

War God 361

Chapter 361: On the Day I Emerge, Sword in Hand, to the Xing Family!

"What should we do?"

The Second Elder looked worried. "Xing Zirong of the Xing Family reached the tenth spot on the Heavenly Rankings many years ago. His strength is unfathomable. If he really gets involved..."

It was rumored that ever since Xing Zirong ascended to the tenth spot on the Heavenly Rankings years ago, he had entered a deep seclusion to cultivate. By now, his strength had likely reached an unimaginably terrifying level.

And the Miao King was only number sixteen on the Heavenly Rankings.

Even if the Miao King possessed extraordinary abilities, how could he possibly compare to Xing Zirong?

"No matter what, the Saintess absolutely cannot marry into the Xing Family!"

Li Xuan let out a cold snort, her voice chilling. "The Xing Family is an ungrateful and conceited clan. They claim descent from Xing Tian and have never shown our Jiuli Tribe an ounce of respect. Xing Chong of the Xing Family is even more ambitious. His desire to marry the Saintess is a poorly disguised plot, obvious to everyone!"

Everyone in the Jiuli Tribe knew that the Xing Family's relationship with them was like fire and water, utterly irreconcilable.

The reason the Xing Family was targeting the Saintess was for no other reason than to rule the Miao Territory and control the Southern Sky.

If they succeeded, the Jiuli Tribe would become vassals of the Xing Family.

How could the descendants of the Great God Chiyou stoop so low as to be subservient to others?

"Right, the Great Elder is right!"

The brothers Li Zhou came over, supporting each other. "The Saintess absolutely cannot marry into the Xing Family!"

"Li Zhou, shut your mouth!" an elder scolded. "When did it become your turn to meddle in this affair?"

"We are also members of the Jiuli Tribe, why can't we speak?" Li Tong retorted loudly.

"You..."

Seeing an argument about to erupt, Li Xuan intervened. "Everyone, be quiet! I will make the decision on this matter!"

She scanned the crowd with a sharp gaze. "I know some of you are afraid of the Xing Family. However, the Miao King is in seclusion in the back mountains. We will wait for him to emerge before deciding anything!"

"But the Miao King has been in seclusion for half a year already, and the Xing Family only gave us a three-day deadline. What if the Miao King can't come out by then? Besides, even if the Miao King does emerge, the Xing Family has a Grandmaster on their side..."

The speaker was an elder who had been promoted after the unification of the Jiuli Tribe. He hailed from a prominent family within the Nine Villages and Eighteen Caves. Although he was aware of the Miao King's existence, he had never personally witnessed him in action. Subconsciously, he was somewhat unsure of the Miao King's strength, believing all rumors to be unreliable.

"Elder Zhao Xi, watch your words!" Li Xuan said coldly. "If you are so afraid of the Xing Family, then get out of Bai Miao Village right now! The descendants of the Jiuli Tribe are not cowards who cling to life and fear death!"

"That's right!"

"We are not afraid to die, and we will not bow to threats!"

"If the Xing Family dares to come, we'll fight them to the bitter end! The Miao King will surely avenge us!"

"..."

Watching everyone argue, Li Lingqing's expression grew complicated. She looked toward the back mountains, her gaze resolute.

I will die before I marry into the Xing Family!

"Alright, that's enough. We still have three days. There's time to think of a solution."

Li Xuan immediately gave her orders, "The Saintess will guard the Miao King during his seclusion. As for the rest of you, convey my command: summon all members ranked as Family Head or higher from the Nine Villages and Eighteen Caves of the Jiuli Tribe to Bai Miao Village to discuss this matter!"

"If anyone dares to feign compliance while secretly defecting to the Xing Family, they shouldn't blame me for being ruthless!"

...

「Two days later.」

Only one day remained until the deadline set by the Xing Family. But there was still no movement from Bai Miao Village. The third day arrived with the same unnerving silence.

On that very day, reports began flooding in from the Nine Villages and Eighteen Caves. The Xing Family had started taking action against the people of the Jiuli Tribe.

"Great Elder, terrible news! The Family Head of the Zhao Family of Xijiang has been killed by the Xing Family!"

"Great Elder, the Family Head of the Quan Family of Xiaguan has also been murdered!"

"The Family Head of the Yang Family of Tongshi committed suicide at home this morning..."

"..."

As each new piece of information arrived, shock rippled through the main hall of Bai Miao Village.

"Xing Family, you dare!"

Li Xuan's eyes blazed with a fury that seemed ready to split them open. Her aura erupted violently, flipping over countless tables and chairs.

"Great Elder, what do we do now?"

Zhao Xi's expression was grim. He was a member of the Zhao Family, and its head, Zhao Hedong, was his own nephew. Now his nephew was dead, along with several other family heads from branch clans of the Jiuli Tribe. This was the Xing Family's warning.

The others were just as pale, their faces etched with fear.

"What is there to panic about?" Li Xuan shouted, her True Qi spreading out to steady the crowd. "The Xing Family is doing this simply to force our hand, to make us deliver the Saintess to their doorstep!"

A look of humiliation appeared on Li Xuan's face as she continued in a cold voice, "But the Saintess is the very pride of our Li Clan. If we truly hand her over, what face would we have to meet the ancestors of the Jiuli Tribe?"

"But if we don't agree, the Jiuli Tribe will be in danger!"

"Yes, Great Elder! The Xing Family has already made it clear that if we don't hand over the Saintess, they will flatten our Bai Miao Village!"

"The Saintess cannot be handed over!"

"..."

"I'll go."

Amidst the endless arguments, a cool, clear voice cut through the noise.

Li Lingqing walked gracefully into the hall. Her face was devoid of emotion, yet everyone could see the unyielding resolve in her eyes.

"The Xing Family wants me, so I will go," Li Lingqing stated, looking at everyone in the hall. "Once I have gone, you will no longer have to worry about the Xing Family coming after you."

"No!" Li Xuan's face contorted in pain. "I refuse!"

"Grandma!" Li Lingqing said. "If I don't go, the Jiuli Tribe will be in grave danger!"

"I am the Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe. Protecting our people is my responsibility!"

Li Lingqing's words caused many of the elders to lower their heads in shame. Yet, in the eyes of many others, a flicker of relief appeared. As long as the Saintess agreed to marry into the Xing Family, they wouldn't have to worry about trouble anymore.

Li Lingqing said expressionlessly, "After I leave, all clan affairs will proceed as usual. No one is to set foot in the forbidden area on the back mountain. If anyone violates this order, do not blame me for personally coming to settle the score!"

