

Time 741

Chapter 741 - 741 Becoming A Dao King! (1)

"Northern Sovereign, have you made your choice yet?" Young lady Niu asked calmly as she looked at the beautiful, silver-robed woman in front of her.

Although the Northern Sovereign was a peak Sovereign realm expert, in reality, as the personal disciple of 'old freak Gao', young lady Niu's status was considered to be even slightly above the Northern Sovereign's.

Shaking her head, the Northern Sovereign had a calm, uncaring look on her face as she looked at the young woman in front of her, before she answered seriously

"Young lady Niu, as the lord of the Northern Sovereign city, how could I possibly hand over the golden skeleton to senior Gao?"

Senior Feng and young lady Niu both narrowed their eyes when they heard this, before they turned to look at each other.

If the Northern Sovereign was really unwilling to hand over the golden skeleton, then there was really nothing they could do. Even if senior Feng decided to go all-out to steal the skeleton, his chances of success were less than 10 percent.

However, knowing 'old freak Gao's' nature and how much he needed the golden skeleton, young lady Niu and senior Feng were naturally unwilling to give up so easily.

"Hmph! In that case, I can only ask that guy for the golden skeleton myself! As long as we get our hands on the skeleton first, then even if Lu Qigang wants to obtain it, there is nothing she can do! If she truly dares to steal something that belongs to master, even the Tianhuan dynasty won't be able to protect her."

The Northern Sovereign's expression changed when she heard this, before a look of killing intent momentarily flashed through her eyes as she stared at young lady Niu.

Naturally, young lady Niu hadn't concealed her words as she intended to scare away the Northern Sovereign.

After all, although the Northern Sovereign's strength was the strongest among the experts present, even she wouldn't dare to offend a figure like 'old freak Gao'.

However, a moment later, the Northern Sovereign's expression quickly returned back to normal while the look on her face became calm.

Indeed, if young lady Niu managed to convince Shun Long to give them the golden skeleton, things would truly become tricky, but the Northern Sovereign was confident that she would be the one to obtain the golden skeleton in the end, even without using force.

While the surrounding experts were all staring at Shun Long, waiting for him to complete his breakthrough, Shun Long himself wasn't paying attention to any of them, as he had placed his entire focus on the 81 silver-colored balls of qi inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'!

Using the energy from the Heavenly Tribulation inside his body, Shun Long had already condensed the 81 balls of qi together, until 41 of them were left.

The 41 silver-colored balls of qi soon turned into 20 and then into 10, while the energy of the Heavenly Tribulation inside Shun Long's body was being used up at an extremely rapid rate.

In the blink of an eye, an hour had already passed before only 3 balls of qi were left inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

Shun Long could sense that he was on the cusp of reaching the Dao King realm, but the remaining energy from the Heavenly Tribulation inside his body was almost completely depleted by now.

He had already used the energy of the 9 bolts of white lightning long ago, while even the crimson bolt of lightning had less than 10 percent of its energy left.

Finally, a few minutes later, just as the last bit of energy from the crimson lightning bolt was used up, the last 3 silver-colored balls of qi had also disappeared from the 'Monarch's Hourglass', and in their place, a single, golden-colored ball of qi could be seen lying there.

The moment that the last 3 silver-colored balls of qi fused together to produce the golden-colored qi ball, Shun Long could feel his mind shaking, while the final shackles that were keeping him into the Nascent Soul stage were instantly broken apart, allowing him to take the final step!

The moment his cultivation broke past the peak of rank 9 of the Nascent Soul and reached the early rank 1 of the Dao King realm, Shun Long could feel the 'Stone of Time' inside his spiritual space shake violently, while his spiritual sea started to rumble in response.

At that moment, Shun Long could also feel all of his senses being elevated to another level, before his mind suddenly turned blank.

Shun Long had the indistinct feeling that something was changing inside his spiritual sea, while different scenes flashed through his mind at the same time.

Information about many different types of ores and minerals under the Heavens along with countless mysterious runes and patterns all entered Shun Long's mind, as the endless barrage of information seemed to forcefully integrate itself directly into his soul!

And yet, although this process was extremely painful, compared to the pain he had felt when he was absorbing the information inside the golden book, Shun Long could feel that this was truly nothing in comparison.

He could sense that the information that was entering his mind was actually less than 10 percent of the knowledge that he had regarding medicinal herbs alone.

Of course, although this pain wasn't as bad as when his soul was being forcibly torn apart, the pain was still enough to bring Shun Long to his limits.

The Northern Sovereign and the surrounding experts all saw the contorted expression of pain on Shun Long's face, leaving them completely baffled as they were unable to understand what was going on. Gritting his teeth, Shun Long kept enduring the pain as countless different scenes flashed through his mind one after the other.

A couple of hours later Shun Long finally collapsed on the ground, his body fully drenched in sweat, as the scenes in his mind finally came to an end.

Chapter 742 - 742 Becoming A Dao King! (2)

After reaching the early rank 1 of the Dao King realm, Shun Long's aura finally stopped rising and slowly started to stabilize.

And yet, Shun Long still didn't open his eyes, as he kept lying on the floor of the King's Palace with his entire body drenched in sweat.

"Eh? How is this possible? That kid's soul doesn't seem to be injured even after he went through that Heavenly Tribulation?" The Northern Sovereign spoke to herself in a surprised voice as her soul sense completely enveloped Shun Long's body.

No matter how she probed him, the Northern Sovereign was unable to find any injuries in Shun Long's soul or his spiritual sea, which surprised her even further.

Of course, the Northern Sovereign was the only one who dared to inspect Shun Long with her soul sense, while the surrounding experts simply waited for him to open his eyes.

Shun Long could feel that a powerful expert was curiously inspecting his body, but his entire attention was now placed on his Dao of Time.

After breaking through to become a true Dao King, Shun Long could feel the changes in his Dao of Time and could sense how much stronger he had become.

He could feel that his comprehension and his control over the Dao of Time had reached a completely new level.

"So that's why most peak rank 9 Nascent Soul cultivators can rarely fight against Dao Kings...

The difference between a Dao King and a Nascent Soul cultivator is truly incomparable!"

