set up on the ground within a thousand feet of the youth.

He didn't understand array formations but he could sense the shocking killing intent here. This array formation was extraordinary and could be considered a killing array.

That youth was placed at the center of this killing array.

"This youth isn't the spy we want to receive, but he should be related. It was like this when I arrived here. Also, there's this jade slip left behind by the Holy Wave Race!"

Kong Xianglong's eyes were red. He gritted his teeth and let out a low shout as he activated a jade slip he had found here.

Immediately, a calm voice rang out from the jade slip and echoed in the surroundings.

"Hello, Sword Holders."

"It's a pity that we can't meet you, but we, the black-clothed guards, left a small gift for you, Sword Holders. I hope you like it. Please admire it."

His voice was cold and cruel. In the end, he even smiled.

This was a voice recording.

At the side, Shan He, Wang Chen, Night Spirit, and the other Sword Holders who had also rushed over, looked at everything and listened to the voice recording on the jade slip with anger.

The matter was very clear. They didn't need to think too much to understand everything.

With the help of the fortress, the Holy Wave Race managed to delay the Sword Holders' rescue operation. Meanwhile, they also managed to locate the target that the Sword Holder had been waiting to receive.

However, it was obvious that this target wasn't the true spy. Hence, they tortured him until he was on the verge of death. After that, they set up this killing array and left.

The goal of the black-clothed guards of the Holy Wave Race was to let the Sword Holders see the death of the mission target with their own eyes.

Once one stepped into this array formation, it would be activated. The people inside would die, and so would those who stepped in. In fact, it was very likely that the method to activate it wasn't limited to just stepping in. There might also be other unknown triggers that could activate the array formation.

Moreover, even if the array formation didn't activate, the youth inside would have already lost his life. At this moment, he only had one breath left and would die at any moment.

This was the viciousness of the Holy Wave Race.

Everyone fell silent.

At that moment, Wang Chen, who was skilled in array formations, squatted down and carefully examined the array. He then lifted his head with a bitter expression on his face and spoke softly to Kong Xianglong.

"This is the Spirit Heart Absolute Killing Array unique to the Holy Wave Race's black-clothed guards. It is said that this array was passed down from the Black Heaven Race and uses humans as the core. That youth has completely fused with this array, and it will be triggered once someone steps into the array, no matter what method is used. Even controlling bizarre entities is useless. The principles of this array are still being studied by the Deputy Governor, but unfortunately, there has been no result yet."

"It is a one-time use array and there's no way to remove it. Moreover, that youth... is also at the end of his rope."

Kong Xianglong's eyes turned even redder and his breathing became hurried.

Xu Qing looked at the unconscious youth in the array formation and silently walked to the edge of the array formation. He didn't know if the shadow could succeed, so he spoke softly.

"I can give it a try, but I'm not sure if it will succeed..."

Kong Xianglong clenched his fists and gritted his teeth. Just as he was about to speak, the eyelids of the youth in the array formation trembled slightly and he weakly opened his eyes.

There was pain in his eyes as he looked at Xu Qing and the others blankly.

"You guys... are Sword Holders?" The youth's voice was extremely weak as he mumbled softly with a hint of distrust.

Everyone instantly looked over.

Xu Qing took out his command sword, as did Kong Xianglong and the others. As the command swords shone brightly, a hint of light appeared in the dim eyes of the youth who was lying there on the verge of death.

"The mark my father imprinted on my soul allows me to sense that you are Sword Holders..."

"I'm sorry for letting you see me like this." The youth seemed to care a lot about the Sword Holder. He tried his best to make himself look more dignified but he couldn't do it.

"My father is a human and my mother is from the Holy Wave Race... I'm not a Sword Holder."

"However, I know your secret art of hiding items. My father taught me that."

"I didn't tell those black-clothed guards of the Holy Wave Race. No matter how they interrogated me, I didn't say anything!" The youth seemed to have regained some strength in his voice. He tried his best to smile but the pain caused his smile to lose its beauty.

"Father asked me to bring something here and hand it to the Sword Holders. He told me that this item won't be destroyed. You can take it away after I die."

"I completed the mission."

The youth tried his best to maintain a smile, as though this was his last act of dignity. The completion of the mission finally caused him to reveal a satisfied expression, but the severity of his injuries caused his smile to slowly fade and his aura to weaken even further.

The pain in his body caused his voice to tremble.