With that, Li Lingqing turned and walked out of the hall, heading straight for the back mountains.

"Lingqing!"

Li Xuan chased after her, but all she saw was a resolute figure disappearing into the distance. Tears streamed down her aged face.

She spun around furiously, her gaze sweeping over several of the elders. "You will all regret this!" she said, her voice dripping with ice.

Those few elders didn't dare to meet her gaze.

...

In the forbidden area of Bai Miao Village, Lin Mu was still assimilating the Spiritual Energy within the Spirit Core, his body enveloped in a misty, aqua-colored spiritual aura. His cultivation had reached a critical period; overcoming this phase would greatly enhance his strength.

Just then, he faintly heard a familiar voice from outside.

"Master, I am leaving."

"The Xing Family has pushed us too far, killing countless people of our Li Clan. If I do not go, they will annihilate the entire Jiuli Tribe."

"Master, do not come looking for me!"

"This is my decision. Master, please forgive my lack of filial piety, for I can no longer serve by your side."

Through the hazy barrier of the Formation, Lin Mu could faintly see a figure kneeling on the ground, bowing three times in his direction.

Then, the figure rose and departed, their back conveying a deep sense of loneliness and reluctance.

The Xing Family?

Lin Mu murmured to himself, "The day I emerge from my seclusion will be the day I take my sword to the Xing Family!"

Chapter 362: The Sword Made from Dragon Bones, with Thunder Dragon as the Spirit!

The Xing Family? Very well! If my disciple suffers the slightest grievance, I will make the entire Xing Family pay! I need to speed things up!

Lin Mu had been in seclusion for quite some time, and something must have happened in the outside world. Otherwise, Li Lingqing would not have come to bid him farewell.

The nine hundred and ninety-ninth drop!

A tiny green droplet exploded with a bang. The surging Wood Attribute Spiritual Energy was swallowed by the young man seated in the void, drawn in as if by a great whale drinking from the sea.

Though his heart seethed with murderous intent, Lin Mu's expression remained calm. His long hair turned a vibrant green, his pupils shimmered like bright emeralds, and his skin was covered with dense, innumerable runes, making him look utterly inhuman.

Lin Mu took a deep breath, and a tornado seemed to scour the space. The dense green mist that filled the heavens and earth converged frantically toward his mouth like a waterspout. The display was immense, its momentum staggering.

BOOM! BOOM!

As the Spiritual Energy entered him, a roar echoed from within Lin Mu's body. The eleventh level of the Twelve-Fold Towers was complete!

Continue!

He frantically refined the Spiritual Energy, pouring it into the Twelve-Fold Towers. Only the final level remained unfinished, yet the entire structure already glowed brilliantly, exuding an aura of indestructible power.

"Refine!" Lin Mu shouted, and the Spiritual Energy crashed violently into the Twelve-Fold Towers.

HUMMM!

A hum that made the very void tremble emanated from within his Dantian. A small, glass-like pagoda slowly materialized. It was crystal clear and radiated a mysterious, flowing light. Streams of green light then flowed out from the small pagoda, beginning to nourish Lin Mu's physical body. All the Spiritual Energy he absorbed was refined and channeled into the Twelve-Fold Towers, making his flesh and bone even more indestructible.

CRACK! CRACK!

A series of popping sounds echoed from his skeleton as his body began to transform. His aura grew stronger at a terrifying rate.

Anyone who witnessed this scene would have been utterly astounded. The meditating Lin Mu no longer resembled a human. He was more like a "Wood Spirit" from the cosmos, radiating a strange and powerful aura. The Wood Attribute inherently contained the richest life force. Lin Mu's body was now impervious to blades and spears, on par with a Grandmaster. Even if he were wounded, his body would heal almost instantly.

The Spiritual Energy in the Spirit Core had been completely refined and the Twelve-Fold Towers were fully forged, but Lin Mu did not stop cultivating. His physical body was still being tempered, still growing.

Every streak of light that entered his body brought about a qualitative change. Every bone, joint, and muscle vibrated, the sounds crackling like a string of firecrackers. He actually grew taller out of thin air, reaching nearly two meters. Seated in the void, he looked like a towering giant.

The Heavenly Dao Myriad Laws Record is too powerful. While I could have practiced any number of Body Refining Techniques, this path integrates the myriad laws of heaven and earth. Everything I cultivate and use is the strongest possible, and my physical body is no exception!

Lin Mu opened his eyes and let out a long sigh.

If I had to describe my current physical realm, the Twelve-Fold Towers are the most direct representation. The body has twelve layers of tempering, and I have only completed the first! But even so, I am already impervious to blades and spears! Luckily, my Divine Soul is strong enough to control this new body. If it were like before, I would surely have been unable to manage its overwhelming strength. That would have been pointless. If I couldn't perfectly control every ounce of my power, I would just be a brute with strong limbs.

He considered his progress.

Cultivating to this level is enough for now.

Lin Mu spread his palms, looked at his current appearance, and shook his head slightly. If Luo Li saw me like this, she might divorce me on the spot.

With a mere thought, his bones crackled as his body began to change again. His hair and skin reverted to their normal color. Although his height was no longer two meters, he was still close to 1.8 meters tall. His eyes, however, retained a profound, emerald depth, as if they could pull a person's very soul into their gaze. His eyes shimmered, and the color of his pupils shifted with his will.

Good, I can control it. Lin Mu smiled slightly, feeling an immense power coursing through him.

"It's about time to come out of seclusion," he murmured.

The moment Lin Mu rose and his feet touched the ground, the entire back mountain erupted with a loud blast, shaking as if rocked by an earthquake. Gazing upon the forbidden grounds, which were now blooming with flowers as if it were a warm spring day, Lin Mu smiled. "This place will be perfect as Ling Qing's cultivation ground from now on."

Although he had absorbed most of the Spiritual Energy from the Spirit Core, a significant amount had leaked out, transforming the environment. Countless flowers, grasses, and trees had absorbed the energy and were now brimming with it. As time passed, this Spiritual Energy would not dissipate but would instead cycle and grow, making the area increasingly potent.

BUZZ! BUZZ!

Just as Lin Mu was about to put away the Mountain and River Cauldron, it began to shake violently. A red light flew out from within it. It was the Jiaolong corpse he had found at the bottom of the Cold Pool in Heimiao Village.

Lin Mu's eyes sharpened. The Spiritual Energy fluctuations from this corpse are getting more and more intense. It seems that absorbing so much Spiritual Energy has changed it as well.