Although Shun Long wasn't certain exactly how strong he was right now, he was certain that fighting against the top 10 in the Martial Roll of Honor wasn't an issue. Even if he couldn't defeat them, the chances of him losing were extremely low, and he could definitely fight them to a standstill, at the very least.

If Dong Ai's elder brother, Dong Cheng attacked him once again, it would be uncertain if the genius who was ranked 6th among the outer court disciples of the Holy sect would be able to come out unscathed.

Of course, Shun Long wasn't aware of what treasures Dong Cheng had in his possession, but he knew that the chances of him having another protective artifact that could block the attack of a Dao Emperor were practically zero.

"Most likely, after condensing 2 more golden balls of qi, aside from that Zhang Jing who is ranked 3rd in the Martial Roll of Honor and has yet to show his full strength, nobody else aside from Yang Hui and Qiao Min should be able to fight me head-on..."

Shun Long could also sense that his biggest gain after breaking through to the Dao King realm wasn't the increase in his strength, but the surge of information that had engraved itself in his soul, as well as the new ability that he had come to comprehend.

Shun Long knew that the memories he had unlocked regarding formations -although they couldn't be compared to the knowledge he had absorbed from the golden book, neither in quantity nor quality- were still enough to place him among the strongest formation masters throughout the entire central region.

Shun Long was certain that even the weakest of the formations in his mind was at least at the level of a 1-star formation.

And yet, even those memories regarding those formations paled slightly in front of the ability that Shun Long had comprehended after he broke through to the Dao King realm.

Shun Long's spiritual sea trembled momentarily as the thought of activating this skill appeared in his mind, before a feeling of intense pain filled his head, forcing him to stop.

However, not only was he not disappointed, but a bright smile covered his face soon after.

"Master, this... how can such a skill even exist in this world?" At the same time, inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black whose soul was directly connected to Shun Long's seemed to have realized what had just happened, as a shocked look flashed through the black dragon's eyes.

Shun Long wasn't surprised by Little Black's reaction since even he was having a hard time accepting what was going on.

But since he knew that he was still in a dangerous situation, he knew that he could only put those matters to the back of his mind for now.

A few moments later, after sorting out his thoughts, Shun Long finally opened his eyes and took a look around him.

Inside the core region of the King's Palace, the Northern Sovereign, the Grand Elder, Senior Feng, and the other high-level experts were all staring at him with serious looks in their eyes, while Shun Long could also feel that a powerful soul sense had completely enveloped his body.

Naturally, this soul sense belonged to the Northern Sovereign who smiled brightly when she saw Shun Long opening his eyes, before her warm voice entered Shun Long's ears

"Kid, how are you feeling?" The Northern Sovereign's voice lacked her usual coldness, and instead, it was gentle and warm as a breeze, completely stunning the high-level experts around her.

Those experts had never seen the cold and aloof Northern Sovereign speak to a junior in such a warm tone.? Even when she faced the personal disciple of 'old freak Gao', young lady Niu, the Northern Sovereign had been just as cold as ever.

But of course, after a moment of thinking, those experts realized that it made sense.

Since the Northern Sovereign valued Shun Long's talent and had even expressed her desire to take him to the Northern Sovereign's city, it was only natural that she would treat him differently than most others.

However, just as he was about to respond to the Northern Sovereign, Shun Long suddenly felt a piercing stare on his back, before the cold voice of a young woman entered his ears

"Your name is Shun Long, right? Let's not waste any time. Hand over the golden skeleton!"

Chapter 743 - 743 Making A Choice

Shun Long turned his attention towards young lady Niu who was giving him an unfriendly look.

The cold look in her eyes and the commanding tone in her voice made it obvious that she was not willing to compromise on this matter.

The Northern Sovereign snorted and looked at young lady Niu and senior Feng with a displeased look, before she turned her gaze back at Shun Long and said in that same warm voice as before

"Shun Long, we know that you have gotten your hands on the golden skeleton that was here previously. The truth is that this golden skeleton is a treasure much more important than you think. Keeping it on you will only make things more dangerous for you so it's indeed best to hand it over.

Of course, if you hand it over to me I will make sure to protect you. Not just you, but your Holy sect will also be under the protection of my Northern Sovereign's city from now on! What do you think?"

The Grand Elder and the experts around him were all stunned when they heard the Northern Sovereign's words.

It was one thing for the Holy sect to forge a good relationship with the Northern Sovereign thanks to Shun Long, and another thing to be under the protection of the Northern Sovereign's city.

If the Northern Sovereign truly decided to protect the Holy sect, then the powers that would be able to offend them -even throughout the entire central region as a whole- wouldn't be more than 20!

If the Holy sect had the protection of the Northern Sovereign previously, the young lady of the ancient Bai clan, Bai Liuxian, naturally wouldn't have dared to be so brazen as to go to the Holy sect and grab any disciples that she wanted.

Seeing that the Northern Sovereign had already made her move, young lady Niu sneered and shook her head, before she looked at Shun Long and said calmly

"Shun Long, since you are the one who got the golden skeleton, then naturally I wouldn't ask you to hand it over for free. How about this? As long as you hand over the skeleton to me, I will give you a million high-grade spirit stones in return. Additionally, your Holy sect will also be under the protection of my master from now on. I am sure you understand what this means."

The Grand Elder and the surrounding experts all sucked in breaths of cold air when they heard young lady Niu's offer, while a burst of cold killing intent erupted from the Northern Sovereign's body.

Young lady Niu's offer was an insult to the Northern Sovereign, but young lady Niu didn't seem to mind in the slightest. As long as Shun Long chose to give the golden skeleton to her, young lady Niu was certain that the Northern Sovereign wouldn't be able to do anything.

Naturally, young lady Niu's confidence didn't stem from her own strength or the strength of senior Feng next to her, but from her master's own strength and reputation.

As long as Shun Long agreed to give the golden skeleton to her, then the Northern Sovereign wouldn't dare to do anything or it would be no different from offending 'old freak Gao' himself.

Additionally, young lady Niu's offer was much more appealing than the Northern Sovereign's.

