

War God 341

Chapter 341: Offending the Miao King, a Crime Unforgivable!

The old man's expression changed with fright as he hurriedly said, "My friend, I'm so sorry. I'm too busy to keep up. Please, sit down. I won't charge you for your meal."

"Not charging?"

The customer in the tank top was furious. He spat on the ground, then pointed at the old man. "You ask around on this street! When have I, Ma Liu, ever paid for food?!"

He rolled up his sleeves and approached the old man menacingly. "Talking to me about money... you don't want to do business here anymore, do you?"

His two companions also rose to their feet, surrounding the elder.

"What... what are you going to do?" The old man, pale with fear, kept backing away.

"Do?" Ma Liu sneered. "Forget the bean jelly. Why don't you treat us three brothers to a good meal instead?"

The intention was as clear as day—he was extorting him.

"I... I don't have much money," the old man said with a bitter expression. A bowl of his jelly was only three yuan, a large one just four. How much could he possibly earn in a day? Judging by their demeanor, a meal for them would cost several hundred, and he didn't have anywhere near that much on him.

"Not giving it to us?" Ma Liu's eyes bulged as he grabbed the old man's collar. "Are you trying to disrespect me— Ah!"

WHOOSH!

A chopstick whistled through the air, instantly piercing the back of Ma Liu's hand. The excruciating pain made him scream in agony, his face contorting.

A calm voice came from nearby. It was Lin Mu. "Don't you know it's very impolite to disturb someone while they're eating?"

Lin Mu put down his chopsticks, looking indifferently at Ma Liu.

"Fuck you!" Ma Liu howled, grabbing a stool and hurling it directly at Lin Mu.

But before the stool could even fall, another chopstick flew through the air.

WHOOSH!

The chopstick shot out at incredible speed, striking Ma Liu's other palm and sending him flying with terrifying force.

THUD!

Ma Liu was nailed to the wall, left hanging in midair. He screamed endlessly from the torn wounds.

"Bastard! Bastard! My hands!"

Ma Liu cried out, tears welling in his eyes. Seeing his two companions frozen in shock, he roared, "What are you gaping at? Kill that guy for me! No, get me down first!"

His companions snapped out of their stupor and rushed forward to help him down.

"Ouch! Don't touch me!" The slightest touch agitated the wounds, making Ma Liu yell all over again.

"Brother Liu, are you okay?" the two companions asked, their faces filled with worry and fear.

"You fucking try it and see!" Ma Liu seethed. With a sudden, forceful yank, he pulled his hands free. Blood streamed out as the immense pain made his face twist violently. His companions watched, their faces twitching and their scalps tingling with fear.

Taking a couple of deep breaths, Ma Liu slowly stood up and staggered toward Lin Mu.

"Kid, you're dead meat!"

Ma Liu shot a look at his companions. They understood immediately, pulling out a dagger and handing it to him.

Ma Liu grabbed the dagger, sucking in a sharp breath against the pain, but he gritted his teeth and pushed through it, stepping toward Lin Mu.

"You dare to lay a hand on me in my territory? You're tired of living!" Ma Liu snarled. "Hold him down! I'm going to chop off his fingers one by one!"

"Yes!"

The two companions strode toward Lin Mu. Although they were frightened by the earlier display, they hadn't put much thought into it. Could he really take on the two of us?

"Young man, you'd better run," the owner said, his face pale with terror and his heart filled with regret. Why didn't I check the almanac before coming out today? Selling bean jelly and now there's bloodshed. This trouble is about to escalate, and I can forget about doing business here from now on. But he was a kind-hearted man and wanted Lin Mu to get away quickly.

"Thinking of leaving?" Ma Liu sneered as he approached, cracking his neck. "If I don't chop off all your fingers today, I'll take your surname!"

"You want to be my son?" Lin Mu replied with a smile. "A pity. You're not worthy."

Ma Liu was speechless.

"Fuck your mother!" he finally roared in a rage. "Hold him down! I'm going to cut his tongue out!"

The two companions moved forward angrily, intending to restrain Lin Mu.

Lin Mu remained expressionless, even taking out his phone to check the time. "Hmm, it should be about time."

Just as Ma Liu's companions were about to act, they heard Lin Mu's baffling comment and paused. What the hell is this kid on about?

They exchanged a look. Forget it! Let's take him down first and avenge Brother Liu! They quickened their pace.

"Stop!" a thunderous shout echoed.

At the entrance of the alley, several luxury cars screeched to a halt, and a group of men got out. Dressed in suits and ties with gleaming polished shoes, they were clearly important figures. The one who had spoken was the middle-aged man in the lead.

This was none other than Xiao Qian, a major figure in Zun City. As a member of a branch of the Xiao Family, his influence in Zun City was considerable.

Sometime before, Xiao Long had offended Lin Mu and was executed by him in his identity as the Miao King. This had repercussions for the Xiao Family, causing them to be targeted by the various Li Clan tribes. The current Clan Leader of the Xiao Family, Xiao Zhan, had personally called Lin Mu to apologize and had planned to travel to River City to make amends, but Lin Mu had refused him.

This time, though Lin Mu hadn't informed Xiao Zhan of his trip to Southern Sky, he had notified Li Lai. Li Lai, already dissatisfied with the Xiao Family over past events, had issued a stern order: they were to treat the Miao King with the utmost hospitality. Otherwise, the entire Xiao Clan could prepare to commit collective suicide.

Li Lai now held a position of great prestige. She was not only the Saintess of the Li Clan but also a disciple of the Miao King. No one in the Li Clan dared to refuse her.

Consequently, Xiao Zhan had immediately contacted every member of the Xiao Family, ordering them to monitor all activity in Southern Sky and to report any sign of the Miao King at once. True to his orders, the moment Lin Mu arrived in Zun City, the Xiao Family knew. Xiao Qian happened to be in Zun City, so he was the first to arrive. Xiao Zhan himself was currently on his way.

"Miao—" Xiao Qian began to speak, but Lin Mu shot him a glance.

A cold shiver ran down Xiao Qian's spine. He had almost revealed the Miao King's identity. Realizing his mistake, he hastily dropped to one knee and said, "Greetings... Master!"

He said the word "Master" crisply and without a hint of hesitation.

"Greetings, Master!" Xiao Qian's subordinates, who had already been instructed to show Lin Mu absolute respect, also dropped to one knee and addressed him as Master.

Ma Liu and his men were dumbfounded. These people are calling such a young man their master? Does that kid have such an influential background?

"Brother Liu, that man... I think he's the big shot from Zun City, Xiao... Xiao Qian!" one of the companions said, his face deathly pale. "I've seen him on TV."

"What?"

Ma Liu instantly collapsed to the ground, all the blood draining from his face.

Lin Mu shook his head, placed a banknote on the table, and looked at Xiao Qian. "Clean this up."

Xiao Qian stiffened and replied with deference, "Yes, Master!"

Lin Mu nodded to the old bean jelly vendor, then got into one of the cars under the man's stunned gaze.

After Lin Mu was in the car, Xiao Qian quietly wiped the sweat from his brow and waved a hand. His men quickly helped the old vendor pack up his stall and escorted him to safety.

Then, Xiao Qian turned his gaze to Ma Liu and his two cronies, his voice chillingly indifferent. "To offend the Miao King is an unforgivable sin. Make the three of them disappear. Completely."

THUD.

Ma Liu and his men crumpled to the ground as if struck by lightning.

That young man... he's the Miao King!

Chapter 342: Missing the Master!

"Li Clan criminal, Xiao Zhan, pays his respects to the Miao King!"

In a luxurious villa in Zun City, Xiao Zhan and a group of Xiao Family elders knelt on the ground, their faces pale with fear. Because of Xiao Long's actions, the entire Xiao Family had suffered the consequences. Not only had they lost a substantial share of resources in various sectors, but they were also required to offer a considerable tribute to the Miao King every year.

This would last for ten years!

This was an edict personally issued by the Saintess as punishment for the Xiao Family.

This punishment could only be described as severe. However, Xiao Zhan didn't think it was severe at all. Instead, he felt that the Miao King was being merciful by sparing his Xiao Family.

Offending the Miao King was punishable by death.

Assassinating the Miao King warranted the extermination of one's entire clan!

That was the iron law.

Because of this, Xiao Zhan personally executed Xiao Long's direct descendants. If they didn't die, he would have no way to answer to the Miao King!

Even so, Xiao Zhan still had to personally beg for the Miao King's forgiveness. He would only feel at ease once the Miao King himself spoke the words to spare the Xiao Family.

"Rise."

Lin Mu, seated on the sofa like a sovereign emperor, said with a majestic expression, "Since I promised Xiao Long I wouldn't implicate the Xiao Family, you need not worry."

"Thank you, Miao King!"

Xiao Zhan breathed a huge sigh of relief, feeling as if he had just been given a new lease on life.

"Miao King, have you returned to Southern Sky for some urgent matter?" Xiao Zhan asked cautiously.

Lin Mu glanced at him indifferently and said nothing.

Frightened, Xiao Zhan immediately dropped to his knees again, stammering, "I beg the Miao King's forgiveness! I should not have asked!"

Lin Mu said coolly, "Just attend to your duties. It's best not to pry into matters that don't concern you."

"Yes, we shall strictly adhere to the Miao King's decree!"

The members of the Xiao Family felt as if they were on a roller coaster, their emotions in turmoil, but they dared not utter a single word of complaint.

"By the way, has anything significant happened in the Miao Territory lately?" Lin Mu asked casually.