He suddenly grinned. "Perfect. I'm heading to the Xing Family and need a Flying Sword. You'll do nicely."

Although Lin Mu had not yet reached Foundation Establishment, the completion of the Twelve-Fold Towers meant the Spiritual Energy in his body was no less abundant than that of someone in the Foundation Establishment Stage. He was more than ready to nurture a Flying Sword. As for the Sword Control Technique, that was no problem at all.

With a thought, Lin Mu reached out and with a great pull, extracted a segment of dragon bone from the Jiaolong corpse. This particular bone was the most saturated part of the skeleton, making it the perfect material for a Flying Sword. Controlling the dragon bone with one hand, Lin Mu opened his mouth slightly, and a Purple Flame shot forth.

「An hour later.」

A dark-green sword now rested in Lin Mu's hand. The sword was three feet and three inches long, and one foot and three inches wide. Suspended in mid-air, its blade quivered slightly.

ROAR!

Suddenly, a Thunder Dragon burst through the clouds overhead. It glanced down at the Dark-Green Flying Sword and let out a mighty roar. Then, something happened that left Lin Mu utterly flabbergasted. The Thunder Dragon suddenly descended from the sky and dived directly into the Dark-Green Flying Sword.

HUMMM! HUMMM! HUMMM!

The sword trembled violently as draconic roars echoed from within.

CLANG!

With a sharp cry, the Flying Sword suddenly expanded into a colossal blade. Upon its surface, a black Thunder Dragon seemed to writhe and swim.

BUZZ! BUZZ!

The sword vibrated slightly before shrinking back to its original size. Now, however, the entire blade was inscribed with a black dragon pattern. This gave the weapon a mystical and majestic presence, along with an inherent, rebellious killing aura.

"A sword born of Jiaolong bone, with a Thunder Dragon for a spirit," Lin Mu murmured, holding the Flying Sword. "From now on, your name is Dragon Tamer."

But it still needs a scabbard.

Lin Mu's gaze shifted to the green vines entwined around the giant tree inside the Mountain and River Cauldron. He grinned.

The Mountain and River Cauldron hastily retreated, emitting a buzzing sound of protest.

「Half a day later.」

Thunderbolts gathered in the sky above Thunder Mountain and dragon roars echoed without end. A heaven-shaking sword intent suddenly surged forth, only to vanish as quietly as it appeared. Yet across the entire Southern Sky region, countless people felt their hearts tremble, gripped by a sudden and unsettling premonition.

Chapter 363: You Want to See Me?

"Great Elder, what should we do? Are we really just going to stand by and watch the Saintess marry into the Xing Family?"

In Bai Miao Village, the Second Elder clenched his fists, his face a mask of worry and indignation.

"What else can we do?" Zhao Xi said in a deep voice. "If the Saintess doesn't marry into the Xing Family, our Li Clan will face a crisis!"

The Second Elder, furious, pointed at Zhao Xi and rebuked, "Zhao Xi, you're just a coward, afraid of death! When have the People of the Li Clan ever feared anyone? The worst that can happen is death!"

Zhao Xi countered, "Haven't enough members of the Li Clan died these past few days?"

"You..." the Second Elder sputtered, but Li Xuan cut in with a low shout, "All of you, stop arguing!"

Li Xuan looked at Zhao Xi and the others, hatred burning in her heart. These people are usually fine, calling themselves Elders of the Li Clan while constantly scavenging resources for their own families. But the moment they face danger, they turn into cowards, terrified of death.

"Now that the Saintess has already left for the Xing Family, what use is there in arguing?" Li Xuan heaved a deep sigh. She had watched Li Lingqing grow up. Even though Li Lingqing had become the Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe and the Miao King's disciple, in her eyes, she was still just a child. Now, for the sake of the

Jiuli Tribe, Li Lingqing had gone to the Xing Family alone, and Li Xuan had no idea what dangers she might face.

The Xing Family... ambitious and ruthless!

She hated herself for not being strong enough; otherwise, how could she tolerate the Xing Family humiliating them like this!

"Great Elder, bad news!" Just then, a clan member rushed in, his face etched with anxiety.

"What's happened now?" Li Xuan's heart sank. The Saintess had just left for the Xing Family; she prayed no new trouble had arisen.

"The brothers Li Zhou and Li Tong have taken several hundred Li Clan warriors and are heading to the Xing Family!" the clan member reported, his eyes full of concern.

"What?" Before Li Xuan could speak, Zhao Xi exploded with anger. "What are those two trying to do? Are they planning to kidnap her?!"

Because he knew of their close relationship with the Saintess, Zhao Xi had already had the Li Zhou brothers imprisoned. He never expected them to escape and lead over a hundred men toward the Xing Family.

"Send people after them immediately! Don't let them catch up to the Saintess!" Zhao Xi ordered. "If the Xing Family learns of this, they will surely vent their wrath on our Jiuli Tribe!"

"Yes!" The clan member acknowledged the order and turned to leave.

"Wait!" Li Xuan's voice was cold. "Our Li Clan has been passed down to this day and has never suffered such humiliation. It is a good thing that the men of our clan still have hot blood in their veins and do not fear the Xing Family!"

"Great Elder, what do you mean by that?" Zhao Xi's expression changed drastically. "If Li Zhou and his men catch up to the Saintess and something happens, how will the Xing Family possibly let us off?"

"Enough, Zhao Xi!" The Second Elder could no longer stand it. His beard and hair bristled with rage as he glared at Zhao Xi. "Are you so afraid of death that you would push the Saintess into a pit of fire?"

Zhao Xi's mouth twitched before he sneered coldly. "Second Elder, since you've all put it that way, I won't hide it anymore. I have already notified the Xing Family Members to intercept the Saintess on her way."

"Zhao Xi, how dare you!" An intense killing intent flashed in the Second Elder's eyes as a fierce wave of Internal Energy radiated from his body.

However, Zhao Xi was not the least bit afraid. Instead, he looked smug. "Second Elder, the Saintess marrying into the Xing Family is a joyous occasion for both our clans. Why should we prevent it?"

"You dare betray the Jiuli Tribe?" The Second Elder's pupils shrank as he stared at Zhao Xi in disbelief. "You ungrateful, heartless beast!"

"Heartless?" Zhao Xi scoffed. "I'm thinking of the tens of millions of lives in the Li Clan!"