1 million high-grade spirit stones wasn't a lot to someone like the Northern Sovereign or young lady Niu who had an extremely powerful background, but to most early-stage Sovereign realm experts, it was an amount that they would need a very long time to gather and wouldn't be able to toss it out so easily.

Even the Grand Elder of the Holy sect who was a peak rank 9 Dao Emperor only had a little more than 200.000 high-grade spirit stones in his possession previously, so one could guess how difficult it was for a single person to gather a million high-grade spirit stones.

Of course, none of those experts present here today doubted young lady Niu's words.

In fact, compared to the promise of her master protecting the Holy sect, one million high-grade spirit stones were truly nothing in comparison.

An expert like 'old freak Gao' truly stood at the peak of this world, and the number of experts who would dare to offend could be counted on the number of fingers in a person's hands.

Even the Northern Sovereign and her Northern Sovereign city were nothing in the eyes of someone like 'old freak Gao'!

Nodding his head, the red-haired Sovereign realm expert, senior Feng looked at Shun Long and said seriously

"Kid, you should think carefully before you make your choice."

The experts around the Northern Sovereign, including the Grand Elder of the Holy sect himself, all remained silent as they watched this scene in front of them.

None of them knew what they would choose if they were in Shun Long's shoes.

In hindsight, choosing to hand over the golden skeleton to 'old freak Gao' was probably the better choice, but offending someone like the Northern Sovereign wasn't wise either.

No matter what he chose, Shun Long was bound to offend one of those 2 behemoths either way.

And yet, Shun Long didn't seem too flustered in the face of all of this.

Instead, he looked at senior Feng who was staring at him seriously, and without the slightest bit of shame on his face he said calmly

"Golden skeleton? Senior, I have no idea what you are talking about."

It wasn't just senior Feng, but the Northern Sovereign and the other experts who stared at Shun Long in disbelief.

Was he really trying to deny that the golden skeleton was in his possession?

"Kid, don't play with me! Do you take me for a fool? There is no way for the skeleton to disappear from the palace all by itself. Since it's not in the Northern Sovereign's possession, it can only be in your hands! Hand it over or don't blame this old man for what's about to happen!"

Chapter 744 - 744 Forceful Methods

A burst of killing intent erupted from senior Feng's body as he finished speaking, while his eyes stared at Shun Long dangerously like a viper that was about to strike.

It was one thing for Shun Long to be a talented junior that the Northern Sovereign looked at favorably, but if he was really intending to feign ignorance and tried to keep the golden skeleton for himself, there was no way that senior Feng would accept this.

Surprisingly, the Northern Sovereign didn't berate senior Feng for his aggressive approach.

In her heart, the Northern Sovereign had started to feel slightly angry as well.

She had already approached Shun Long sincerely when she made her offer to him, but Shun Long himself didn't seem to be willing to hand over the golden skeleton.

Although the Northern Sovereign looked at Shun Long favorably due to the unprecedented Heavenly Tribulation that he had just caused, the golden skeleton wasn't something that she was willing to give up, no matter what.

If Shun Long really kept on denying that he had it in his possession, the Northern Sovereign would have to take it by force then.

If that happened, there was no way that she was going to let Shun Long live either.

After all, the talent that Shun Long had just showed had made even the Northern Sovereign somewhat wary.

In reality, the only reason why neither the Northern Sovereign or senior Feng had made their moves against him yet, was because the 2 experts wanted to rope Shun Long in and have him join them.

"Kid, don't make things difficult for this old man, or I won't be able to protect you either. The golden skeleton is useless to you and will only bring you more danger, but to experts like senior Northern Sovereign, it's a priceless treasure that they won't give up. Isn't it better to just give it up without conflict?" The Grand Elder had now started to sweat as he looked at Shun Long.

He was truly worried that Shun Long would get greedy and would keep trying to refuse to hand the golden skeleton over, thus angering the Northern Sovereign and senior Feng. By then, forget about the Grand Elder... even if the sect master of the Holy sect was here, even he wouldn't be able to protect Shun Long from these 2 experts.

The Northern Sovereign nodded her head calmly as she waited for Shun Long to make his choice, but inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black sneered mockingly as he stared at the group of experts around Shun Long.

In Little Black's eyes, even cultivators who were just a step away from ascending and becoming true immortals couldn't make better use of the skeleton than Shun Long.

After a moment of silence, Shun Long looked at the Grand Elder and shook his head before he said in an 'honest' manner

"Senior, it's not that I am unwilling to help, but how can I hand over something that I don't have?"

Senior Feng's face darkened even further when he heard Shun Long's answer, while a displeased look had also appeared on the Northern Sovereign's face.

It seemed that Shun Long was really bent on denying that he possessed the golden skeleton.

"Brat, it looks like you won't give up until you see your coffin. Do you really think that I won't dare to kill you today?"

Sensing the killing intent that was coming from senior Feng's body, the Grand Elder shivered as he immediately took a step forward and appeared between Shun Long and senior Feng.

Waving his hands, the Grand Elder looked at senior Feng and said hurriedly

"Senior, please wait! This is probably a misunderstanding!"

Just as the Grand Elder was about to try and persuade Shun Long one more time to hand over the golden skeleton, an old man in violet robes who was standing behind the Northern Sovereign, looked at Shun Long and said in a calm voice that attracted everyone's attention

"What's the point of wasting time like this? Whether that kid really has the golden skeleton or not... won't we know after searching his spatial ring?"

Senior Feng nodded his head coldly when he heard the old man's suggestion, while the Northern Sovereign didn't seem to object to this either.

Since Shun Long wasn't willing to cooperate, no one was willing to waste their time like this.

Shun Long's eyes narrowed as he looked at the experts surrounding him, as he then said in an unhappy tone

"Fine! Since the seniors here don't believe this junior, feel free to search my spatial ring. I hope that these seniors won't really covet the treasures of a junior who has just broken through to the Dao King realm."

As he finished speaking, Shun Long removed the spatial ring from his hand and tossed it to senior Feng who extended his hand and caught it with a smile on his face.

At least Shun Long knew how to be sensible and choose the correct side.

The Grand Elder sighed when he saw this scene but he still exhaled a sigh of relief inwardly.

Although their Holy sect had a certain relationship with the Northern Sovereign, at this point, this didn't matter too much.