After a moment of thought, Xiao Zhan replied, "Your Majesty, with the Saintess presiding over the Li Clan, there have been no major incidents. However..."

"Speak."

Xiao Zhan dared not hide anything. "The Xing Family plans to propose to the Saintess next spring."

"The Xing Family?"

Lin Mu was slightly taken aback; he had no idea who the Xing Family was.

At the mention of the Xing Family, Xiao Zhan's tone grew solemn. "Your Majesty may not be aware, but the Xing Family is, in the truest sense, the number one great family in Southern Sky. It is said that their ancestors were descendants of Xing Tian, giving them a long heritage and immense power."

Through Xiao Zhan's explanation, Lin Mu began to understand just how powerful the Xing Family was.

Legend says that in Ancient Times, Great God Chiyou had countless war generals under his command.

Xing Tian was one of them, and the most loyal at that.

After Chi You was defeated and killed by the Yellow Emperor, Xing Tian sought to avenge his lord, wielding an axe and shield to battle the Yellow Emperor. The emperor ultimately beheaded him, burying his head on Chang Yang Mountain.

The *Classic of Mountains and Seas, Overseas Western Scripture* states: "Xing Tian fought with the Emperor for supremacy. The Emperor cut off his head and buried it on Mount Chang Yang. Then, Xing Tian used his nipples as eyes and his navel as a mouth, wielding his axe and shield in a war dance."

From this, it was clear that Xing Tian was also a great god of ancient times with heaven-defying strength.

After the defeat, his descendants were implicated and forced to scatter. One branch protected the descendants of Chi You on their long journey to Southern Sky, where they put down roots and survived. But as time passed, the descendants of Xing Tian grew unwilling to remain subservient to the direct lineage of Chi You. Furthermore, with the Li Clan having been without a Miao King for so long, the descendants of Xing Tian gradually broke away from the main Li Clan lineage to establish their own house.

Unlike the main Li Clan branch, the descendants of Xing Tian did not hide away in the deep mountains of Southern Sky. They frequently communicated with the outside world, allowing them to grow and prosper. The Xing Family inherited their ancestor's tradition of ruling through martial might, and their generations have been filled with talented individuals.

It is said that during the Three Kingdoms period, Xing Daorong, the great general serving under Liu Du, the Prefect of Lingling, was a descendant of Xing Tian.

Today, the Xing Family could be considered the largest clan in all of Southern Sky, filled with countless powerful experts. Though their numbers were small, they were considered at the very top of every field they entered.

"Miao King, after the Xing Family Members learned of your existence, most were quite disdainful," Xiao Zhan said cautiously, glancing at Lin Mu. "They claim that since the time of Great God Chiyu, the Li Clan has been unworthy of having a Miao King."

"Oh?" Lin Mu wasn't angry, but rather curious. "Why?"

Xiao Zhan sighed. "The Xing Family Members do not acknowledge that their ancestor Xing Tian was a war general under Great God Chiyou. On the contrary, they believe Xing Tian was not much weaker than Great God Chiyou. They feel Xing Tian was killed by the Yellow Emperor because he was implicated by Great God Chiyou. Now that a Miao King has appeared, they find it unacceptable."

Lin Mu suddenly laughed. What kind of reason is that? Holding a grudge against me for something like this... The Xing Family is nothing special after all.

"So they plan to propose to the Saintess, with the purpose being..."

Xiao Zhan lowered his head. "To humiliate the Miao King."

According to the ancestral teachings of the Li Clan, the Saintess is the Miao King's woman; no other may covet her. The Xing Family's proposal was a way to prove to the world that they didn't care about any Miao King.

"Hm, I understand."

Lin Mu remained utterly indifferent. He didn't place much importance on his identity as the Miao King, and as for Li Lai, she was merely his disciple. If the Xing Family was truly sincere and Li Lai also fancied the man, Lin Mu would simply give them his blessing.

But if the Xing Family was merely trying to humiliate him, he wouldn't mind taking action to let them know who the true master of the Li Clan is!

"Ah?"

Xiao Zhan was stunned. He hadn't expected this to be Lin Mu's only reaction. The Saintess is being pursued and the Miao King humiliated... Can he really swallow this insult?

Lin Mu looked at Xiao Zhan and said, "What? You think I should be angry? That I should teach them a lesson just because the Xing Family proposed to Li Lai and looks down on me?"

"Is that not the case?" Xiao Zhan said subconsciously. "Miao King, your status is noble! No matter how you look at it, their ancestor served under Great God Chiyu. Their actions are a rebellion against a superior, which is... treason!"

"This isn't a feudal society; it's not as dramatic as you make it sound." Seeing that Xiao Zhan wanted to say more, Lin Mu waved his hand. "Enough, let this matter rest. If the Xing Family truly wishes to marry Li Lai, I won't object. But if they have other motives, I will naturally face them."

"Because, after all, I am the king of the Li Clan!"

Xiao Zhan knelt excitedly. "We will obey the Miao King's decree!"

It's best to avoid conflict with the Xing Family if possible. After all, they are currently stronger than the Li Clan.

Xiao Qian walked into the hall and said respectfully, "Reporting to the Miao King, the Saintess has arrived."

Lin Mu raised an eyebrow. What's this girl doing here?

"Let her in."

Soon, Li Lai, dressed in casual clothes, walked into the hall, followed by the brothers Li Zhou and Li Tong.

The moment she saw Lin Mu, Li Lai's eyes reddened. She knelt respectfully before him. "Disciple Li Lai greets Master!"

"Greetings, Miao King!" the brothers added, kneeling as well.

Lin Mu gave a wry smile. "Get up. All these formalities... if you aren't tired of them, I am."

But Li Lai replied earnestly, "The ancestral rites cannot be abandoned! This is the tradition of our ancestors!"

Seeing how stubborn she was, Lin Mu said with a sigh of resignation, "Fine, get up. What brings you all here?"

Li Lai immediately flashed a toothy grin. "I missed you, Master..."

Chapter 343: Lin Mu's Exhortation!

"How is the situation in the clan now?"

After a few casual exchanges, Lin Mu inquired about the state of the Li Clan.

Li Lai replied respectfully, "Reporting to Master, everyone in the clan is currently practicing the Cultivation Technique you left behind. Our overall strength has improved significantly, and nothing else major has occurred."

"How can you say nothing major has occurred?" Li Tong, being straightforward and blunt, interjected. "Miao King, you don't know, but some time ago the Xing Family—"

"Li Tong!" Li Lai snapped her head around to glare at Li Tong. Her face was now devoid of any smile, replaced by an invisible authority.

As the Li ethnic group's Saintess and the Miao King's disciple, Li Lai's prestige within the Li Clan was steadily rising, and she naturally carried an awe-inspiring aura.

"Li Tong, shut your mouth!" Seeing his younger brother about to speak recklessly, Li Zhou's expression changed drastically as he hurriedly tugged on Li Tong. "If you speak nonsense in front of the Miao King, I will never take you out with me again!"

Li Zhou held a mixture of reverence and fear for the Miao King. If Li Tong's careless words were to provoke the Miao King, you could die without even knowing how.

Li Tong felt wronged, but a thought of the Miao King's status silenced him. Still, his face was a mask of resentment and grievance.

"Enough. I already know about it," Lin Mu said nonchalantly. "Li Lai, what are your thoughts?"

Although he was the Miao King, he preferred not to meddle too much in the affairs of the Miao Territory. Since Li Lai was the Saintess and his disciple, the matter ultimately hinged on her own thoughts.

Li Lai bit her red lip and suddenly knelt. "I will leave it all for Master to decide!"

Seeing this, Lin Mu sighed softly in his heart. "Li Lai, you are my disciple. Although you are an in-name disciple for now, you will eventually become a true direct disciple. If you wish to join with the Xing Family, I will officially promote you to a direct disciple right now. If you are unwilling, then this matter... is dropped."

"This disciple is willing to serve Master for life! I do not wish to marry!" Li Lai knelt, her voice brimming with emotion.

"Very well. Since you've made your decision, let the matter rest," Lin Mu nodded, accepting her choice.

"Thank you, Master!" Li Lai kowtowed in gratitude, her heart full of emotion.

She never wanted to marry into the Xing Family, nor did she want to leave Lin Mu's side. She only wanted to serve Lin Mu her entire life and watch over the Li Clan for her master. So what if the Xing Family was powerful? Would they really dare commit such insubordination and force her, the Li ethnic group's Saintess?

"Alright, rise," Lin Mu said, looking Li Lai over. "Have you been slacking in your cultivation recently?"

"Replying to Master, this disciple would not dare to slack off," Li Lai replied with a faint smile, releasing a trace of her aura.

BOOM!

In Lin Mu's eyes, this aura was not particularly strong, but the Brothers Li Zhou were greatly shaken. They staggered back several steps, their eyes wide with shock. They felt an aura from Li Lai that instilled a deep fear within them.

The brothers were considered outstanding prodigies among the younger generation of Bai Miao Village. Furthermore, because of their meritorious service in following the Miao King, Li Xuan had not only promoted them but had even taken them as her disciples. As a result, their cultivation had progressed by leaps and bounds.

But compared to Li Lai, they were nothing.

What shocked them the most was that they usually only saw Li Lai sitting on the mountaintop, staring blankly in a certain direction, hardly ever cultivating. How had her Cultivation Level become so powerful in such a short time?

A bitter realization dawned on the two brothers: based on her aura alone, they believed that even if they joined forces, they would be no match for Li Lai.

They exchanged a look, and a wave of bitterness washed over both of them. Comparisons truly are odious. As expected of the Miao King's disciple!