Looking at the assembled elders, Zhao Xi said gravely, "Everyone, a wise man submits to the circumstances. I'm sure you are all aware of the Xing Family's strength. They even have a Grandmaster in their ranks. How can our Li Clan possibly resist such a formidable family? Is sacrificing one Saintess not worth it to preserve our entire clan? Moreover," Zhao Xi added with a faint smile, "as long as the Saintess marries into the Xing Family, our two clans can join forces. Southern Sky will be within our grasp. Even restoring our ancient glory will no longer be an empty promise."

Hearing this, some of the elders began to waver.

An elder mulled it over for a long moment before saying, "I will go and bring the Li Zhou brothers back at once. We absolutely cannot let them reach the Saintess."

"Then I will have to trouble Elder Quan," Zhao Xi said with a slight smile. He scanned the crowd, his face full of pride. "Everyone, since the Saintess is already on her way to the Xing Family, why don't we just wait and see how things play out?"

At that, many of the elders fell silent.

Li Xuan and the few elders on her side turned livid with rage. But alongside their anger was a sense of shock. Zhao Xi had somehow managed to rally a significant number of the elders to his side. Now, one faction supported the Saintess's marriage into the Xing Family, while another remained neutral, too angry to agree but too afraid to speak out. Those who opposed him were few and far between. Besides, the Saintess had already been gone for a day. It was possible the Xing Family Members had already received her, which silenced even more of the dissent.

The Second Elder roared, "Zhao Xi, by doing this, are you not afraid the Miao King will hold you accountable when he emerges from his seclusion?"

"The Miao King?" Zhao Xi scoffed. "It's been so long without a single word from him. Who knows if he's just hiding on purpose." Zhao Xi had never seen the King of the Miao of the Li Clan; everything he knew was hearsay. Therefore, he held little respect for the man.

"Insolent!" Li Xuan raged, slamming her cane heavily on the ground. A burst of Internal Energy erupted from the impact, sending Zhao Xi flying. "The Miao King is supreme! His name is not for you to profane!" Murderous intent flared in Li Xuan's eyes.

However, several elders allied with Zhao Xi stepped in front of her, blocking her path.

Li Xuan seethed with hatred.

COUGH, COUGH.

Zhao Xi scrambled up from the floor. He wasn't angry; instead, a cold smile played on his lips. "If the Miao King is truly as strong as you claim, why didn't he show himself when Xing Yi came to propose the marriage? And why didn't he appear when the Saintess left? I say he knew he was no match for the Xing Family Patriarch and deliberately hid himself away!"

Zhao Xi's words were filled with disrespect and mockery toward the Miao King.

"Zhao Xi, you are bold!" the Second Elder said, his eyes glinting with murderous intent. "Do you truly believe I won't kill you?"

Zhao Xi threw his head back and laughed. "Kill me? Look at the situation. Even if you wanted to kill me, could you?" Around him stood at least seven or eight elders, all of them formidable.

"Fine! Very fine!" The Second Elder's face turned ashen with fury. He never imagined there were so many disloyal beasts within the Li Clan. "When the Miao King emerges from seclusion, I will report every detail of this to him. Let's see if you are still so arrogant in his presence!" For now, with the Miao King in seclusion, the Second Elder didn't want to cause more trouble.

"I will be waiting," Zhao Xi sneered. "I'd like to see for myself if this Miao King you revere so much really has three heads and six arms. I just hope he doesn't run away first."

BOOM!

The instant Zhao Xi's words fell, a deafening roar echoed between heaven and earth.

Following the sound, a figure in cyan robes appeared, descending with his hands clasped behind his back.

"You wished to see me?"

Chapter 364: I Want to Kill You, and I Will!

The newcomer seemed to step out of thin air.

His body radiated a cyan light so brilliant it outshone the very colors of the world.

What everyone first saw was a pair of eyes sparkling with an incomparably divine light, looking down on all life with disdain.

"CRACKLE!"

It was as if a cyan lightning bolt streaked across the heavens. Zhao Xi instinctively shut his eyes, not daring to look directly.

At that moment, shock seized his heart, and fear filled his expression. In that fleeting instant, he had felt an incomparably sharp aura lock onto him. If he dared to open his eyes, he would undoubtedly be torn to shreds.

After what felt like an eternity, Zhao Xi slowly opened his eyes to discover the dazzling divine glow was fading, revealing a tall, straight-backed figure.

"Who are you?" Zhao Xi asked, suppressing his fear. He felt a powerful sense of crisis emanating from this person, and his heart trembled in shock.

The person was a young man in casual clothes.

A mane of thick, black hair was draped casually over his shoulders, and a cold, cyan light flickered unpredictably in his eyes. His skin was translucent, like the finest mutton-fat jade in the world.

More crucially, Zhao Xi sensed an extremely mysterious and profound aura about the youth.

Though he stood right before their eyes, he also seemed as distant as the horizon.

It was as if, in his eyes, they were the most insignificant of beings.

The youth was none other than Lin Mu!

"Miao... Miao King?!"

Li Xuan and the Second Elder were initially stunned, then fell to their knees with a thud. They trembled with excitement, tears streaming down their faces.

The Li Clan Elders who had seen Lin Mu before also knelt. Those who were close to Zhao Xi were especially terrified, shaking uncontrollably.

The Miao King has emerged from his seclusion?! And he seems to have become more powerful, more unfathomable!

"Rise," Lin Mu said calmly.

His voice, while the same as before, now possessed a magnetic quality that sounded like the world's most beautiful music to all who heard it.

This shocked everyone once again!

In just half a year, the Miao King seemed to have become a different person.

He was taller than before and even more handsome. His shoulder-length hair added an air of mystery, and his body looked as if it were sculpted to the golden ratio, flawless in every way, like Apollo, the Sun God of Western mythology.

He appeared like a radiant sun, dazzling and commanding attention.

A complete transformation!

The term simultaneously flashed through the minds of Li Xuan and the others, as it perfectly described the Miao King's change.

Lin Mu had indeed undergone a complete transformation.

Not only had his cultivation level broken through the Twelfth Level of Qi Refining with the construction of the Twelve-Fold Towers, but his entire body had also been tempered inside and out by them.

At this moment, he possessed an Innate Body. Even without cultivation, he would have a long lifespan and a physique so strong that it was impervious to blades and bullets.

Though he had not reached Foundation Establishment, he was already stronger than those who had!

As long as there was sufficient Spiritual Energy, reaching Foundation Establishment was merely a thought away for him.

This was because, even in the Eternal Immortal Realm, across the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths, no one had ever managed to construct all Twelve-Fold Towers at once during the Qi Refinement Realm!