Whether they chose to give the golden skeleton to young lady Niu or the Northern Sovereign was of secondary importance.

The most important thing was for Shun Long to cooperate so these experts would at least spare his life.

Seeing that Shun Long had tossed his spatial ring to the red-robed 'senior Feng', a sharp look flashed inside the Northern Sovereign's eyes, but she still chose to remain silent in the end.

Although things would become complicated if young lady Niu was the one who got the golden skeleton, the Northern Sovereign knew that as long as she was willing to go all-out, she would be the final winner today.

Senior Feng closed his eyes before he sent his soul sense inside the black spatial ring in his hands in an expectant manner.

However, in the next moment, young lady Niu who was standing next to senior Feng noticed that an ugly expression appeared on his face soon after, before his aura that was at the peak of rank 3 in the Sovereign realm exploded outwards, startling not just the Grand Elder, but the Northern Sovereign herself, as well as the rest of the surrounding experts inside the core region of the King's Palace.

In the next moment, senior Feng's soul sense covered not just the core region, but the entire King's Palace itself, before his cold eyes stared at Shun Long with a look of unconcealed killing intent, as he then said in a cold voice

"Brat, where is the golden skeleton?"

Chapter 745 - 745 Senior Feng Making A Move

Senior Feng's angry shout had naturally surprised the experts around Shun Long, who all seemed to have realized what was going on.

Although Shun Long's spatial ring did indeed contain some valuable treasures that could attract the attention of most Dao Emperor realm experts, including a peak 1-star weapon as well as 200.000 high-grade spirit stones, none of those were enough to pique the interest of a Sovereign realm expert like senior Feng.

"It really isn't there?" The Grand Elder stared at the black spatial ring in senior Feng's hands with a look of surprise on his face.

Nodding his head, senior Feng tossed the spatial ring to the Grand Elder with a cold look, while his eyes stared murderously at Shun Long who was standing in front of him.

The Grand Elder sent his soul sense inside it, only to see that the golden skeleton indeed wasn't there.

"Kid, where is the golden skeleton?" Seeing that Shun Long didn't respond the first time, senior Feng asked him once again.

It didn't matter if he denied it or not, senior Feng was certain that the golden skeleton was in Shun Long's hands.

After all, Shun Long was the only one present inside the King's Palace during his Heavenly Tribulation, otherwise, the heavens would have definitely struck anyone who dared to step foot inside the core region of the palace during that time.

Nobody, not even those experts who had surpassed the Sovereign realm would dare to casually go against the will of the Heavens and forcefully step foot inside the King's Palace during someone's Heavenly Tribulation!

Shaking his head, Shun Long looked at the red-haired Sovereign realm expert in front of him and answered seriously

"I told you that I don't have the golden skeleton and yet you didn't believe me. Senior, I already gave you my spatial ring, what else do you want?"

"Cut the crap! Who else could have obtained the skeleton during your Heavenly Tribulation other than you?"

The Northern Sovereign and the surrounding experts all stayed silent when they heard this.

Indeed, according to logic, Shun Long should be the one to have obtained the golden skeleton, but since there was no sign of it in his spatial ring, things didn't make any sense.

The Northern Sovereign's soul sense had covered the entirety of the King's Palace by now, searching every nook and cranny within the King's palace.

Even if Shun Long wanted to hide the skeleton inside another spatial ring and hid it somewhere else within the core region of the palace, it still wouldn't be able to escape from the Northern Sovereign's soul sense.

"Could it be?" A terrifying thought flashed inside the Northern Sovereign's mind, as she suddenly remembered the 9 bolts of purple lightning that had appeared in the sky during Shun Long's Heavenly Tribulation.

At the same time, senior Feng looked at Shun Long and said in a cold voice

"Fine then! Since you refuse to answer honestly, I will obtain the answer from you myself!"

Senior Feng's body instantly disappeared from the spot he was standing on, bypassing the Grand Elder and arriving right in front of Shun Long with his right hand stretched forward.

The Grand Elder seemed to have realized what was going on, but he was simply too slow to react in time, causing his face to turn completely pale when he saw the scene in front of him.

It was obvious that senior Feng was going to use his own soul sense and scan Shun Long's soul and read his memories.

However, searching another cultivator's soul was extremely dangerous, and it would often leave behind negative side effects that could harm a cultivator. In some cases, cultivators even ended up crippled after the process was finished.

"Senior, please stop!"

The Grand Elder shouted in a desperate voice, but senior Feng didn't seem to care about his shout in the slightest, as his hand kept inching closer and closer towards Shun Long's head.

It didn't matter where the golden skeleton was, or even if it was in Shun Long's possession in the first place, senior Feng was confident that he would get his answer after soul-searching Shun Long.

Inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black's bright blue eyes flashed with a look of unrestrained killing intent as he stared at the red-haired Sovereign realm expert in front of Shun Long.

Although Little Black knew that he wasn't strong enough to fight against a peak rank 3 Sovereign realm expert right now, and that revealing himself would most likely end with him dead, there was no way that he would simply stay and watch as Shun Long's soul was forcefully being searched by the red-haired middle-aged man.

At that moment, Shun Long felt a dangerous feeling permeating his heart, as his spiritual sea started to surge wildly.

He hadn't thought that he would be forced to use this move right after breaking through to the Dao King realm, but it seemed that senior Feng was hell-bent on searching his soul to obtain the answers he wanted.

At that moment however, just as the red-robed middle-aged man's hand was about to touch Shun Long's head, a jade-like hand seemed to have appeared out of thin air as it forcefully grabbed senior Feng's wrist, locking his hand into place.

It didn't matter how much strength senior Feng put in his attack, his hand wouldn't move an inch.

Senior Feng's eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at the owner of this jade-like hand, before he asked in a cold voice

"Northern Sovereign, what is the meaning of this?"

The owner of this hand was no one else but the silver-robed Northern Sovereign, the only person present who could take care of senior Feng's attack so easily.

The Northern Sovereign shook her head as she looked at senior Feng, before she answered calmly "Feng Qin, you should stay your hand."