"Hmm, you haven't disappointed your master too much," Lin Mu nodded, his tone betraying no joy or anger.

However, Li Lai's heart trembled. She sensed that her master was somewhat dissatisfied with her cultivation progress. "Master, please forgive me! This disciple will definitely work harder on my cultivation in the future and will absolutely not disappoint you!" Li Lai knelt, her pretty face slightly pale.

Lin Mu raised a hand, and Li Lai's body rose involuntarily. "I will personally guide your cultivation for the next few days. I hope you won't disappoint me."

"Thank you, Master!" Li Lai was excited, but felt the pressure even more. The prospect of her master's personal guidance made her quite nervous.

"You don't need to be nervous. Cultivation depends on innate talent, personal insight, and diligence. Opportunities and fortune are also indispensable. However, with my guidance, you will certainly avoid many detours."

Lin Mu had high expectations for his disciple, Li Lai. She was naturally close to nature and possessed a clear, spiritual mind. As long as she applied herself, her future achievements would be limitless.

"Yes, Disciple will remember Master's teachings!"

After speaking with his disciple, Lin Mu turned his gaze to the Brothers Li Zhou. He still had a fairly good impression of the two.

Being watched by Lin Mu, both Li Zhou and his brother felt a little nervous.

"You two have also done well, improving your strength by a whole level in such a short time. Li Xuan must have given you quite a bit of guidance, right?"

The Brothers Li Zhou were startled. He saw through it without us even saying a word? He even knew the Great Elder had guided us?

"Replying to the Miao King, the Great Elder has taken us as her disciples. We dare not be lax in our cultivation," Li Zhou said nervously.

Being questioned by the Miao King, Li Tong no longer dared to speak out of turn. He was so nervous he didn't even know where to put his hands.

"Mm. Li Xuan has placed high hopes on you two. Don't let her down."

After a few more words, Lin Mu dismissed the Brothers Li Zhou, leaving only Li Lai behind.

"Li Lai, do you know why your master has asked you to stay?" Lin Mu's expression turned somewhat serious.

Seeing this, Li Lai felt nervous but also puzzled. He's already asked about my personal cultivation and the clan's affairs, and he respected my opinion on the Xing Family's proposal. What else could there be that only I should know?

Li Lai could only answer honestly, "This disciple is slow-witted. I do not know Master's intentions."

Lin Mu stated solemnly, "I have come to Southern Sky this time to enter a period of secluded cultivation."

Li Lai was surprised. Master is going into seclusion? This is no small matter.

"You are the Li ethnic group's Saintess and also my disciple. There is no harm in telling you this," Lin Mu said. "This period of seclusion could last as long as half a year or as short as three to five months. Therefore, all clan affairs will need you to manage them."

"Rest assured, Master. I will certainly not disappoint you!" Li Lai was not foolish; she understood her master's meaning instantly. "During your seclusion, I will not let anyone disturb your cultivation, Master!"

Lin Mu nodded in satisfaction. "Very good. With that, I can be at ease."

He hesitated for a moment before adding a warning, "If the Xing Family truly wishes to form a union with the Li Clan, you may decide for yourself. However, if you are unwilling and they try to use their power to pressure you, remember this: do your best to avoid conflict with them. On the day I emerge from my seclusion, I will most certainly get you justice!"

Li Lai said earnestly, "Master, this disciple will remember!"

Lin Mu nodded, though another matter came to mind.

It seems... the person ranked tenth on the Sky Ranking is Southern Sky Xing Zirong. This man... could very well be part of the Xing Family.

Chapter 344: Old Classmate, You Think So, Right?

Tenth on the Heavenly Ranking.

This was no low position. All who occupied a spot on the Heavenly Ranking were, without exception, Martial Arts Grandmasters of immense personal strength. Moreover, this person was ranked tenth, not much different from the very top of the list.

The reason Lin Mu remained neutral about the Xing Family's marriage proposal was twofold. Firstly, this was Li Lai's marriage, a significant life event for her. The most important reason, however, was that he planned to enter seclusion for a period of time. If he clashed with the Xing Family now, it would inevitably affect his seclusion. If Xing Zirong really did come knocking, throwing his weight around, could Lin Mu truly ignore it?

Therefore, everything would have to wait until after he emerged.

...

That evening, Xiao Zhan reserved a table at the Phoenix Grand Hotel in Zun City, inviting the Miao King to a banquet as an apology.

Lin Mu initially had no desire to go. However, Li Lai advised him that if he didn't, the Xiao Family might think the Miao King was still harboring grievances over the Xiao Long incident. This would leave the Xiao Clan deeply unsettled, which would not be a good thing for the Li Clan.

Hearing Li Lai's words, Lin Mu felt a sense of gratification. His disciple had truly matured after her recent experiences, and she was handling clan affairs with increasing adeptness. With this in mind, Lin Mu had Li Lai send a reply confirming his attendance.

Upon learning that the Miao King had agreed to attend, Xiao Zhan was overjoyed. He immediately ordered his men to find the best chefs in all of Southern Sky to prepare a lavish feast worthy of pleasing the Miao King. Following Xiao Zhan's orders, the entire Xiao Family buzzed with activity.

...

At six-thirty in the afternoon, half an hour before the banquet was set to begin, Lin Mu headed to the Phoenix Grand Hotel, accompanied by Li Lai and the two Li Zhou brothers.

The Phoenix Grand Hotel was a five-star hotel in Zun City. It was situated on Long March Avenue in the Xinpu New District, near Wujiang Avenue. Next to it were a college and the Xinpu Wetland Park, blessing the area with fresh air and a beautiful environment.

For the Li Zhou brothers, it was their first time in such a place, and they were filled with curiosity and excitement about everything around them.

Even Li Lai, who rarely showed such eagerness, had a look of excitement on her face. It was her first visit as well, but in front of her Master, she felt she had to maintain the decorum of a disciple. Unlike the Li Zhou brothers, she refrained from commenting on the various buildings.

Seeing her Master's calm demeanor, Li Lai shot a fierce glare at the Li Zhou brothers. They were excitedly debating which girl at Zun City Normal College had whiter, longer legs, and which had thick, straight, black hair.

Those two really don't know how to present themselves. Such a disgrace to Master!

Warned by Li Lai's glare, the two brothers hurriedly shut their mouths and followed Lin Mu with their eyes fixed forward, looking just like bodyguards.

In their group of four, the Li Zhou twins stood out. They were identical, tall, and commanding. Because they cultivated the Body Refining Techniques left by Lin Mu, they radiated a masculine aura. This caused many young women to turn their heads, much to the brothers' embarrassment.

As for Li Lai, she was even more striking. As the Miao Ethnic Saintess, her looks and temperament were among the finest in the Li Clan. After becoming Lin Mu's disciple and embarking on spiritual cultivation, the ethereal air about her grew more pronounced. Despite being dressed in simple casual clothes, she appeared like a mountain spring in a secluded valley, filled with a refreshing and otherworldly elegance.

Countless girls felt inadequate in her presence, while the men who saw her looked as if their eyes were ready to pop out of their sockets. Although Li Lai felt a little flustered, she held to the principle of not embarrassing her Master and maintained a calm expression as she followed behind him, even as her heart pounded with nervousness.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu walked at the front, the clear leader of the trio, yet no one paid him any mind. He was handsome enough, but compared to the Li brothers, he lacked the unique, rugged masculinity of Southern Sky. His clothes were even less impressive—they looked like something bought from a street stall. As a result, many onlookers couldn't help but cast looks of contempt in his direction.

Li Lai felt indignant. These people are really judging a book by its cover! But since her Master hadn't said anything, she naturally held her tongue.

A faint smile on his lips, Lin Mu led the three of them directly toward the Phoenix Grand Hotel.

The onlookers were slightly taken aback. The Phoenix Grand Hotel was not cheap. Were these people really going there to eat? Some who had been planning to strike up a conversation reassessed their own standing and reluctantly walked away. Of course, there were also those confident in their status who followed them right in.

"Hi, beautiful."

Just as the four of them stepped into the hotel, a handsome young man approached. He extended a hand toward Li Lai, his eyes fixed on her, filled with undisguised admiration.

"Let me introduce myself. My name is Lun Tan. May I get to know you?" the young man asked with a faint smile, a proud glint in his eyes. Behind him were several other young men and women dressed in stylish, youthful clothes, who were clearly students.

"Not interested."

Li Lai glanced at Lin Mu. Seeing that her Master's expression was impassive, as if letting her handle the situation herself, she coolly refused.

Lun Tan's expression stiffened slightly. I was actually rejected?

"Miss, you're not giving Brother Lun much face, are you? Brother Lun is..." a girl said with disdain, a hint of glee in her eyes at seeing Li Lai turn down Lun Tan.

"Li Li!" Lun Tan shot a look at the girl before putting his smile back on. "Are you all here for a meal as well? What a coincidence. I just got back from River City and booked a few tables here for a banquet to treat my juniors."

Lun Tan smiled. "If you don't mind, you're welcome to join us."

"Move aside. I'm not interested," Li Lai said, her brow furrowing as her dislike for him grew. This was her first time out of the deep mountains and her first encounter with someone like Lun Tan, so she felt an instinctive aversion.

"Hey, beautiful, aren't you being a little too disrespectful?" a tall young man stepped forward and said, clearly irritated.

This time, Lun Tan didn't stop him. On the contrary, his own expression began to darken. Lun Tan's mood soured considerably. He had just returned to Southern Sky. Everyone, from his former teachers at the academy to his friends and classmates, envied him. Even a girl who had once rejected him had readily accepted his invitation to this banquet. Yet here he was, rejected twice by Li Lai.