"My father is a Sword Holder. He has always been proud of being a Sword Holder. I also wanted to become a Sword Holder, but I'm not a human. He said that as long as I complete this mission, I can stay in Fenghai County and become a Sword Holder!"

"I have finished the mission, but I can't be a Sword Holder anymore..."

These words moved Xu Qing.

Kong Xianglong and the others were also shaken.

"I really wanted to... become a Sword Holder like Father..."

The youth mumbled. He didn't seem to have much strength to keep his eyes open, and they were slowly closing. But before they shut completely, he struggled to perform a series of hand seals and open his storage space.

A package appeared beside him.

This scene caused indescribable thoughts to rise in everyone's minds. Waves and waves of emotions filled their bodies and minds, pressing down on them.

"You're a Sword Holder!" Kong Xianglong looked at the youth and spoke loudly, raising the command sword in his hand.

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

Kong Xianglong roared the Sword Holder's oath. Everyone in the surroundings also spoke at the same time. Xu Qing was the same. His heart stirred intensely.

The youth's body trembled. His eyes, which were about to close, suddenly opened. He looked at everyone and mumbled the same thing.

"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."

The youth's voice fused with everyone's voice.

At the next instant, he closed his eyes and the satisfied smile on his face became eternal until an earth-shattering explosion erupted from the array formation.

He was dead and the array formation exploded.

The violent wind and waves swept in all directions, lifting everyone's clothes and hair. After a long time... as the storm dissipated, the youth's corpse disappeared without a trace.

Only a box appeared at the place of his death.

It was a wish box.

It was an opened wish box.

That was the information he had used his life to deliver.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 550: The Nightmare of the Black-Clothed Guard

What was a Sword Holder?

Xu Qing muttered inwardly.

In the past, he didn't understand what it meant to be a Sword Holder. In fact, his original intention of becoming a Sword Holder wasn't driven by the desire to protect the human race.

After all, it was impossible for him, who had walked through the misery of the human world since he was young, to have much feelings for the human race.

His truest thought was that he hoped that he could survive and live a little better until he killed the crow and the eagle.

As for why he became a Sword Holder, firstly, the captain wanted to become a Sword Holder. Secondly, after he became a Sword Holder, he could have an additional layer of protection. Thirdly, he planned to use his right as a Sword Holder to find the crow's traces.

In fact, at critical moments, the identity of the Sword Holder would become his weapon to kill the crow.

These thoughts were actually selfish, but Xu Qing was not alone in having them. Whenever a new Sword Holder appeared in different provinces, they would also have similar thoughts.

Other than those who had lived in the Sword Holding Palace since they were young, it was impossible for cultivators from other places to have any grand ambition of protecting the human race.

However, following the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holder Ceremony and the heart inquisition, there were some changes.

However, it was only a little and didn't change much. It only allowed Xu Qing to understand the concept of a Sword Holder.

It was only when he arrived at the county capital that he saw Kong Xianglong, who was different from the others. He saw a few heaven's chosens who were hostile to him, but he could sense that they didn't have any ill intentions towards him. He also saw the stern, but clearly protective Palace Master.

He also experienced the oath of the Sword Holders and heard about the history of the human race.

It was impossible for all of this to leave no traces on his mind.

In the end, some of this settled in his heart.

And now, he saw another scene that caused his heart to stir.

That quasi-human youth with 120 magic apertures, the youth who yearned to become a Sword Holder, the youth who didn't reveal any information despite being tortured by the Holy Wave Race.

The other party recited the Sword Holder oath and smiled. Then, he closed his eyes and dissipated with the destroyed array formation.

Xu Qing didn't know this person and this was also the first time he had seen him. Moreover, Xu Qing had seen too many deaths. Hence, what caused waves in his heart wasn't the youth's death.

It was the other party's dream and choices.

This person could clearly have a better future but he chose this path of no return.

Xu Qing didn't quite understand, but he knew that deep down he actually did.

However, due to his guarded nature, he was not one to easily accept outsiders, let alone fully embrace them and keep them close to his heart.

Even now, it was still the same.

However, he knew that in his eyes, the Sword Holder had unknowingly become different.

He had more respect for them.

He might have no sense of belonging, but he respected Kong Xianglong's sincerity, the Palace Master's strictness, the oaths of the Sword Holder, and this youth who had passed away.

Hence, he cupped his fists and bowed deeply toward the place where the youth had disappeared.