Chapter 746 - 746 The Northern Sovereign's Answer

Seeing the stunned expression on senior Feng's face, the Northern Sovereign took a deep breath before she continued

"I am sure that you have already searched Shun Long's body with your soul sense, as well as the rest of the King's Palace by now. There is no spatial ring hidden on anywhere that could hold the golden skeleton... You should just give up."

Feng Qin sneered mockingly when he heard the Northern Sovereign's words, before he answered in a confident manner

"Give up? Why would I do that? Even if that kid really doesn't have the golden skeleton, he is still the only clue we have. Searching his soul is the only thing that's left to do. Lu Qigang, if you don't want to do this you can simply move aside! I don't need your help to do this!"

The Northern Sovereign's eyes narrowed when she heard Feng Qin's way of addressing her.

The only people who were qualified to call the Northern Sovereign by her own name were only experts at the same level as her, or those whose status were even higher than her own.

As for Feng Qin, whether it was in terms of personal power or status, he was far inferior to the Northern Sovereign.

At that moment, the Northern Sovereign's silky black hair started to flow wildly in the air as her aura suddenly burst out from her body, completely stunning Feng Qin, young lady Niu, as well as the surrounding experts who were watching this scene.

The Northern Sovereign stared at Feng Qin with her cold brown eyes as her hand was still holding his wrist tightly, making Feng Qin's face grimace from the pain, before she spoke in a commanding tone

"Since you don't seem to understand my words, then let me explain this in another way. Since Shun Long isn't the one who has the golden skeleton, he is now under my protection and you are not allowed to touch him."

The Northern Sovereign then turned her gaze towards young lady Niu before she continued coldly

"I suggest you go back and report everything that happened today to your master."

The Northern Sovereign's overbearing tone had startled both young lady Niu and Feng Qin who stared at the Northern Sovereign with eyes filled with disbelief.

None of them understood why she would really choose to protect Shun Long instead of soul-searching him to obtain more information about the golden skeleton, but everyone present today understood, that if the Northern Sovereign was really hell-bent on protecting someone, nobody present could possibly harm that person.

Feng Qin stared at the Northern Sovereign silently for a few moments, before he nodded his head and turned to look at young lady Niu next to him and said

"Let's go."

Since young lady Niu had already finished her breakthrough and Feng Qin couldn't search Shun Long's soul, there was nothing else left for him to do within the King's Palace.

It was better for him and young lady Niu to go back and report everything to her master!

Young lady Niu stared at Shun Long silently for a few moments before she nodded her head in response, as hers and Feng Qin's bodies turned into 2 blurs that disappeared from the core region of the King's Palace.

With the golden skeleton already gone, the black thunderclouds around the King's Palace had also started to disappear, as they slowly faded into nothingness, allowing Feng Qin to effortlessly fly out of the core region of the palace.

Shun Long was actually surprised that the Northern Sovereign would go against young lady Niu and the red-robed Sovereign realm expert just to save him.

He had already prepared himself for the worst case scenario, but it seemed that the Northern Sovereign had something else in mind.

Indeed, after Feng Qin and young lady Niu left, the Northern Sovereign turned her gaze towards Shun Long and said with a smile on her face

"Come with me!"

Shun Long didn't have any chance to resist as the Northern Sovereign waved her hand, causing a gust of wind to envelop Shun Long's body and carry him towards her.

Without any hesitation, the Northern Sovereign shot out of the core region of the palace with Shun Long and the Grand Elder following right behind her, leaving behind a stunned look of experts.

A few moments later, the Northern Sovereign slowed down after crossing a distance of more than 1000 miles, before she finally stopped, allowing Shun Long and the Grand Elder to regain their freedom to move.

The Grand Elder then looked at the Northern Sovereign before he asked curiously

"Senior, what is going on?"

The Northern Sovereign shook her head as she looked at the Grand Elder, before she turned her attention towards Shun Long and asked a question of her own

"Kid, do you know why I saved you?"

Shun Long was surprised by the Northern Sovereign's sudden question. Indeed, he had no idea why she had chosen to help him.

Shaking her head, the Northern Sovereign then answered

"Actually, after checking your spatial ring, Feng Qin already knew that you didn't have the golden skeleton. After all, how could a newly advanced Dao King hide anything from a Sovereign realm expert like him? Even if you had stored the golden skeleton inside a spatial ring and had chosen to

hide it somewhere else inside the King's Palace, mine and Feng Qin's soul sense would have discovered it long ago.

The reason why he was still insistent on searching your soul was actually just an excuse. Since you don't have the golden skeleton in your possession, in Feng Qin's eyes, there is only one other person who can have it, and that person is naturally me. After all, I was the first person to reach the core region of the King's Palace after your Heavenly Tribulation ended.

After searching your soul and verifying that you didn't have anything to do with the golden skeleton, Feng Qin would then try to blame me.. Hehe, by then, it's very likely that 'old freak Gao' would learn about this and would try to hunt me down."

Chapter 747 - 747 The Northern Sovereign's Conclusion

"Senior, isn't this dangerous? I heard that 'old freak Gao' is actually a peak expert who is just a step away from ascending and becoming a true immortal. Won't you be in danger if he really comes after you?" The Grand Elder voiced out his concern as he stared at the beautiful silver-robed woman in front of him worriedly, while Shun Long was still processing the information he had just received from the Northern Sovereign.

No matter what, it was still unnatural that the Northern Sovereign would give up her search for the golden skeleton so easily.

Even though she knew that Shun Long didn't have the skeleton in his possession, she should have known that if she let Feng Qin search his soul, it was very likely that they would be able to obtain some clues at the very least.

After all, the golden skeleton couldn't have possibly vanished into thin air!

Shaking her head, the Northern Sovereign sneered as she looked at the Grand Elder, before she answered in a confident manner

"Kang Wen, do you think that 'old freak Gao' is as inexperienced as you are? Even if I really had the golden skeleton in my possession, he still wouldn't dare to make trouble for me unless he is actually willing to fight with the Tianhuan dynasty.

After all, every single one of the 4 peak Sovereigns of the provincial cities are subordinates of the lord of the Tianhuan dynasty.

That old freak clearly knows the strength of the Tianhuan dynasty's old ancestor, so unless it's absolutely necessary, he wouldn't dare to go all-out and attack my Northern Sovereign's city or try to create any trouble for me.