The tall young man was an underclassman from Lun Tan's school. Seeing his senior lose face, he eagerly stepped up to curry favor.

"What? You want to fight?" Seeing someone dare to bully the Saintess, Li Tong couldn't stand by. He was also tall and formidable. Now that he was a Martial Artist, his stature and presence far surpassed the other young man's. As he stepped forward, fear flashed in the student's eyes, and he instinctively took half a step back.

"Lin Mu?"

Just as the situation reached a stalemate, an unexpected voice, filled with surprise, called out. A fashionably dressed girl walked over, staring at Lin Mu in astonishment.

"It really is you! What are you doing here?" Her tone was a complex mix of surprise and other emotions.

"Shi Man, you know this person?" Lun Tan asked, clearly recognizing the girl.

The girl named Shi Man nodded and said with a smile, "Lun Tan, you wouldn't know. This is my high school classmate, Lin Mu.

"He even pursued me back then."

Wei Shiman looked at Lin Mu with a mocking smile. "Isn't that right, old classmate?"

Chapter 345: Offering you a toast? You're not worthy!

At this remark, various expressions appeared on everyone's faces.

Li Lai's beautiful eyes widened in disbelief.

The Brothers Li Zhou hurriedly bowed their heads, pretending they hadn't heard. This was an old tale involving the Miao King; they didn't dare eavesdrop.

After a moment of stunned silence, Lun Tan suddenly laughed. "So he's an old classmate of yours, Shi Man. What a coincidence."

Wei Shiman covered her mouth and laughed. "Indeed. It was quite a surprise to me as well."

Her beautiful eyes sized up Lin Mu, then rested pointedly on Li Lai as she said, "Lin Mu, you don't seem to have changed much."

"You, on the other hand, have become even more beautiful."

Lin Mu smiled faintly, completely indifferent to Wei Shiman's mockery.

Back in high school, he and Wei Shiman had been acquaintances. Liu Zijian had a crush on her but was too timid to confess. He wrote a love letter and asked Lin Mu to deliver it for him. For his good friend's sake, Lin Mu could only swallow his pride and do it.

Unexpectedly, Wei Shiman didn't even glance at the letter. She tore it up, mocked Lin Mu for being a toad lusting after a swan's flesh, and called him a shameless, philandering scumbag. At the time, everyone in school knew Lin Mu was very close with Song Wenrou.

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Wei Shiman was slightly taken aback. She hadn't expected him to compliment her looks.

But what girl doesn't like being told she's beautiful? With this thought, Wei Shiman decided not to hold a grudge against him.

"By the way, Lin Mu, Lun Tan is a friend I met during my postgraduate studies. He's back to handle some business, and we're about to have dinner. Would you like to join us?" Wei Shiman asked with a smile, her captivating eyes fixed on Lin Mu.

Of course, it wasn't that she had any particular interest in him; she was just genuinely curious to see what he had made of himself after all these years.

"Lun Tan, you don't mind if I bring one more person, do you?" Wei Shiman asked, beaming at him.

Lun Tan grinned. "Of course not. I reserved a large private room; it can comfortably fit a few more people."

"No..."

Just as Lin Mu was about to refuse, Wei Shiman grabbed his hand. "Come on, old classmates don't get to meet up often. Don't turn me down."

After saying this, she gave Lun Tan a meaningful look.

Lun Tan immediately understood, the smile on his lips widening.

"Lin Mu, stop being so coy. It's rare for Shi Man to invite a guy to dinner," Lun Tan said with a laugh. "You're not actually going to refuse her, are you?"

Feeling helpless, Lin Mu could only say in a low voice to Li Lai and her brothers, "You guys go on ahead. I'll be up in a minute."

"Mast—"

Before Li Lai could finish, she was swiftly pulled inside by Li Zhou.

Seeing Li Lai leave, Lun Tan looked a bit anxious, but with Wei Shiman right there, he felt it wasn't the right time to extend an invitation.

Wei Shiman asked, "Lin Mu, are those three your friends?"

"Yeah." Lin Mu's tone was indifferent.

"Tsk ts, so many years and you're still the same," Wei Shiman said, pursing her lips in a smile. "So, tell me, old classmate, how have you been?"

"Getting by," Lin Mu replied with a faint smile, too lazy to explain.

He naturally knew what Wei Shiman was thinking; she just wanted to take the opportunity to humiliate him.

"Oh, so mysterious," Wei Shiman pouted. "After I graduated from university, I went to grad school, and then I started teaching at the Zun City Normal School."

"Oh? Congratulations, then," Lin Mu said, genuinely surprised.

He never would have guessed that Wei Shiman was a university lecturer.

"Hehe, I was just lucky. Not just anyone can get into Zun City Normal College," Wei Shiman said with a hint of pride, pointing to Lun Tan. "It's all thanks to Lun Tan's help. Otherwise, I would have had to choose a high school or go somewhere else."

Lun Tan gave a modest smile. "I didn't really help much. It was all Shi Man's own effort."

Wei Shiman was quite flattered, thinking that Lun Tan seemed like a decent person.

One of Lun Tan's classmates also laughed. "So Teacher Wei and Lun Tan have known each other for a long time. We'll be counting on you to take care of us from now on, Teacher Wei."

"Hehe, Teacher Wei, I've always really liked you at school," another said. "Could I ask you to go shopping with me sometime?"

Wei Shiman, a savvy socializer, replied, "Of course. We're teacher and student at school, but we can be friends outside of it."

"Wow, Teacher Wei is so nice!"

As they chatted, they walked into the hotel and were immediately greeted by staff.

"Mr. Tan, I'm so sorry, but the Tian Character Private Room has already been taken. As an apology, our hotel has arranged for you to use the Di Character Private Room instead, and this meal will be on the house," the hotel manager said carefully.

"What?" Lun Tan's expression turned ugly. "I booked it yesterday," he said, displeased. "I don't have a problem with you changing my room, but you could have at least informed me."

The manager quickly explained, "Mr. Tan, I am truly sorry. Our boss said that if you're not satisfied, this meal is on him. Furthermore, any time you dine at our hotel in the future, you'll receive a fifty percent discount."

Clearly, Lun Tan had significant status, which was why the hotel manager didn't dare offend him. However, the guests using the Tian Character Private Room today were people even his own boss had to personally attend to. They were untouchable figures, and as a mere manager, he didn't dare refuse their request.

"No way!" Anyone would be in a bad mood after having their room switched, especially since Lun Tan had booked the Tian Character Private Room specifically to show off in front of Wei Shiman.

"Change the room back immediately, or don't blame me for being rude!" Lun Tan said, his face grim.

"Mr. Tan, I'm really sorry, but my hands are tied! The guests in the Tian Character Private Room are incredibly distinguished. I simply can't afford to offend them," the manager said, startled.

"You don't dare offend them, but you dare to offend me?" Lun Tan gave the manager a cold look. "I'm calling your boss right now to see what he has to say!"

He dialed a number. "Manager Liu, this is a bit underhanded of you. You switched my reservation at the last minute. What's the meaning of this?"

Watching Lun Tan actually call the owner of the Phoenix Grand Hotel, his junior classmates looked at him with admiration. Wei Shiman's beautiful eyes twinkled brightly. Next to the radiant Lun Tan, Lin Mu seemed to pale in comparison.

Soon, a chubby, middle-aged man hurried down from upstairs, apologizing profusely. "Mr. Tan, this is my fault, and I offer you my sincerest apologies. But the guests who arrived today have an incredibly

prestigious identity. Never mind me, even if your grandfather were here, he would have to show them the utmost respect."

"What?" Lun Tan was shocked. He lowered his voice and asked, "Who are they? Who is it that even my grandfather wouldn't dare offend?"

The chubby man wiped sweat from his brow. "Mr. Tan, it's better not to ask. Be careful not to invite trouble. Today's meal is on me, and from now on, you'll always get a fifty percent discount here."

He turned to the manager. "Later, send two bottles of good wine to Mr. Tan's room as an apology."

"Yes, boss!"

The chubby man cupped his fists at Lun Tan. "Mr. Tan, my apologies for the poor hospitality. Please excuse me," he said, before leaving.

The manager then led everyone into the Di Character Private Room.

As soon as the manager left, Wei Shiman couldn't help but exclaim, "Wow, Lun Tan, you're really something. Even the owner of the Phoenix Grand Hotel came to apologize to you personally."

Lun Tan smiled proudly. "That's nothing. In River City, even the president of the Qin Corporation has to personally offer me a toast. This little incident is trivial."

This statement shocked everyone. The Qin Corporation's reputation preceded it, even throughout the Southern Sky region. Its president, the mysterious figure known as the 'Empress of River City,' was an idol to countless women.

Just then, a cold voice spoke up from the side. It was Lin Mu.

"Luo Li offers you a toast? You wish."

Chapter 346: What Are You Doing Here? Get Out!

You want to offer her a toast? Are you even worthy?

As soon as these words were uttered, the private room fell silent enough to hear a pin drop.

"Lin Mu, watch your mouth!" Wei Shiman was starting to regret bringing Lin Mu along.

Tan Lun had already gotten the hotel manager to come and personally apologize, on top of having the bill waived and receiving complimentary wine. In Zun City, this was a display of immense face. Besides, Tan Lun was developing his career in River City, where he had founded his own company and business was booming.

So what if he wanted to offer a toast to the President of Qin Corporation upon meeting her in a business setting?