"Congratulations, Miao King, on formally entering the Divine Communion Realm!" Li Xuan's voice carried a hint of excited ecstasy.

The Miao King had been in the Grandmaster Realm before, but now his aura could only be described as something beyond that.

Beyond a Grandmaster is Reaching the Divine!

All the Li Clan Elders and the gathered clan members watched the scene, struck with awe.

Reaching the Divine? What sort of realm is that?

"Congratulations, Miao King, for Reaching the Divine!"

But regardless, the people of the Li Clan revered Lin Mu as a Heavenly God. Like the most fervent of believers, they dropped to their knees in a great wave.

Only a handful of elders remained standing alone, unsure whether to kneel or stand, in an utterly embarrassing predicament.

They had never seen the Miao King and naturally didn't know that Lin Mu was him.

Even now, their minds were still reeling from the shock of Lin Mu's aura; they had yet to fully come to their senses.

"Reaching the Divine?"

Lin Mu shook his head. "I have not Reached the Divine."

"You haven't Reached the Divine?"

Li Xuan and the others were stunned.

If he hadn't Reached the Divine, how could he exert such immense pressure on them, to the point that they couldn't even muster a sliver of resistance?

Lin Mu didn't explain. Instead, he slowly walked to the head seat and sat down.

"Tell me what happened."

Lin Mu had been in seclusion, utterly unable to pay attention to the outside world. He only knew that Li Lingqing had bid him farewell, saying she was going to the Xing Family.

"Miao King, it's like this..."

The Second Elder eagerly hurried forward, knelt respectfully before Lin Mu, and recounted everything that had transpired in meticulous detail. This included Zhao Xi colluding with several elders to stop

them, as well as sending Quan the Elder to pursue the Brothers Li Zhou. He recounted every last detail with perfect clarity.

"Miao King, the Xing Family has gone too far! They used the lives of our Li Clan members to force the Saintess into marriage. This is an outrageous disgrace to our clan!" The Second Elder's eyes were red. He pointed a furious finger at Zhao Xi and said, "But this man is the most despicable of all! Not only does he feel no shame, but he thinks the Xing Family marrying the Saintess is a blessing for our clan. His words were also utterly disrespectful toward you, Miao King!"

By the end, the Second Elder was silently weeping.

In the past, the Bai Miao Village was nearly obliterated by the High Priest, causing countless casualties. It was the Miao King who had saved their entire clan and preserved the Li Clan's bloodline.

It was also the Miao King who enabled the Li Clan to connect with the outside world, improving their lives, enhancing their strength, and helping them survive.

Thus, within the entire Li Clan, besides Li Lingqing and a few others, the Second Elder was the most loyal to Lin Mu.

The events of the past two days had wounded him deeply.

That was why he had secretly arranged for the Brothers Li Zhou to be freed, hoping they could catch up to the Saintess and find a way to take her far away from the Southern Sky.

But he never expected that Zhao Xi would notify the Xing Family and ask them to send people to collect the Saintess.

Utterly detestable!

"Is what the Second Elder said true?" After listening, Lin Mu's expression didn't change much. He just looked at Zhao Xi and spoke calmly.

"This..."

Zhao Xi's complexion paled slightly. He didn't dare to look into Lin Mu's eyes.

"Not talking?"

Lin Mu smiled faintly and raised a single finger. "If you don't talk, you die."

"You want to kill me?"

Zhao Xi was horrified and hastily took two steps back. "Miao King, are you going to kill me without even getting the facts straight? I won't accept this!"

"You won't accept this?"

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "I am the King of the Li Clan. You colluded with the Xing Family and forced my disciple into a marriage. Isn't that reason enough?"

Zhao Xi's face changed, his heart filled with dread. He gritted his teeth and said, "I did this for the good of the Li Clan! If the Saintess doesn't marry into the Xing Family, our clan will be doomed!"

"Must we grovel and eke out an existence under another's thumb just to survive?"

Lin Mu's eyes were filled with mockery. He shook his head and said, "If you enjoy being a dog, why drag my disciple into it?"

"You..."

Zhao Xi sneered, "But you can't kill me! If you do, the Xing Family will never let you off!"

"Because I have already with the Xing Family..."

"PFFT!"

However, before Zhao Xi could finish his words, a ray of light shot from Lin Mu's fingertip and pierced straight through his head.

"You..."

"You overestimate yourself," Lin Mu said indifferently. "If I decide to kill you, I simply do."

Chapter 365: To annihilate the Xing Family, I alone am enough!

Killed him, just like that? The Miao King was as decisive as ever.

No! He was even more extreme than before! Because no one had seen how the Miao King made his move. With just a point of his finger, a bloody hole appeared in the center of Zhao Xi's forehead.

THUD!

Zhao Xi slowly fell to the ground, blood streaming from the hole between his brows. His wide-open pupils were filled with disbelief and despair. He had been so certain that Lin Mu wouldn't dare to kill him, but in the end, he was dead all the same.

Looking at Zhao Xi's body, Lin Mu said coolly, "Who else colluded with the Xing Family and pressured my disciple to marry against her will? Step forward on your own."

His words shocked everyone.

What does the Miao King mean? Wasn't killing Zhao Xi enough?

"Miao King..." an elder began to speak, but Lin Mu, without even a glance, waved his hand.

A wisp of sword intent shot out, instantly piercing through the elder's forehead. It was another one-hit kill!

Several elders took an involuntary step back, their eyes filled with terror. They had all stood with Zhao Xi earlier, opposing Li Xuan.

"This is your last chance," Lin Mu said coldly. "If you don't cherish it, don't blame me for being merciless!"

At these words, the faces of several elders changed drastically.

THUD!

One elder dropped to his knees, kowtowing incessantly to Lin Mu. "Miao King, spare my life! It was all Zhao Xi! He forced me!"

This elder had also been close to Zhao Xi. Now, under the weight of Lin Mu's pressure, he dared not hide anything and confessed everything.

"It was Zhao Xi who told us that we would gain great benefits if we forced the Saintess to marry into the Xing Family..."

Listening to this elder's words, Li Xuan and the others turned ashen with rage.

"You treacherous beasts who bite the hand that feeds you!" the Second Elder roared. If the Miao King hadn't been present, he would have struck the man dead himself.

"Yang Hui, you dare betray the Xing Family, you..." another elder suddenly shouted, pointing at the kneeling man. He had only just started speaking when his face filled with horror.

He'd forgotten the Miao King was right there!

Run! That was the only thought in his mind. The elder shot up and fled at high speed toward the exit. He was incredibly fast, reaching the main gate in the blink of an eye.