After all, 'old freak Gao' knows that if I really had the golden skeleton, even I wouldn't dare to keep it for myself and that I would have to hand it over to the dynasty, or I would be chased down by all of those old monsters in the first place."

The Northern Sovereign had a calm look on her face, looking like she wasn't the slightest bit worried even when she was dealing with a peak expert who was just half a step away from becoming a true immortal like 'old freak Gao'.

"As for soul searching Shun Long... Feng Qin will soon understand that it was a mistake to even mention this in the first place."

The Grand Elder was surprised when he heard this, but the Northern Sovereign simply smiled before she continued a moment later

"That's because Feng Qin didn't use his brain at all.

Even an expert like 'old freak Gao' would value Shun Long greatly after such a Heavenly Tribulation. After all, the talent that Shun Long has displayed just now is enough to alert even an old monster like him.

In reality, I am sure that even if I don't say anything about it, even the lord of the Tianxuan dynasty will find out everything regarding today's matters very soon. With Feng Qin trying to forcefully search Shun Long's soul, it was no different than completely burning the bridge between Shun Long himself and 'old freak Gao's' side, which will undoubtedly make 'old freak Gao' very angry.

After all, why would an expert like 'old freak Gao' would want to offend someone with Shun Long's talent? I suspect that it's more likely that he would try to rope him in instead, and perhaps even take him on as a personal disciple!"

The Grand Elder was startled momentarily before a cold shiver coursed through his body.

Naturally, the Grand Elder knew that the Holy sect would obtain many benefits if one of their disciples really entered the tutelage of an expert like 'old freak Gao'.

However, would any of the benefits they obtained be enough to make up for the losses?

Naturally, the Grand Elder knew the answer, which was why he was so unwilling to let Shun Long be taken away by another power.

Most of the talented disciples in the Holy sect belonged to the powerful families and clans within the Holy sect's territory in the first place.

Naturally, those disciples had the interest of their clans first and not the Holy sect's.

However, Shun Long didn't belong to any of those families or clans.

This was part of why the Grand Elder valued him so much.

A talented disciple who could rival or even surpass Yang Hui in terms of talent had appeared, and he wasn't a member of those powerful families! How could the Grand Elder not value him greatly?

However, if Shun Long was taken away by someone like 'old freak Gao' and stayed with him for a few thousand years, would the 2 years that Shun Long has spent inside the Holy sect even amount to anything in the future?

Would Shun Long even care about the Holy sect by then?

Perhaps he would care slightly about it but he wouldn't necessarily extend a hand to help if something serious happened.

"Senior... then what about the golden skeleton?" After a moment of silence the Grand Elder asked in a curious tone.

The look inside the Northern Sovereign's eyes instantly turned serious, as she looked at the Grand Elder and answered solemnly

"The golden skeleton has most likely been snatched by someone else already. I also suspect that this person is an expert who is at least on par with 'old freak Gao' and the old ancestor of the Tianhuan dynasty, and is probably on the cusp of becoming a true immortal!

I suspect that he sneaked inside the core region of the King's Palace just as the Heavenly Tribulation was about to end and snatched the golden skeleton away before he disappeared. He was probably what caused those 9 bolts of purple lightning to appear in the sky as well!

After all, purple lightning is the strongest lightning that can appear during the Heavenly Tribulation, and no matter how freakish Shun Long's talent is, it's impossible for him to summon 9 bolts of purple lightning during his breakthrough to the Dao King realm. However, if an extremely high-level expert sneaked inside the King's Palace during that time, then it's extremely likely that he would summon the wrath of the Heavens!

I believe that after Feng Qin mentions today's matter to 'old freak Gao', that old monster will come to the same conclusion as well.

... A person who can sneak into the core region of the King's Palace during that Heavenly Tribulation and can even snatch the golden skeleton under everyone's noses.... such a person is definitely a peak expert!"

Chapter 748 - 748 Leaving The King's Palace

"Hahaha! This little girl is so interesting!" A burst of loud laughter resounded within the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', as Little Black stared at the solemn Northern Sovereign with an amused look inside his bright blue eyes.

Even though the Northern Sovereign's conclusion was extremely logical, in the black dragon's eyes it was nothing but a joke.

After all, the golden skeleton's figure was still lying on the ground just a few meters away from Little Black, where Little Silver was staring at it with a look of curiosity and fear in his deep yellow eyes.

Unlike Little Black, the black panther felt an innate, deep sense of fear every time it turned to look at this golden skeleton. It was as if its instincts were screaming for it to get as far away as possible.

Of course, this was only natural.

The golden skeleton, even though it didn't have any signs of life inside it, was still the corpse of a peak expert who had dominated the central region countless years ago. How could it be anything normal? Additionally, the golden skeleton had been struck by the bolts of purple lightning for countless years as it remained in the core region of the King's Palace, making its aura even deadlier.

Naturally, a magic beast like Little Silver that had just reached the peak of rank 6 would feel an innate sense of fear towards it.

At the same time, a look of realization appeared on the Grand Elder's face when he heard the Northern Sovereign's words, while Shun Long chose to remain silent while a slightly puzzled look had also appeared on his face.

Although he hadn't seen them by himself, Shun Long had already heard from Little Black about the 9 bolts of purple lightning that appeared in the sky during his Heavenly Tribulation.

But of course, he wasn't going to let the Northern Sovereign know and had already decided to feign ignorance.

The Northern Sovereign didn't find anything abnormal with Shun Long's reaction, and after a brief moment of silence, she looked at him and asked smilingly

"Shun Long, since you have already finished your breakthrough, do you want to come to my Northern Sovereign's city?"

The Northern Sovereign's voice was warm and gentle like a spring breeze, instantly making anyone who heard it feel at ease.

Shun Long looked at the Northern Sovereign with a surprised look, as he hadn't expected such a sudden invitation.

Since he had already finished his breakthrough and there was almost half a year left until the estimated time when the City of Immortals would open, Shun Long was actually planning to use this time to increase his cultivation, as well as practice the skills of a formation master.

However, from the Northern Sovereign's warm tone, Shun Long understood that she was trying to strengthen her relationship with him.