The wind blew over at that moment, stirring up the dust created by the collapse of the array formation, dispersing the ashes of the youth. It also scattered the aura contained in the wish box on the ground in front of everyone.

This aura was a little special and carried the fragrance of osmanthus.

As Kong Xianglong walked towards the spot where the youth's ashes had scattered, his eyes brimmed with grief and indignation. When he reached there, he knelt down and scooped up a handful of soil from the ground. He then carefully placed it into a bottle before picking up the opened wish box.

"Our mission is completed." Kong Xianglong held the wish box and spoke softly with his back facing everyone.

Xu Qing remained silent and the others didn't speak either.

The mission to provide support had failed, but with the information obtained, regardless of whether it was successful or not, the mission was completed.

"Kid, you should return to the county capital. Help me hand this item to the field office," Kong Xianglong said in a low voice. He raised his right hand and gestured, sending the wish box hurtling towards Xu Qing, who deftly caught it.

As he held the wish box in his hand, the sweet fragrance of osmanthus inside became even more prominent.

"You guys can go back with Kid. I'm not in a good mood and am going to stroll around and relax alone."

Kong Xianglong didn't turn around and calmly spoke.

"Okay, Brother Long, it's good for you to relax alone. Kid, you can go back. I have some personal matters to deal with, so I won't go with you," Shan He clenched his fist, with veins bulging on it, and suddenly spoke.

"What a coincidence. Me too. I'm going to make a trip to my old home, so I won't be going back for the time being." Wang Chen's expression was gloomy as he calmly spoke. After he finished speaking, he looked at the distant horizon.

"I'll accompany Brother Long." Night Spirit looked at Kong Xianglong with a determined gaze.

Xu Qing looked at them. After a few breaths of silence, he threw the wish box in his hand to a Sword Holder from the field office behind him. The other party caught it and wanted to say something but hesitated.

"I have a private matter to deal with. You guys can leave." Xu Qing was expressionless as he slowly spoke.

As soon as he finished speaking, Shan He, Wang Chen, and Night Spirit all looked over in unison with surprised expressions.

Kong Xianglong turned around and also looked at Xu Qing.

"Kid, you don't have to do this."

"I'll return the greeting." Xu Qing looked at Kong Xianglong and spoke seriously.

Kong Xianglong fell into silence. After a long while, he finally nodded and silently walked away into the distance.

The three of them quickly followed. The direction they were heading was the border of Fenghai County.

That was also the border of the Holy Wave Race.

Xu Qing also strode forward like an arrow leaving the bow, following the four of them.

He naturally knew what they were going to do.

It wasn't strange for Kong Xianglong to not abide by the rules when he went out on missions, let alone when he saw the miserable state of the youth. With his personality, he naturally couldn't take this lying down.

In addition, the cold voice left behind in the black-clothed guard's jade slip still echoed in Xu Qing's mind.

Xu Qing felt that since the other party had given a gift to the Sword Holders, they naturally had to return the favor. Only then would it be considered polite.

As the five of them quickly left, the Sword Holders from the field office stared at them in silence.

Their eyes were filled with envy and rueful emotions. However, in the end, they still chose to return after bowing to Xu Qing and the others.

Not all Sword Holders went against the rules.

They couldn't go because they had an even more important mission at this moment.

They would safely send this item back to the county capital.

This was their core mission.

Hence, after the Sword Holder's bow, the Sword Holders from the field office left in the night.

The cold wind at that moment carried the chill of the night, like a harbinger of death wielding a scythe and following Xu Qing and the others.

It whistled past them, blowing on their clothes and lifting strands of hair.

However, when it landed on their faces and seeped into their hearts, it wasn't as cold as the killing intent in their hearts.

Killing intent rose from each of them.

As their speed increased, it became increasingly intense.

This night was without the moon but the wind was strong. It was still a night of killing.

Their speed had already been unleashed to the extreme. From the moment Xu Qing chose to return the greeting, regardless of whether it was Shan He, Wang Chen, or Night Spirit, the way they looked at him changed completely.

It contained recognition and some other emotions.

Shan He's entire body emitted a blood mist. His entire person was enveloped in the fog, like a lump of bloody figure from the netherworld.

Night Spirit had transformed back into a demon. This time, she didn't transform into a green-faced malicious ghost but a scarlet-boned firebird that carried death.

Wang Chen kept his smoke clone and the coffin opened for the first time. A dwarf in luxurious robes walked out.