"Stop him!" the Second Elder yelled in alarm. "We cannot let him get away!"

Several villagers of the Bai Miao Village immediately stepped forward to block the fleeing elder.

"Get out of my way!" the elder roared, his eyes filled with a fierce killing intent as he struck out with his palm.

Two villagers were sent flying backward, bleeding, forced to watch as he escaped toward the gate.

The elder stared at the gate, his eyes wild with excitement. Faster, just a little faster! Once I'm out of Bai Miao Village, no matter how strong the Miao King is, he won't be able to do anything to me!

He had planned it well. As soon as he escaped, he would contact the Xing Family and have them protect him.

"Damn it, he got away!" the Second Elder fumed, his face a mask of frustration.

Lin Mu, however, just smiled faintly. "Don't worry, he won't get far."

Everyone was stunned. The elder is already near the gate. How could anyone possibly catch him from this distance?

As they wondered, they saw Lin Mu suddenly extend his hand and grasp at the empty air. A Sword of Light emerged from his palm. Unlike the previous one, this sword was more solid, emitting an even sharper sword aura.

A soul-shaking hum rang out, causing everyone's scalp to tingle as a bone-chilling presence filled the air.

"Go!"

With a gentle wave of Lin Mu's hand, the Sword of Light shot forward, slashing toward the elder.

The man had already leaped onto the wall, preparing to jump clear. But just as he sprang into the air, the sword light whistled in and swept lightly across his waist.

With a soft noise, the elder's lower body dropped to the ground, while his upper half continued to lurch forward out of habit.

Suddenly, the elder felt something was wrong. He looked down and discovered that his body below the waist was gone.

"No!"

Terror and despair filled the elder's eyes. The world began to spin as his vision filled with red, and he crashed heavily to the ground.

Silence fell over the entire hall. It was deathly quiet.

Not a single person dared to make a sound. From a hundred meters away, the Miao King had killed the man with a single strike. This was beyond what a mortal could comprehend!

"Traitors of the Li Clan shall be executed!"

As everyone reeled in shock, a calm voice reached their ears. Instantly, the sword intent in the hall surged. Several other elders who had sided with the Xing Family were bisected by flashes of light.

The scent of blood quietly spread through the hall, making many feel dizzy.

Li Xuan and the others all knelt.

"The Miao King is mighty!"

"The Miao King's divine arts reach the heavens! This is truly a blessing for our Li Clan!"

As the elders in the hall knelt, countless People of the Li Clan outside did the same, crying out the Miao King's name, the fervor in their eyes burning even brighter.

Lin Mu slowly stood up. "Pass on my command. Find everyone who has colluded with the Xing Family. Not a single one is to be missed!"

"Yes!" Li Xuan immediately agreed, her heart filled with excitement.

The Miao King is going to cleanse the Miao Territory completely!

"If any resist, kill them without mercy!"

Leaving these words behind, Lin Mu slowly walked outside.

"Miao King, you're..." Li Xuan asked, both puzzled and expectant.

Lin Mu paused. "I'm going to the Xing Family to demand what is owed," he said coolly.

What? Going to the Xing Family to demand what is owed?

"Miao King, shouldn't we discuss this further?" Li Xuan urged. "After all, the Xing Family has a Grandmaster in its ranks."

Xing Zirong is ranked much higher than the Miao King on the Heavenly List. He's a powerful expert on the verge of the top ten. No matter how strong the Miao King is now, hasn't he failed to reach the Divine Communion Realm? How could he dare go to the Xing Family to make demands?

"A mere top-ten spot on the Heavenly List is beneath my notice," Lin Mu said with a faint smile. "Though I am not in the Divine Communion Realm, I can still kill a true master of that realm with a single strike!"

Feeling the powerful confidence in Lin Mu's tone, Li Xuan and the others exchanged glances, their eyes reflecting their shared shock. Is the Miao King being confident, or overconfident?

The Second Elder spoke gravely, "Miao King, if you insist on going to the Xing Family, I will muster our clan's warriors at once. We will go with you!"

If he was going, they couldn't let the Miao King face the danger alone.

"Hahaha," Lin Mu laughed heartily. "You all think too little of this king. To annihilate the Xing Family, I alone am enough!"

As his voice fell, a bolt of heavenly lightning flashed in the sky, landing before Lin Mu and hovering three feet off the ground. It was an Ancient Sword inscribed with draconic patterns!

It was the Flying Sword Dragon Rider!

VMMMM!

The instant the Dragon Rider appeared, it transformed into a massive, dark green dragon dozens of feet long. Its scales bristled, and it radiated a powerful aura.

Lin Mu stepped forward, landing perfectly atop the dragon's head.

ROAR!

Amidst an earth-shattering dragon's roar, Lin Mu rode the sword away, vanishing over the horizon in the blink of an eye.

Watching the rapidly disappearing figure, the villagers of Bai Miao Village collapsed to the ground in unison, struck silent with shock.

Chapter 366: Where the Sword Points, All Are Ants!

"Hurry, faster!" Li Zhou fought back his exhaustion, urging the people behind him to quicken their pace.

The Saintess had left Bai Miao Village a day ago. Given her speed, she couldn't have reached the Xing Family's territory yet. However, they needed to find her before the Xing Family did and get her out of Southern Sky.

"Brothers, pick up the pace!" Li Tong said in a low voice, wielding his Miao Knife. "We absolutely cannot let the Saintess marry into the Xing Family!"

"Right!" the hundreds of Bai Miao Village warriors roared, their eyes filled with determination.

"Good!" Li Zhou shouted. "You are all worthy sons of the Li Clan! The Xing Family has gone too far, forcing our Saintess to go to them alone. This is a great humiliation for our clan!"

"Yes!"

"We won't allow it!"

"Let's attack the Xing Family and take back the Saintess!"

Seeing his invigorated clansmen, Li Zhou felt a deep sense of relief. Although some were cowards, the Li Clan was not short of hot-blooded men. These men, in particular, had all practiced the body-strengthening techniques passed down by the Miao King, and their strength had increased significantly. Even against the Xing Family, they now stood a fighting chance!

"Li Zhou, Li Tong, how dare you defy the clan's orders and flee on your own? You deserve a thousand deaths!"

Just then, an icy voice dripping with killing intent sounded from behind them.

Li Zhou spun around, his expression changing instantly. "Everyone, run! It's Elder Quan Heng!"

He recognized the man. It was Elder Quan Heng, who was close to Zhao Xi. He was also a coward who had strongly advocated for the Saintess to be married off to the Xing Family.