Since she had just stood up for him and helped him with Feng Qin, there was no reason for him to refuse either.

After thinking for a moment, Shun Long nodded his head and answered

"Since senior is inviting this junior, I will naturally not decline. I simply hope that senior doesn't mind if I bring my friends along as well."

The Northern Sovereign's face bloomed like a flower, as she nodded her head and said magnanimously

"Of course. Even if you want to bring the entire group of the Holy sect with you, I will still not mind."

The Northern Sovereign then waved her hand, summoning a gust of wind that surrounded Shun Long's and the Grand Elder's bodies, before she flew back towards the King's Palace.

With the Northern Sovereign's help, Shun Long located Liu Mei and the others extremely easily and saw that they were all making their way towards the core region of the King's Palace.

The moment the Northern Sovereign appeared in front of them, Liu Mei and the others were all stunned momentarily as they instantly recognized the beautiful silver-robed woman in front of them, before their eyes all fell on Shun Long soon after.

"Long-ge!"

"Brother Long!"

Both Liu Mei and Xingyi called out with looks of relief on their faces as they flew towards Shun Long, while Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian smiled before they moved towards him as well.

After witnessing Shun Long's Heavenly Tribulation, their group of 4 had all been worried restlessly about the results.

After all, the destructive force behind that crimson bolt of Heavenly Tribulation had been enough to stun even some powerful peak rank 9 Dao Kings who had yet to breakthrough to the Dao Emperor realm!

Even though Shun Long was a monster himself and was unmatched by other Nascent Soul cultivators, it didn't mean that he would be able to survive from that Heavenly Tribulation.

In face, even Liu Mei's, Xingyi's, Jiang Chen's, and Bai Longtian's Heavenly Tribulations all combined couldn't match up to Shun Long's in terms of how dangerous they were.

The Northern Sovereign smiled at the show of affection in front of her, as she saw Shun Long interacting with the group of 4 in front of him.

Liu Mei and Xingyi both walked up and hugged him tightly, while Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian had clear smiles of relief on their faces.

"Haha, brother Shun, I knew that you would make it. Even the Heavenly Tribulation wasn't enough to harm you." Bai Longtian's voice was full of excitement as he joyfully patted Shun Long's shoulder.

Jiang Chen didn't say anything and simply nodded his head, but the sight of his lips curving upwards was enough to betray his good mood.

"Is this everyone? If you are ready, then let's go!" A moment later, the Northern Sovereign asked as she looked at Shun Long and the others. There was no reason for them to waste any more time in the King's Palace.

Besides, the Northern Sovereign still had to make a report to the Tianxuan dynasty.

Seeing that she was in a hurry, Shun Long didn't keep the Northern Sovereign waiting any longer.

Chapter 749 - 749 The 4 Provincial Cities

Gusts of wind covered Liu Mei and the others a moment later, as they all started to fly towards the Northern Sovereign as well.

However, just as the Northern Sovereign was about to depart, the Grand Elder looked at her and said in a regretful tone

"Senior, I have to lead the inner court Elders and the rest of the disciples back to the sect, so I can't come with you just yet, but I will come find Shun Long and the others in the Northern Sovereign's city, half a year from now."

The Northern Sovereign seemed to have forgotten about this matter since she was preoccupied with the changes in the core region of the King's Palace.

With the golden skeleton having disappeared from the core region of the palace, the black thunderclouds around the King's Palace had also started to vanish,

Although the aura of the Daos inside the King's Palace was much weaker than before now that the golden skeleton had disappeared, it was still a treasure ground for cultivators who wanted to comprehend their Daos.

Since the Grand Elder was responsible for the Holy sect's group, he had to be the one to take them back to the sect as well. Otherwise, if the inner court Elders met with another accident like the snea

attack of a powerful magic beast like the Wind wyrm, it was very likely that their entire group would perish without the Grand Elder's help.

"Alright, Kang Wen. I will see you in half a year." The Northern Sovereign didn't have any misgivings about leaving the Grand Elder behind as her body shot to the skies a moment later, carrying Shun Long and the others along with her as she flew out of the King's Palace.

...

The Northern Sovereign was flying at a leisure pace, but her speed had already exceeded the Grand Elder's 'Darkness Eagle' by many times, covering a large amount of distance with every passing second, and in less than a day, the outline of an enormous city finally appeared on the horizon.

The Northern Sovereign slowed down her speed even further as she approached closer to the huge city that seemed to span for countless miles, before she turned to look at Shun Long and asked with a warm smile

"Shun Long, do you know the history behind the 4 provincial cities of the central region?"

"4 provincial cities?" Shun Long shook his head since he was indeed unfamiliar with most of the powers of the central region.

Although the Grand Elder had mentioned the Northern Sovereign's city and the other 3 cities in passing half a year ago, he hadn't mentioned any special details about those cities.

He had only said that the Northern Sovereign's city was the strongest power within the northern part of the central region, and that no other power could contend with it.

Even though there were rumored to be a couple more experts who weren't much weaker than the Northern Sovereign herself, none of those experts could even think of shaking the Northern Sovereign's city.

Shun Long was indeed slightly curious why that was the case.

The Northern Sovereign smiled even wider as she pointed at the city in front of her before she continued

"Indeed. In each of the 4 parts of the central region, there are 4 provincial cities, namely the Northern Sovereign's city, the Southern Sovereign's city, the Eastern Sovereign's city, and the Western Sovereign's city.

As you can guess, those 4 cities are indeed all connected and each of the 4 cities is protected by a single city lord.

Each one of the 4 city lords is a peak Sovereign realm expert whose strength is nearly unmatched at the same level of cultivation, able to easily trump others with their strength and stand at the peak of the Sovereign realm.

Additionally, aside from the city lords, in every city, there are a dozen other Sovereign realm experts hidden as well, along with more than a thousand protective formations, all set by 2-star formation masters!

Heh, even if a peak Sovereign realm expert attacked my Northern Sovereign's city while I am away, that person won't have a chance to forcefully breakthrough the protective formations and enter inside."

Liu Mei and the others were all stunned when they heard the Northern Sovereign's words.