What does it have to do with you, Lin Mu? Luo Li? You say her name so intimately, as if you're talking about your wife? Wei Shiman instantly felt like she had shot herself in the foot.

"Hmph!" Tan Lun glanced at Lin Mu with disdain. "What right do you have to judge me, you who won't even say what you do for a living? I may not be the most talented, but I've at least started my own company in River City and have some business dealings with the Qin Corporation. When I encounter President Qin, it's only natural to exchange greetings."

Tan Lun waved his hand dismissively. "There's nothing to say to someone like you. If it weren't for Shiman, I wouldn't even spare you a second glance if I saw you on the street."

"Some people think that just because they're failures, everyone else must be too."

"Exactly. So arrogant and full of himself."

"Sour grapes."

Tan Lun's juniors chimed in, one after another, their impression of Lin Mu worsening with each taunt.

Wei Shiman said coldly, "Lin Mu, that's enough out of you. You can't afford to offend Tan Lun. Don't come crying to me for help when you get into trouble." Her tone dripped with an even deeper disgust for him.

"Haha." Lin Mu just scoffed. "Don't worry. No matter what happens, I won't need a woman's help."

"As for this friend of yours," he continued, "not only is he a hypocrite, but he also runs his mouth. Be careful you don't get dragged down by him without even realizing it."

With that, Lin Mu stood up and walked straight toward the door. "Enjoy your meal. Please excuse me."

Everyone was surprised to see him leaving. This guy can't even take a few words of mockery?

"Go on, then! Miss this chance, and you'll regret it for the rest of your life. The Phoenix Grand Hotel isn't a place just anyone can come to!"

"Get out, get out! We can't eat with you here anyway!"

Wei Shiman simply sat there, making no effort to persuade Lin Mu to stay.

Tan Lun remarked, "Shiman, that classmate of yours really is something else."

With a helpless expression, Wei Shiman said, "Sigh, I don't know what happened to him. I haven't seen him in years, and he's turned into this. Thank goodness I didn't accept his confession back then, or I'd be dying of embarrassment right now." Her voice was filled with a palpable sense of relief.

The others continued to badmouth Lin Mu, their tones thick with disdain.

As the dishes arrived, the atmosphere in the room grew lively again. During the meal, the plump, middle-aged manager of the hotel personally came to their room to propose a toast to Tan Lun. This

gesture greatly satisfied Tan Lun, who beamed with pride, his face flush and his eyes full of smugness. The others looked at him with even greater admiration.

As Wei Shiman watched Tan Lun, an extra sparkle appeared in her eyes. Compared to him, Lin Mu was truly nothing.

"Mr. Tan, everyone, please eat and drink well. Pardon my poor hospitality, but I must step out to welcome a distinguished guest, so I'll be on my way," the plump man said, setting down his glass and leaving the room.

"Hey, Manager Liu." Tan Lun, who had had a bit to drink, had already forgotten the manager's earlier warning. He chased after him, grabbing his arm. "Manager Liu, considering the relationship between our families, just give me a little hint. Who is this distinguished guest that requires your personal attention to welcome?"

The plump man's face darkened. "Tan Lun, I told you, don't go prying! This is someone you can't afford to provoke!"

Tan Lun hurriedly offered him a cigarette. "Manager Liu, what are you thinking? I'm not some reckless kid who doesn't know his limits. I'm just curious."

The plump man took a drag from the cigarette. "You should just stop asking, because even I don't know who the person is. All I can say is that even Xiao Qian, the most powerful man in Zun City, speaks of this individual with extreme reverence. He doesn't even dare to utter his name."

Tan Lun's pupils shrank. Xiao Qian? He's the true Taishan of Zun City. Even he doesn't dare to speak this person's name? Just who the hell is this guy to be so incredibly powerful!

The plump man lowered his voice. "Xiao Qian is a big deal in Zun City, right?"

Tan Lun nodded like a chicken pecking at grain. "Of course. If he doesn't count as a big shot, then no one in Zun City does."

The plump man gave a bitter smile. "And yet, in front of that esteemed person—no, even in front of his disciples—Xiao Qian acts meekly and doesn't dare to speak loudly, just like a grandson!"

Having said that much, the plump man quickly clamped a hand over his mouth, his face turning deathly pale.

Tan Lun was even more profoundly shocked. Just one of his disciples is enough to make Xiao Qian act like a grandson?

GULP. Tan Lun couldn't help but swallow hard, suppressing the burning excitement in his heart. "Manager Liu, Brother Liu," he said, his breathing quickening, "do you think I could go and offer that person a toast later?"

The plump man's expression twisted in horror. He yanked Tan Lun aside and growled, "If you're looking to get yourself killed, don't drag me down with you!"

"Brother Liu, don't worry! I promise I won't cause you any trouble," Tan Lun quickly assured him. "I'll simply offer a toast, I swear I won't say a word out of line!"

"Brother Liu, if you do this little favor for me, I can have a word with my grandfather about that piece of land out west," Tan Lun added, dangling the bait.

The plump man's eyes lit up. He had relied on his own abilities and methods to build his business in Zun City, but the land Tan Lun mentioned was a tough nut he couldn't crack because it was in the hands of the Tan Family.

If he agreed to Tan Lun's request...

"Young Master Tan, this is no joking matter," the plump man said, trying to remain level-headed.

Tan Lun slapped his chest. "I, Tan Lun, value my reputation. My word is my bond!"

"Alright. I'll text you in a bit, and then you can go over." The plump man gripped Tan Lun's arm tightly and warned him sternly, "Remember, just offer the toast. Don't say anything else!"

A wide smile spread across Tan Lun's face. "Brother Liu, my dear brother, I know, I know!"

"Manager Liu, the distinguished guest has arrived. You..." Just then, the manager walked over, his face pale. Upon seeing Tan Lun, his attitude became even more respectful. "Young Master Tan!"

The plump manager's expression changed drastically. "When did they arrive? Why didn't I see them?"

"Just now," the manager said nervously. "The guest got lost, so you must have missed each other."

"You bunch of idiots! Didn't I tell you to stand watch downstairs? Just wait and see how I deal with you later!" Without waiting for the manager to reply, the plump man turned to Tan Lun. "Brother, the distinguished guest is here. Let's go over now."

"Right, right."

The two of them went up to the top floor of the hotel, home to the Phoenix Grand Hotel's Sky-Class Private Room. To call it a room was an understatement; the entire top floor constituted the Sky-Class Private Room. Overhead, a dome of bulletproof glass offered a stunning view of the starry night sky. Across the entire floor, there was only a single table in the center where five people sat with reverent expressions.

A lone figure stood in the middle of the hall, looking as if he had entered just a second before them.

"Brother, listen to me. Later, do not say a word out of place. Offer your toast and leave immediately!" the plump man whispered, his throat slightly hoarse. He was extremely tense.

However, Tan Lun didn't answer him. His eyes were locked on the figure in the center.

That person... he had just seen him!

Tan Lun had already had a lot to drink. When he saw the man standing dazedly in the hall, the shock sent the alcohol rushing to his head.

To everyone's horror, he strode forward abruptly, pointed at the young man, and roared, "What are you doing here? Is this a place for someone like you? Get the hell out of here now!"

Chapter 347: Big Shot? Or Small Fry?

"What are you doing here? Get out!"

At that moment, the only thing on Lun Tan's mind was the image of the distinguished guest Liu Pangzi had described. Therefore, the plainly dressed Lin Mu, who seemed to be of ordinary status, couldn't possibly be the honored guest Liu Pangzi had spoken of.

That's just impossible!

Lin Mu was just Wei Shiman's classmate, and he had even been rejected when he pursued her. Furthermore, the things Lin Mu had said in the Earth-Class Private Room made Lun Tan despise him. So, upon seeing Lin Mu in the Sky-Class Private Room, it never even occurred to him that Lin Mu was *that* person. He merely thought Lin Mu was someone who had taken a wrong turn and wandered in by mistake.

Lun Tan was both shocked and terrified, cursing Wei Shiman endlessly in his heart. What kind of classmate does this stupid woman have? Is he trying to get me killed? If these important people get angry with me because of Lin Mu, not only will I miss the chance to connect with that major figure, I'll be dragged down with him!

Sure enough, Lun Tan saw the people at the table abruptly rise and rush toward him. A surge of joy welled up in his heart, and his gaze immediately fell upon the approaching middle-aged man. The man was dressed in a suit, his face carrying the imposing air of someone long accustomed to a position of authority, and his eyes blazed with undisguised fury.

With his worldly eye, Lun Tan immediately guessed the man's identity. This must be the distinguished guest Liu Pangzi mentioned.

"Lun Tan of the Tan Family greets you all!" Lun Tan hurriedly said, "I don't know this man; I've only seen him before. He wandered into your private room by mistake and disturbed you. I apologize to you all on his behalf."

In a panic, Lun Tan grabbed a bottle of liquor from the table and poured himself a glass. Then, under everyone's stunned gazes, he raised his glass and surveyed the room. "A toast to everyone! I'll drink first as a sign of my respect!"

However, just as he was about to down the drink, he noticed everyone staring at him, dumbfounded. And he seemed to recognize three of them. Besides the pair of twins, he had met the only other girl at the table at the hotel entrance. He had even invited her to dinner.

At the time... wasn't she with Lin Mu?

BANG!

As if realizing something, Lun Tan's limbs instantly went weak. He couldn't even hold his glass steady, and it fell, smashing on the ground. The expensive liquor spilled all over the floor, some of it even splashing onto Lun Tan's leather shoes, which were worth tens of thousands. But not only did he feel no regret for the loss, he was instead struck by a profound chill and a wave of terror.