After smiling at Xu Qing, he licked his lips and his entire body emitted a chill. Wherever he passed, the ground would be frozen.

Kong Xianglong was surrounded by a golden dragon and his entire body emitted terrifying fluctuations. Every step he took covered thousands of feet and he looked extraordinarily mighty.

As for Xu Qing, he wasn't inferior to them.

The shadow shrouded his entire body as the physical strength of the seven palaces surged violently, and his speed was like lightning. He moved like the spirit of the night.

They sped through the dark night like five grim reapers, getting closer and closer to the black-clothed guards of the Holy Wave Race who were returning but hadn't left the Lin Lan Province.

During this time, they also communicated and clarified their battle plan. Although they didn't know the exact number of enemies, with their experience and understanding, they could easily allocate targets.

Finally, before dawn broke, at the moment when the night was the densest, they saw dozens of figures speeding ahead.

Each of them wore a black Daoist robe, and there were a total of over 60 of them!

Their speed wasn't particularly fast, suggesting that they were in good spirits after completing the mission. As they rushed forward, there were occasional bursts of laughter.

However, they were still quite vigilant. Almost at the instant Xu Qing and the others rushed over, these black-clothed guards immediately sensed them and looked in their direction.

However, it was useless to sense it.

Kong Xianglong was the first to rush over. He let out a low shout and directly charged in.

Xu Qing was the second. Like a bolt of black lightning, he directly collided with a black-clothed guard with five palaces. The black-clothed guard's flesh was badly mangled and could only let out a short cry before he stopped breathing.

As blood spurted out, Shan He and the other two also rushed over.

At this moment, a massacre erupted.

Furious shouts erupted from the black-clothed guards, and they immediately put up a resistance.

As a team that had entered deep into the human race's Fenghai County, their combat strength and experiences were naturally abundant.

Among them, there were more than 40 people with combat strength of five or six palaces and 12 with seven palaces.

Most of these seven palaces possessed emperor-level cultivation arts unique to the black-clothed guards.

As for the eight palaces, there were two of them.

These two individuals had not formed the Heavenly Palaces with five life fires, but had reached the limit of four fires which limited them to seven palaces. With the addition of an emperor-level cultivation art, they possessed the combat strength of eight palaces, making them quite extraordinary.

Other than them, there were three other leaders.

They were half-step Nascent Soul cultivators.

Such strength would be the backbone of any sect. However, to the Holy Wave Race, who occupied the Holy Wave Large Region, this was just a small team.

Coupled with the ones who had ambushed Xu Qing and the others earlier, it could be seen that not only did the Holy Wave Race's small teams have many members and experts, but their cultivation levels were also stronger.

After all... their Holy Wave Race was the ruler of the Holy Wave Large Region. The foundation formed by the people of a whole region caused them to have countless experts.

In comparison, a county was naturally inferior.

However, this time, the Sword Holder team was different from the ones they had encountered in the past!

At that moment, as the two sides collided, a massive battle broke out. The three half-step Nascent Soul cultivators charged towards Kong Xianglong while the two black-clothed guards with eight palaces were about to follow, when suddenly a coffin appeared and blocked their way. Dwarf Wang Chen appeared with a wicked smile on his face, and the Smoke Race's clone appeared beside him.

At the same time, Night Spirit appeared from the side and Shan He arrived as well. The three of them combined their efforts to engage in battle against the two black-clothed guards with eight palaces, buying time for Kong Xianglong and Xu Qing to make their moves.

The former was fighting against the three strongest half-step Nascent Soul cultivators here.

The latter was fighting against everyone other than these.

This was the allocation they had made on the way here.

At that time, Xu Qing had said something.

"I'm good at group battles."

Xu Qing took a deep breath and took out his dagger.

The Poison Restriction Pill in the Third Heavenly Palace in his body circulated fully.

Countless little black bugs spread out from Xu Qing's body, forming an astonishing black fog. They carried a terrifying aura and fatal poison that enveloped the surroundings.

This poison acted quickly.

As the black-clothed guards let out mournful cries, Xu Qing remained calm. He lowered his head slightly and charged towards the crowd.

There was also the black iron stick where the Diamond Sect's ancestor was. At this moment, it transformed into red lightning and rampaged.

Also, the eye of the shadow on Xu Qing's forehead rapidly blinked. It spread out and fused into the shadows of the surrounding black-clothed guards, beginning to devour them.

At this moment...

The nightmare descended.