Aside from the city lord, there were a dozen other Sovereign realm experts inside every city? The Holy sect itself was rumored to have just a single Sovereign realm expert, and that person was the mysterious sect master who had yet to show his face even once, and yet each of the 4 cities had a dozen Sovereign realm experts?

If one counted in the city lords as well, didn't that mean that the 4 cities combined had more than 50 Sovereign realm experts, 4 of whom were even at the peak of the Sovereign realm?

Additionally, what kind of concept were a thousand protective formations set by 2-star formation masters?

"No wonder others don't dare to challenge the Northern Sovereign's city! With a thousand protective formations alone, even without a single Sovereign realm expert guarding it, it's unlikely that anyone can forcefully break past the cities defenses and enter inside."

As this thought appeared in his mind, Shun Long stared at the city in the distance with renewed interest.

Although his strength was nowhere near enough to let him carve a 2-star protective formation just yet, his knowledge was enough to let him at least analyze it.

The Northern Sovereign had a deep look in her eyes as she stared at the massive city in the distance, before she continued a few moments later

"Although the 4 provincial cities are strong and are able to stand independently in the central region, there is actually an even stronger power behind them.

One of the 3 strongest powers in the entire central region... the Tianxuan dynasty!

Each of the 4 city lords, including myself, is in reality, a subordinate of the lord of the Tianxuan dynasty.

Shun Long, are you interested in joining my Northern Sovereign's city and the Tianxuan dynasty?"

Chapter 750 - 750 The Northern Sovereign's City

The Northern Sovereign's sudden question took Liu Mei and the rest all by surprise.

The Northern Sovereign wanted to recruit Shun Long into the Tianxuan dynasty?

The silver-robed Northern Sovereign stared at Shun Long seriously, and without waiting for him to accept or reject her offer, she then continued

"I will be blunt so listen carefully, because I will only explain this once.

After your Heavenly Tribulation, you are bound to attract the attention of countless people. Once news start to spread, even those old monsters like 'old freak Gao' will start paying attention to you.

It would be one thing if you had actually died during your Heavenly Tribulation, but after surviving it, many of the strong powers in the central region will set their eyes on you, including those who stand at the very peak of the central region, like the 7 ancient clans, the Tianxuan dynasty, and the others.

Those powers will look at you favorably and will try to get you to join them since they will value your talent, but many of them will look at you hostilely as well.

After all, to some of those powers, you will most likely become a threat in the future if you keep on growing.

As far as I know, in the countless years of the central region's existence, there has never been a Nascent Soul stage cultivator who had to face crimson lightning during their Heavenly Tribulation. Even those who faced a set of nine bolts of white lightning, including you, they actually number less than 10.

If you don't obtain a backer, it's likely that you will be killed by those powers before you get a chance to grow.

Unfortunately, the Holy sect doesn't have the ability to protect you, which is why I am offering you to join my Northern Sovereign's city.

Of course, you don't have to answer right away. You can think about it for a few days. After all, there is at least half a year left until the opening of the City of Immortals."

Shun Long simply nodded his head without saying anything, while solemn looks appeared on Bai Longtian's and the others' faces.

Indeed, after today, there was no way that Shun Long would be able to remain unnoticed, even if he wanted to.

The Northern Sovereign didn't bring the matter up again, as she kept flying towards the Northern Sovereign's city in the distance.

A few moments later, she had already crossed the distance, as Shun Long and the others had all arrived above the massive city gates.

More than a hundred thousand cultivators along with many luxurious carriages were gathered in front of the city gates waiting to enter the city, but the moment the Northern Sovereign appeared and everyone sensed her aura, the city guards instantly stopped what they were doing and dropped on one knee as they all shouted respectfully

"City lord!"

The Northern Sovereign nodded her head coolly, as she took Shun Long and the rest and continued forward, entering inside the Northern Sovereign's city.

Seeing the Northern Sovereign fly past the city gates, the guards stationed at the city walls started to discuss among themselves in hushed voices

"The city lord is back already? I thought that the King's Palace still had half a year left until it closed. Why is the city lord back already?"

"Could it be because of those 5 people? The city lord personally led them inside the city! Which power do they belong to?"

At the same time, the moment she flew past the city gates, the Northern Sovereign slowed down her speed considerably, allowing Shun Long and the others to take a good view of the city.

Thousands of carriages were coming and going from the city gates at all times, while rich-looking merchants or groups of sturdily built cultivators seemed to be gathered around the city gates as well.

Shun Long's group attracted quite a bit of attention as they flew inside the city, causing many powerful cultivators to turn their gazes towards them.

However, once those cultivators sense the Northern Sovereign's terrifying aura, they immediately turned the other way, no longer bothering with them.

Although people weren't allowed to fly inside the city, such a rule naturally didn't apply to the city lord.

"What do you think?" The Northern Sovereign asked with a smile on her face.

"This city is indeed much bigger than the Holy city of the Holy sect. No, the two can't even be compared." Bai Longtian said as he took a look at his surroundings.

Shun Long nodded his head in agreement.

It wasn't just the size of the city either.

As they flew around the city heading even deeper inside, Shun Long and the rest all noticed that Nascent Soul cultivators and Dao Kings seemed to be present everywhere, while Dao Emperors weren't too rare either.

As Shun Long and the rest looked at their surroundings, the Northern Sovereign spoke in a confident voice

"This is the biggest and most prosperous city throughout the entire northern part of the central region, my Northern Sovereign's city!

As long as one has enough spirit stones, they are able to buy almost anything here, including peak rank 7 magic beasts and even some rank 8 ones!

You can take a look at the rest of the city by yourselves later.

For now, let's go to my estate."

As soon as she finished speaking, the Northern Sovereign suddenly increased her speed, as she flew straight towards the heart of the city.

A minute later, an enormous building that was more than 900 meters(2950ft) tall appeared in Shun Long's and the rest's vision.

Hundreds of silver-armored guards could be seen patrolling around it, while the words 'Sovereign's estate' were carved at the top of the building in a meticulous manner, making it seem like a work of art.

As soon as Shun Long's group approached within 100 meters from the building, an old man in golden armor shot out from the building like a bolt of lightning, stopping right in front of the Northern Sovereign.