Subconsciously turning around, Lun Tan saw Lin Mu looking at him with a smile that wasn't quite a smile. To him, that smile was extremely irritating, filled with mockery.

"Liu... Brother Liu..." Lun Tan was on the verge of tears, his gaze pleading as he looked at Liu Pangzi.

But he discovered Liu Pangzi was in an even worse state. He was slumped on the ground, as limp as if his skeleton had been removed, his face terrifyingly pale as sweat dripped from his chin.

"Lun Tan!"

Hearing his name, Liu Pangzi seemed to snap back to his senses. Mustering strength from nowhere, he scrambled up, rushed at Lun Tan, and slapped him across the face.

SLAP!

The slap seemed to carry all of Liu Pangzi's strength, sending Lun Tan spinning around twice before he doubled over and vomited.

"Are you trying to get me killed?!" Liu Pangzi's eyes were bloodshot, as if he wanted to kill Lun Tan.

"Brother Liu... I..." Lun Tan was completely stunned by the slap. "Why did you hit me? I..."

"You idiot!" Liu Pangzi was about to continue his tirade when the young man standing in the center of the room said coolly, "That's enough."

Liu Pangzi glanced at Xiao Qian, as if asking for confirmation.

"Liu Pangzi, you may leave," Xiao Qian said calmly, but Liu Pangzi sensed a hint of murderous intent in his tone.

His fat body trembling, Liu Pangzi didn't dare say another word. He immediately retreated from the room, even closing the door behind him.

Lun Tan sat on the floor, half of his face swollen like a pig's head, still reeling and dizzy.

Lin Mu smiled, walked over to a sofa in front of the shocked Lun Tan, and sat down, observing him with calm eyes.

"Miao..." Xiao Zhan and the others started to kneel, but Lin Mu waved his hand. "Enough. Everyone sit down."

Xiao Zhan didn't dare to insist and sat down, feeling extremely uneasy. In his heart, he wished he could tear Liu Pangzi and Lun Tan to pieces. He had come specifically to apologize to Lin Mu. But not only had

he failed, the whole affair had been ruined by that idiot, Lun Tan. Now, Xiao Zhan was dripping with cold sweat, trying to find a way to make amends.

Li Lai stood behind Lin Mu, her cold gaze fixed on Lun Tan. "Master, how should we deal with him?"

"M-Master?" Lun Tan stared blankly at Li Lai. This girl, as ethereal as a mountain spring, was Lin Mu's disciple?

So... Lin Mu is the distinguished guest Liu Pangzi mentioned, the one even Xiao Qian has to treat with the utmost respect? Isn't he just Wei Shiman's classmate?

Lun Tan's mind reeled.

"Lun Tan? Young Master Tan? We meet again." A faint smile played on Lin Mu's lips, but in Lun Tan's eyes, that smile was more torturous than death itself.

"No, it can't be!" Lun Tan shook his head violently, his voice shrill. "Lin Mu, tell me! Did you hire these people just to make a fool of me?"

"How presumptuous!" Li Lai suddenly waved her hand, and the shadow of a whip whistled through the air, lashing directly across Lun Tan's face.

CRACK!

Lun Tan screamed miserably as his body flew backward. A wound so deep you could see the bone appeared on his face.

"How dare you speak the Master's name so directly!" Li Lai had been annoyed with Lun Tan for some time. If her Master hadn't stopped her multiple times, she would have killed him at the hotel entrance.

Lun Tan lay on the floor, groaning in pain, unable to form words.

Lin Mu was also taken aback for a moment, then shook his head helplessly. This Lun Tan truly thinks too highly of himself.

Lin Mu scoffed. "Make a fool of you? You think too highly of yourself. Didn't you say you wouldn't even deign to spare me a glance? Didn't you demand that my woman personally pour you a drink? What do you think you are? You're not worthy!"

Lun Tan's eyes bulged. The president of the Qin Corporation is Lin Mu's woman?

Li Lai snorted coldly. "Master, this man dared to disrespect you and the Mistress. Should I just gouge out his eyes and cut out his tongue?"

Lun Tan was terrified, his legs trembling so violently he nearly wet himself.

Lin Mu smiled helplessly and stood up. "A young lady shouldn't be so violent. Anyway, let's skip dinner. Time to go."

"Master!" Xiao Zhan's expression changed. Just as he was about to explain, Lin Mu said flatly, "That's enough. You can handle the rest."

Xiao Zhan was startled, then he understood.

Meanwhile, a pale-faced Lun Tan shrieked, "Lin Mu, let me go, please spare me this once..."

But Lin Mu simply walked out of the private room, not giving Lun Tan a second glance. Such a minor character wasn't worthy of his attention. If Xiao Zhan couldn't even handle this small matter, then he didn't deserve to live.

It's one thing to look down on me, but insulting my woman is unforgivable!

After Lin Mu left, a pale-faced Xiao Qian rushed over. "Family Head, I never expected..."

Xiao Zhan closed his eyes in anguish. "Forget it. Perhaps this is simply the fate of our Xiao Family." Sighing, Xiao Zhan gave Xiao Qian a deep look, his tone chilling. "Clean this up. If the Miao King shows even a shred of dissatisfaction, you will take your own life."

"Yes!" Cold sweat instantly beaded on Xiao Qian's brow. After Xiao Zhan left, he roared, "Liu Pangzi, get your ass in here!"

Liu Pangzi entered, trembling like a leaf. "Mr. Xiao, I..."

Xiao Qian looked at him, his face contorted with murderous intent. "Go. Bring me this bastard's last three generations. If a single one is missing, I'll have all that fat on your body rendered into oil to light my lamps!"

"Yes!" How could Liu Pangzi dare to refuse? He immediately scurried out, wailing internally.

It's over... it's all over. A great upheaval is coming to Zun City!

Meanwhile, Lun Tan's eyes widened in horror. With a strangled gasp, he lost control of his bladder and bowels, then fainted from sheer terror.

It's over... the Tan Family is finished!

Chapter 348: By the Order of the Clan Leader, Annihilate Three Generations of the Tan Family!

"Master, why didn't you let me kill him!"

After leaving the private room, Li Lai was still indignant. It was one thing for Lun Tan to disrespect her, but daring to look down on her master was a crime punishable by death! As a Saintess, Li Lai had been taught from a young age to revere the Miao King above all else, and Lin Mu was the master she revered most. No one could be allowed to slander him.

Even verbal disrespect was unacceptable!

In her opinion, they should have just killed Lun Tan and then announced her master's identity to the world!

Lin Mu said calmly, "Kill one Lun Tan, and a second will appear, followed by countless more. If they all disrespect me, are you going to kill every last one of them?"

"Of course!" Li Lai declared, as if it were the most obvious thing in the world. "Master, you are the king of our Li Clan! For those who dare to disrespect you, death is letting them off easy!"

Sensing the sharp killing intent and the inadvertent coldness emanating from Li Lai, Lin Mu stopped and said seriously, "Li Lai, you must remember your teacher's words: violence is not the answer to every problem. There will always be someone in this world stronger than you."

"In my heart, Master, you are the strongest person in the world!" Li Lai clenched her small fists, her face filled with a look of proud conviction.

Lin Mu was speechless.

"But you must remember this: as a member of my sect, you must not bully the weak without reason, you must not slaughter the innocent, and you must not mistreat the vulnerable. If you violate these rules, don't blame your teacher for personally expelling you from the sect!" Lin Mu's tone was uncharacteristically stern.

Li Lai's heart trembled, and she quickly replied, "Yes, Master!"

Then, she asked meekly, "What if someone bullies me? Can't I fight back?"

A slight smile touched Lin Mu's lips. "Give them a taste of their own medicine."

"What if I can't beat them?"

"You can't beat them? Then your teacher will personally take action!"

"I knew it! Master is the greatest master in the world!"

...

「Earth-Class Private Room」

Wei Shiman and the others had nearly finished eating, but Lun Tan still hadn't returned.

"Ms. Wei, Zhu Li and the others are drunk, so I'll send them back. Please wait for Senior Tan," the tall male student said as he stood up, helping two of his friends while the girls supported each other. Clearly, they had all had a lot to drink.

"Alright, you all head back to the university," Wei Shiman replied.

She was feeling gloomy because of Lin Mu, so she had also had quite a bit to drink. With Lun Tan still missing, she really didn't have the extra energy to look after the students.

"Goodbye, Ms. Wei!"

"Goodbye, teacher!"

"Be careful."

Wei Shiman watched them leave, shaking her slightly dizzy head. Where did that guy Lun Tan go? He didn't run off to flirt with some other woman, did he?

At that thought, she sobered up a little. Previously, Wei Shiman hadn't had any particular designs on Lun Tan. But this time, after seeing the hotel owner waive the bill and offer drinks as an apology, she realized Lun Tan's background was likely deeper than she had imagined, and her interest was piqued. Adding to that the fact that he had helped her get her job as a university lecturer, her favorable impression of him grew. If another woman snatched Lun Tan away, it would be a huge loss for her.

With this in mind, Wei Shiman hurriedly began searching the private rooms one by one.

Because the Phoenix Grand Hotel was hosting Lin Mu, it wasn't accepting other guests, so there weren't many people dining. The Earth-Class and Sky-Class rooms were on the top two floors, so Wei Shiman took the elevator up to the top floor where the Tian Character Private Rooms were located.

The moment the elevator doors opened, she saw Lin Mu.

"Lin Mu? What are you doing here?" Wei Shiman asked, surprised to see him. "This is the Tian Character Private Room. You have no business here, so get out!" For some reason, the more she looked at Lin Mu, the more annoyed she became.