"You're not going anywhere!" Quan Heng moved with incredible speed, catching up in the blink of an eye. Behind him, a large, armed group swarmed in to surround them. They were men from the Quan and Zhao Families, brought by Quan Heng. Every one of them held a weapon, their faces etched with murderous intent.

"Quan Heng, what do you think you're doing?" Li Zhou's face turned grim as he watched Quan Heng's men encircle them.

"What am I doing?" Quan Heng snorted. "Li Zhou, the union between the Dragon of the Xing Family, Xing Chong, and the Saintess is a match made in heaven and a great fortune for our Li Clan. What are you planning to do, bringing all these men here?"

"Don't you know perfectly well what we're doing?" Li Tong pointed his knife at Quan Heng and said coldly, "Old man, you want to use the Saintess's marriage to the Xing Family to save your own skin. You're shameless! You don't deserve to be a member of the Li Clan, let alone an Elder!"

"Li Tong, whether I deserve it or not isn't for you to decide!" Quan Heng's face darkened. "But if you dare to sabotage this momentous alliance, you will be treated as a traitor to the clan!"

"Pah!" Li Tong spat contemptuously. "You old traitor, siding with outsiders. You really think I don't know what you're plotting? You want to trade the Saintess for your own gain? Dream on!"

"Dream on!" the hundred warriors from Bai Miao Village roared, raising their knives to confront Quan Heng without a trace of fear.

"Fine, fine, fine!" Quan Heng sneered. "Since you refuse to see reason, don't blame me for being ruthless!" With a wave of his hand, he commanded coldly, "Kill them!"

"Kill!"

Quan Heng's followers immediately charged toward Li Zhou's group.

"You all go! Catch up with the Saintess! I'll hold them off!" Li Zhou roared, brandishing his knife as he rushed forward. His strength had increased rapidly, and dealing with these men from the Zhao and Quan families was almost effortless. In the blink of an eye, he had cut down several of them.

"Let's go!" Li Tong grit his teeth, leading the others away. As long as they could find the Saintess and stop her from reaching the Xing Family, their mission would be a success.

"Hmph!" Seeing Li Zhou slay several of his men, Quan Heng's face turned ugly, and he charged forward himself. "Do you really take me for a mere decoration!"

As a leading figure of the Tongren Quan Family, Quan Heng's strength was not to be underestimated; his cultivation had already reached the Internal Energy Early Stage. Although Li Zhou had trained diligently, he had only achieved External Strength and was no match for him.

Quan Heng threw a palm strike, sending Li Zhou's knife flying before landing a fist squarely on his chest.

"Pfft!" Li Zhou spat a mouthful of blood and was sent flying backward, his face turning deathly pale.

Grabbing a knife from one of his men, Quan Heng slowly approached Li Zhou, his face filled with murderous intent. "Brat, you dare ruin our plans? I'll send you to meet King Yama!"

"Brother!" From a distance, Li Tong saw this, and his eyes instantly turned bloodshot. He started to run back to help.

"Go! Don't worry about me!" Li Zhou yelled with all his might, his eyes filled with resolve. "Find the Saintess! Tell her I did my best!"

"No!" Li Tong roared, pushing his companions away. "You guys go find the Saintess! Hurry!" He ran back alone and helped Li Zhou to his feet.

"You idiot!" Li Zhou roared in anger. "Why did you come back?"

Gritting his teeth, Li Tong replied, "Brother, we're family. If we die, we die together!"

The two brothers looked at each other and shared a small smile. They nodded silently, preparing to launch one final, desperate attack.

Quan Heng smirked. "Tsk, tsk. Such a touching brotherly bond. In that case, allow me to fulfill your wish!"

As he finished speaking, he raised the knife and brought it down in a vicious arc.

"If you kill them, I will annihilate your clan."

Just then, an utterly cold voice echoed from the heavens. Everyone looked up to see a dark figure appear in the distant sky. It was far away at first, but in the blink of an eye, it was right before them.

"Huh?"

Li Zhou and his brother sensed something was wrong. They stared, wide-eyed, at the approaching figure. As it drew closer, they were so terrified they nearly collapsed.

It was a gray dragon, and standing atop its head was a man.

The man waved his hand lightly, and the dragon vanished, leaving behind only a streak of light that shot into the sky, seemingly hiding among the clouds. He then leaped, plummeting from a thousand meters in the air.

THUD!

The ground trembled violently as he landed, shaking the earth and splitting it with several fissures. The man stood there, right in front of them.

"Miao... Miao King?!" Shock, then ecstasy, then utter astonishment washed over the faces of the two brothers.

The Miao King had come out of seclusion?

Lin Mu gave the pair a slight nod.

"The Miao King? What Miao King?" Quan Heng snorted, but then his pupils shrank as realization dawned. He stammered, "You... You're the Miao King?!"

However, Lin Mu didn't even spare him a glance. With a casual wave of his hand, Quan Heng was sent flying. Before his body could even hit the ground, it was shredded into fragments as if by thousands of strands of Sword Qi, exploding into a shower of flesh and blood.

"Ah!"

The men from the Quan and Zhao families screamed in terror, their eyes filled with horror as they stared at Lin Mu. What kind of sorcery was this? With just a wave of his hand, he had turned Quan Heng into mincemeat.

"Run!"

After a panicked exchange of glances, they all scattered, fleeing frantically in every direction.

"Since you've come, you might as well stay," Lin Mu said, his eyes narrowing slightly. He raised his hands and grasped at the sky.

A resonant cry echoed from the clouds as the gray dragon poked its head out before transforming into an Ancient Sword that shot out in all directions.

Then, Li Zhou and his brother witnessed a scene they would never forget. The air filled with crisscrossing Sword Qi, which split into individual threads, each one accurately pursuing a fleeing man and piercing straight through him.

"Aaaah!"

In just a few seconds, the dozens of men Quan Heng had brought were all dead on the ground. Every single one had been pierced through the brow or chest by a sword, dead beyond any doubt.

Looking at the two stunned brothers, Lin Mu said, "You two, hurry back to Bai Miao Village. I will bring Ling Qing back."

By the time they snapped out of their daze, the Miao King was gone.

Li Tong couldn't help but swallow hard, his voice hoarse. "Brother, was that really the Miao King?"

"I think... it had to be, right?" Li Zhou was still reeling from the shock. The scene he had just witnessed could only be described with a single phrase: where the sword pointed, all were mere ants.

Chapter 367: The Strength of the Xing Family!