"You..."

Just as Li Lai was about to flare up, Lin Mu said flatly, "We're leaving right now."

"Hmph! At least you know your place."

Watching Lin Mu and his companions step into the elevator, Wei Shiman snorted coldly.

But ordinary people can't get up here, she mused. Why did Lin Mu come here? Did he get lost? After muttering to herself for a moment, she shook her head. Why am I worrying about this? I need to find Lun Tan. If he's really fooling around with some other woman, hmph, then he can't blame me for being merciless!

Wei Shiman staggered toward the Tian Character Private Room, but before she even reached the entrance, she heard a familiar scream.

"Spare me! Lin... I beg you, don't kill me..."

Startled, Wei Shiman hadn't yet recovered when the door to the room was thrown open. A bloody, mangled figure was tossed out, landing right in front of her.

Wei Shiman screamed, stumbling back several steps before falling to the ground. "You... you... you..."

The bloodied man on the floor seemed to see her and began crawling slowly in her direction.

"Stay back! Don't come any closer!" Wei Shiman shrieked, her face pale with terror. The shock had sobered her up considerably, and she kicked frantically at the figure.

"Shiman... it's me... Quick... go find Lin... ask him to spare me..." The blood-soaked man mouthed the words weakly, speaking in fits and starts before finally losing consciousness.

"Lun Tan?!" Wei Shiman froze, staring at the gory figure on the floor. "You're Lun Tan..."

...

「The Tan Residence」

The Tan Family held considerable influence in Zun City. They had started in real estate and invested in several major projects across Southern Sky, amassing a fortune. The younger generation of the Tan Family was also full of talent, with several already taking over family businesses and achieving great success.

Tan Zhenhong's grandson, Lun Tan, was particularly noteworthy. He hadn't taken a single penny from the family, instead striking out on his own in River City, where he was said to be making a name for himself.

"Feiyang, has the boy not returned yet?"

Tan Zhenhong, now in his seventies, had already retired from the front lines, leaving most of the business to his sons. Tan Feiyang was his eldest son and Lun Tan's father.

"Not yet," Tan Feiyang replied. "Lun said he was taking some friends to dinner to catch up."

"Mm, good. He knows to treat his friends as soon as he returns to Southern Sky. Lun has grown up. When he arrives, tell him to come to my study," Tan Zhenhong said with a satisfied nod.

"Dad, are you..." Tan Feiyang's voice trembled with veiled excitement, sensing what this meant.

Tan Zhenhong smiled. "I'm old. The Tan Family must eventually be passed on to the younger generation. Lun is a fine young man. I plan to have him learn at my side for a few years."

"Yes, Dad!"

Tan Feiyang was thrilled. Although the old man had retired, he still made the final decisions on most business matters. For his father to personally cultivate Lun Tan for a few years meant he was being considered as the successor. How could Tan Feiyang not be ecstatic? His heart swelled with pride. My son truly has what it takes to become an overlord!

Just then, a group of people stormed into the Tan residence. They were all dressed in black cloth and wielded Miao Knives, whose polished blades glinted with a cold light.

Tan Feiyang's expression changed drastically as he bellowed, "Who are you? What business do you have barging into my family's home?"

A figure leaped out from the group, his face a mask of deadly seriousness. "By order of Chief Xiao, we are to annihilate three generations of the Tan Family!"

"What? Chief Xiao?!" Tan Zhenhong's face went white. His body trembled violently, and he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Tan Feiyang rushed to support him. "Dad!"

"My Tan Family has never had any grievances with the Xiao Family! Why would Chief Xiao want to exterminate three generations of my family?" As a magnate of Zun City, Tan Zhenhong was well aware of the Li Clan Xiao Branch. They were one of the most fearsome powers in Southern Sky. When could the Tan Family have possibly offended such a terrifying entity?

"You'll have to ask your grandson that."

Suddenly, a middle-aged man appeared in the residence. His face was like ice as he waved a hand and commanded, "Kill them!"

"Xiao Qian?" Tan Zhenhong's pupils shrank, his eyes filling with horror and utter despair. "Tan Feiyang, what kind of son did you raise? He has doomed our Tan Family!"

Gazing at the slaughter of his kin, Tan Zhenhong let out a furious roar. His eyes rolled back, and he died of pure rage.

Chapter 349: Hongfeng Lake Xing Family!

The next morning, all of Zun City was shaken. This was because just last night, the family of real estate tycoon Tan Zhenhong had been slaughtered down to the third generation!

Tan Zhenhong, Tan Feiyang, and Tan Lun were all beheaded.

The rest of the Tan Family were fortunate enough to have escaped.

As soon as the news broke, Zun City was rocked, and the entirety of Southern Sky was rattled. Everyone was speculating which major power the Tan Family had offended to warrant such a fate—the annihilation of three generations.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu was already deep within Thunder Mountain, standing before Bai Miao Village.

Lin Mu stood at the entrance to Bai Miao Village, observing the gate. In the time that had passed, Bai Miao Village had grown much stronger. This was evident from the gate alone, which was taller and more magnificent than before.

Before he could enter, a chorus of shouts echoed from within. The gate boomed open, and Li Xuan emerged, leading a group of the village's elders.

"Li Xuan of Bai Miao Village greets the Miao King!"

"We greet the Miao King!"

Upon seeing Lin Mu, Li Xuan and the others immediately knelt, addressing him as the Miao King.

"Rise."

Lin Mu glanced at Li Xuan. The Great Elder of Bai Miao Village looked even older now; his strength had been greatly diminished ever since his arm was severed.

"Miao King, please, come in!" With a deferential expression, Li Xuan stood to the side to clear a path.

Lin Mu nodded and walked into Bai Miao Village.

Within a vast square in Bai Miao Village, many young members of the Li Clan were practicing their boxing. Even more were striking their bodies with logs as thick as a thigh, letting out grunts of exertion from time to time.

Seeing this, Lin Mu nodded in approval. They were tempering their bodies using the body refinement technique he had passed down, and in just a short time, the results were already significant.

"Li Xuan, you have managed the Li Clan well and earned a reward." Lin Mu took out a porcelain bottle and tossed it to him. "These are Essence Cultivating Pills. Distribute them, but remember: only one per person. While it can't regenerate your arm, granting you another ten years of life will be as easy as flipping a hand."

Catching the porcelain bottle, Li Xuan was so shocked he immediately fell to his knees again. "Thank you for the pills, Miao King!"

"Rise. All of you, return to your duties. Do not disturb me unless I summon you. If a matter arises that you cannot decide on, have my disciple, Li Lai, relay it to me."

With that, Lin Mu's figure flickered and vanished from sight.

Seeing Lin Mu's sudden disappearance, the People of the Li Clan were stunned into silence, remaining on their knees with fervent expressions.

Li Lai, still kneeling, showed a subtle change in expression and said respectfully, "Yes, I will obey my Master's command!"

...

「Yang City, Provincial Capital of Southern Sky」

Within the Xing Family estate at Hongfeng Lake, the Family Head, Xing Yong, smashed a porcelain vase in his room, roaring, "Send men to Zun City immediately! I want a thorough investigation!"

"Dig three feet into the ground if you have to, but find the man who killed Tan Zhenhong!"

Xing Yong's fury, of course, was because three generations of the Tan Family had been wiped out. Everyone in Southern Sky knew that Tan Zhenhong was a dog of the Xing Family—their most loyal one at that.

And now, someone had slaughtered that dog! This was a blatant show of disrespect for the Xing Family! You have to consider the master before you beat his dog. Xing Yong didn't particularly care about Tan Zhenhong's death itself; what enraged him was the perpetrator's audacity. They had shown no regard for the Xing Family's prestige whatsoever.

With Xing Yong's command, a large number of Xing Family members were mobilized and rushed to Zun City.

That same afternoon, the news came back.

The one who had wiped out three generations of the Tan Family was a local bigwig from Zun City named Xiao Qian!

"Xiao Qian!" Xing Yong smiled grimly. "Xing Ling, go and bring me his head! No, on second thought, don't bring it back. Hang it directly from the Zun City gate. I want everyone in Southern Sky to know the price for daring to kill a dog of the Xing Family!"

"Yes, sir!" a young man replied, immediately accepting the order and rushing toward Zun City.

However, that very night, Xing Ling returned, gravely injured.

"Family Head, please forgive me! I failed to kill Xiao Qian!" Xing Ling knelt on the floor, his face deathly pale.

"Hmm? What happened? For even you to fail..." Xing Yong was slightly surprised.

Xing Ling was one of the most talented of the Xing Family's younger generation, his strength having reached the External Strength Peak. How could he fail to kill a mere gang leader from Zun City? Could there be some hidden complication?

Gritting his teeth, Xing Ling said, "I was about to succeed, but I didn't expect that Xiao Qian was from a branch of the Southern Sky Xiao Family. He had several experts protecting him."

"I have failed the task you entrusted to me, Family Head. Please punish me!"

Xing Yong had been furious, but after hearing Xing Ling's explanation, he just gave a cold laugh. "So, Xiao Qian is from a branch of the Xiao Family. No wonder."

"Family Head, you aren't punishing me?" Xing Ling was taken aback. According to family law, he should have had an arm severed.

"Go and receive fifty strikes with the iron rod. You will no longer be involved in this matter." Xing Yong waved his hand dismissively. After sending Xing Ling away, he rose and walked out of the hall.

The Xiao Family? Hmph, it seems you're all eager to die! Relying on the backing of some so-called Miao King, you've already started to disrespect my Xing Family. Very well, then don't blame me for being ruthless!

...

「Hongfeng Lake」

This place was the most famous scenic tourist area in all of Southern Sky. But no one knew it was the property of the Xing Family.

In the middle of Hongfeng Lake, a pavilion had been built. At this moment, a young man sat cross-legged in the center of the pavilion. Ethereal streams of power from the heavens and earth seemed to flow into his body.

On his bare skin was a tattoo. As the power poured into him, the tattoo writhed slightly, taking the form of a giant axe.

This was the Xing Family's totem: the Xing Tian Axe!

After an unknown amount of time, the young man suddenly opened his eyes, a flash of crimson vanishing from his gaze.

At most, I'll be able to take that step in half a year.

The young man smiled faintly and shook his head. His shoulder-length hair gave him a strangely captivating charm.

He stood up abruptly and dove straight into Hongfeng Lake. Half an hour later, he emerged on the shore. A servant handed him his clothes, which he put on to cover his powerful, muscular physique.

"Chong is truly the Dragon of the Xing Family, a man of exceptional talent. At this rate, it won't be long before he takes that step," Xing Yong said as he approached, waving away the servant.

Xing Chong twisted his body slightly, and the water on his skin instantly evaporated. Hearing his father's words, he sighed. "To take that step, both opportunity and good fortune are indispensable."

It will probably take another three years. Though Xing Chong's tone was flat, it was filled with immense confidence. To reach the Grandmaster realm in three years would be considered a monstrous talent anywhere.

Xing Yong was stunned for a moment, then overjoyed. "In that case, won't our Xing Family have two Grandmasters presiding over it? When we go to the Li Clan to propose marriage, will they still dare to refuse?"

Xing Chong gave a cold smile. Three years? I can't wait that long.

Xing Yong was confused. "This is a critical period. Why can't you even wait three years, Chong?"

Xing Chong glanced at the lake's surface. "Uncle said that if I can marry the Saintess of the Li Clan, I can reach the Grandmaster realm within half a year!"

"What?" Xing Yong was thunderstruck, his heart pounding.

Xing Chong looked deeply at his father. "So, until I have married the Saintess of the Li Clan, the Xing Family needs to keep a low profile when necessary. As for everything else... I will deal with it after I become a Grandmaster."

Xing Chong's gaze drifted toward a distant point, and a sinister, contemptuous arc formed on his lips. The Miao King? Heh. When the time comes, I'll show you who is truly qualified to be the king of the Southern Border!

Chapter 350: Bestowing the Name Ling Qing, Stabilizing Mountains and Rivers!

The rear mountain of Bai Miao Village.

This place was considered forbidden territory for the Li Clan, a place only the Saintess was normally qualified to enter. Even Great Elder Li Xuan hadn't set foot here since the Miao King accepted the Saintess as his disciple.

At this moment, within the forbidden grounds on the rear mountain of Bai Miao Village, a young man stood at the peak, watching the clouds and mist churn before him. This was the highest point on all of Thunder Mountain. As far as the eye could see, the entirety of Southern Sky unfolded below. Amidst the swirling clouds, Lin Mu looked as if he were deep within an Immortal Realm.

Lin Mu's heart was stirred. His palm opened involuntarily, stroking the air before him. In an instant, the tumbling clouds roiled and churned, following the sweep of his hand to transform into different shapes—a lion, an Azure Hawk...

Li Lai, who had just arrived, was so shocked by this sight that her red lips parted slightly, her eyes filled with adoration.

"As long as you devote yourself to cultivation, you will be able to do this too, in time," Lin Mu said, withdrawing his hand and clasping it behind his back. "Li Lai, from the moment you became my disciple, your future was destined to be extraordinary. Therefore, remember to cultivate diligently, and never grow lax."

"Yes!"

Li Lai already held both respect and admiration for Lin Mu, but at this moment, she even felt a trace... of fear.

It seemed that behind her Master, there was a world that transcended her understanding. As his disciple, one day, she too would have to step into that world. Even now, her feet were already on the

threshold, but to enter, her current strength was far from sufficient. For the first time, Li Lai desperately craved power—immense power!

"Over the next three days, I will guide your cultivation," Lin Mu continued. "You may raise any doubts or confusion you have, and as your Master, I will naturally help you resolve them one by one."

Li Lai was not Li Xiaotian. Li Xiaotian pursued the path of entering the Dao through the Martial Way, and as a Half-step Grandmaster, had already chosen his path. But Li Lai was different; she had never been exposed to the Martial Way, and what Lin Mu imparted to her were all methods from the Immortal Realm. Great Elder Li Xuan had never even heard of such things, let alone seen them, so he had no way to guide Li Lai's cultivation even if he wanted to.

All this time, Li Lai had been fumbling through cultivation on her own. To have achieved what she had was truly commendable. However, Lin Mu felt that the girl's cultivation speed was still too slow. If Li Zhou and the others knew of this thought, they would surely despair. In less than two months, Li Lai had already surpassed them by a great margin. If that was still considered slow, there was no point in them even trying.

"Thank you, Master. This disciple will certainly not let you down!" Li Lai knelt on the ground, answering respectfully.

Over the next three days, Lin Mu meticulously guided Li Lai's cultivation. As the reincarnation of the Heavenly Emperor, his vision and perspective could be considered the foremost in the universe. He didn't teach Li Lai any spells or impart any supreme Dao Methods. Instead, he started from the most fundamental and simple aspects, helping her feel the great Dao of nature and the forces of heaven and earth.

In just three short days, although Li Lai's cultivation level hadn't advanced in the slightest, her entire temperament had undergone a radical change. If the previous Li Lai was like an ethereal, clear spring, she was now like the entire valley—seemingly ordinary, but in truth, containing all things. In her understanding of cultivation and her perception of nature's power, the current Li Lai was now a cut above even Li Xiaotian. Once she fully digested these insights, her cultivation speed would undoubtedly astonish the world.

Li Lai sat cross-legged on the mountain peak, her body forming an enticing curve. Suddenly, she opened her eyes. With a wave of her fair hand, the wind surged, and the mist before her began to swirl with the motion of her palm. However, it lasted only a few seconds before the mist settled back into place, as if it had never moved at all.

"Master, I..." Li Lai turned her head to glance at Lin Mu not far away, her expression slightly guilty. In these three days of listening to her Master's teachings, she had gained a preliminary grasp of nature's power. But every attempt she made lasted only a few seconds; she was completely unable to sustain it.

"To have achieved this much in just three days means your talent is already exceptional," Lin Mu said casually. If anyone from the Immortal Realm heard him, they would be utterly shocked. For the Heavenly Emperor himself to call her talent exceptional meant it was not just good, but supremely so. Furthermore, this was on Earth, in The Last Dharma Age where Spiritual Energy was scarce. If Li Lai had been born anywhere in the Immortal Realm, she would have been a genius disciple that sects would fight to the death over.

"This is all thanks to Master's excellent guidance." Li Lai bowed deeply to Lin Mu. "For these three days of listening to your teachings, this disciple will forever hold this kindness in my heart."

Lin Mu waved his hand. "That will do. Your cultivation will pause here for now. You must deeply contemplate what I have taught you for it to be useful to your practice."

"Understood!"

Lin Mu thought for a moment, then said, "Since I have personally taught you for three days, from this day forward, you are my direct disciple, no longer merely a nominal one."

"Thank you, Master!" Li Lai was overjoyed, her eyes turning slightly red.

Her Master had finally accepted her as a direct disciple. She had longed for this day for who knows how long.

"Since you are now my direct disciple, I shall bestow upon you a new name." Lin Mu looked at the distant mists as dusk began to fall, murmuring, "Vast are the trees along the path of the heart, the spirit platform is naturally dust-free; just wait for the dawn, the clear and the muddy will separate on their own!"

"From now on, I grant you the name Ling Qing."

Li Lai repeated the name to herself, then immediately knelt and kowtowed. "Many thanks to Master for bestowing this name!"

"Mm. You may go. I must now begin my solitary cultivation," Lin Mu said seriously. "Remember, without my permission, no one is to take even a single step onto this rear mountain. If this order is defied, do not blame me for being ruthless!"

"Understood!" Li Lingqing replied, slowly rising to her feet and departing. She would personally stand guard to ensure no one disturbed her Master's seclusion.

After confirming Li Lingqing had left, Lin Mu focused his mind. With a light wave of his hand, several rays of light shot from his palm, concealing themselves among the surrounding trees and stones.

WHOOSH!

Suddenly, a vast mist enveloped the entire mountaintop as countless streams of worldly Spiritual Energy poured into the area.

With this formation as a barrier, no one will be able to break in.

Lin Mu thought for a moment, then opened his hand again.

WHOOSH!

In the center of his palm, a black dot flickered. It swelled in the wind, transforming into a massive cauldron.

The cauldron that could suppress mountains and rivers—the Mountain and River Cauldron!

Looking at the cauldron before him, Lin Mu smiled slightly. "Using you to hold this place down will be absolutely foolproof."

However, no sooner had the Mountain and River Cauldron appeared than all the Spiritual Energy between heaven and earth rushed violently into it, leaving not even a shred for Lin Mu.

He was dumbfounded.

Outside, just as Li Lingqing stepped out of the forbidden area, a shiver ran through her, and she whipped her head around to look back. What she saw made a trace of disbelief flash across her beautiful eyes. To her astonishment, she could no longer see where her Master was. The very mist before her now exuded an extremely dangerous feeling.

To step inside carelessly would mean certain death! Master is truly the strongest in the world!