"Saintess of the Li Clan?"

Xing Yi looked at the young woman before him, a mocking smile forming on his face. "I thought your Li Clan was so strong, yet here you are, dutifully presenting yourself at our doorstep."

Li Lingqing seemed not to hear Xing Yi's mockery, her expression completely undisturbed as she stated calmly, "Take me to see Xing Chong."

After parting with Lin Mu, Li Lingqing had come to Yang City all by herself, prepared to enter the Xing Family.

Of course, she wasn't here to get married.

"Alright."

Xing Yi gave Li Lingqing a deep look and said, "Men, please escort the Saintess to the sedan chair and take her back to the Xing Family estate."

"Yes, sir!"

Four burly men carrying a sedan chair came over and placed it before Li Lingqing.

"Since the Saintess is here to wed the Dragon of the Xing Family, we naturally cannot neglect her," Xing Yi said with a smile. "Saintess, if you please?"

Li Lingqing's expression remained unchanged as she lifted her foot and entered the sedan chair.

"Let's go!"

With a wave of his hand, Xing Yi commanded the four men to lift the sedan chair and move swiftly along the mountain road.

Despite the steep path, the bearers moved as if on flat ground. They were incredibly fast, yet the sedan chair remained perfectly steady, without the slightest jolt.

The profound strength of the Hongfeng Lake Xing Family was clear at a glance.

Once the group had departed, from the very spot where Li Lingqing had been standing, an insect slowly pushed its head out from the soil. Its two antennae twitched several times in the direction Li Lingqing had gone.

RUSTLE... RUSTLE...

A rustling sound came from the undergrowth. From within the mountain forest, countless insects emerged, chasing after the departing group.

Sitting in the sedan chair, Li Lingqing's previously calm expression had vanished, replaced by a complex one.

Master, will you really come?

As if talking to herself, Li Lingqing gave a bitter smile. The Xing Family is guarded by a Grandmaster and teeming with experts. It would be better if you did not come.

A resolute look crossed her face as she murmured, "In life, I am the Saintess of the Li Clan; in death, I shall be the soul of the Li Clan!"

A white insect crawled out from her sleeve, gently nuzzling her hand.

The corners of Li Lingqing's mouth lifted slightly, blooming into a breathtaking yet desolate smile.

「Hongfeng Lake.」

Hongfeng Lake is situated west of Yang City in Southern Sky, about 28 kilometers from the provincial capital. It serves as the first stop on Southern Sky's golden tourism route. The scenic area spans 200 square kilometers. It is a national-level scenic area and a 4A-level tourist attraction, celebrated for its fusion of plateau lakes, karst landforms, and the customs of ethnic minorities.

By the lake stands Red Maple Ridge, which, along with the lakeshore, is covered in sweetgum trees. In late autumn, the maple leaves turn as red as fire, creating a beautiful contrast against the turquoise water, earning the place its name, "Hongfeng Lake."

After years of development and maintenance by the Xing Family, the vast Hongfeng Lake had been made extraordinarily beautiful. The rolling mountain ranges along both banks of the Qingxi River were submerged by a pool of clear water, forming over a hundred islands of various sizes.

The great poet Guo Moruo once visited the Xing Family and praised the scenery with a poem: "Like three thousand West Lakes, the mountains have lost their height; peaks have become islands, and waves roll over the flat land."

This alone spoke to the high status of Hongfeng Lake in Southern Sky.

And the strength and heritage of the Xing Family were even greater.

Li Lingqing, however, was in no mood to admire the scenery. She followed Xing Yi and the others straight into a Xing Family villa. Around Hongfeng Lake, many villas and mansions had been built—all properties of the Xing Family.

The main residence of the Xing Family, however, was on the highest mountain. From there, one could overlook the surrounding mountains and take in the panoramic view of Hongfeng Lake, capturing all the beauty of the landscape.

The moment she entered the main hall, Li Lingqing felt countless pairs of eyes fall upon her. There were looks of amazement, admiration, mockery, and also disdain.

With her expression unchanged and her posture erect, Li Lingqing fearlessly met the gaze of the middle-aged man seated in the main seat.

"Li Lingqing, Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe, pays her respects to the Xing Family Head!"

This middle-aged man was none other than the Xing Family Head, Xing Yong.

"Audacious!"

The instant Li Lingqing finished speaking, a Xing Family Elder barked, "You see the Xing Family Head and do not kneel in salute? The Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe is utterly without manners!"

"The Jiuli Tribe only taught me how to serve the Miao King and protect my people. It did not teach me how to kneel." Li Lingqing looked at the elder, her tone neither humble nor arrogant, and added with a hint of mockery, "Xing Family Elder, perhaps you would like to teach me?"

At these words, the hall fell silent. This Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe, with her sharp tongue, is no simple character.

Publicly rebuked by Li Lingqing, the elder's expression turned incredibly foul as a powerful aura erupted from his body. "I only call you Saintess out of respect for Great God Chiyou! Otherwise, what do you think you are?"

The Xing Family Elder's eyes filled with scorn as he sneered, "The Xing Family demanded you present yourself for marriage, and you still came all the same!"

This remark was indeed the height of humiliation.

Li Lingqing's eyes flickered, but she did not grow angry. Instead, she said coolly, "I am not here because I fear the Xing Family, nor am I here to marry your so-called Dragon of the Xing Family."

"Oh?" The Xing Family Elder laughed. "Then why are you here?"

"I am here to seek justice!"

A faint, otherworldly aura emanated from Li Lingqing, stunning everyone in the hall.

She is truly worthy of being the Saintess of the Li Clan! That temperament is a perfect match for the Dragon of the Xing Family!

Her statement, however, made many people laugh.

Seek justice from the Xing Family? Only the Saintess of the Li Clan could come up with such a notion.

"The Xing Family has already forgotten its ancestral teachings, forsaken Great God Chiyou, and forgotten its own identity. Now that you've established yourselves as an independent power, I have nothing more to say on that matter." Li Lingqing's gaze was sharp and piercing as she addressed the crowd. "But the Li Clan has its own rules. The Saintess belongs to the Miao King and must serve the King her entire life. Your Xing Family is not worthy of taking me in marriage!"

Her resounding tone moved some of them slightly. But the idea that the Xing Family was unworthy? What a joke!

"Hmph. We of the Xing Family are descendants of Great God Xingtian, equal in status to your Great God Chiyou. How is that a betrayal?" Xing Yong said indifferently. "As for your so-called King of the Miao of the Li Clan, he is a mere joke. It is a great fortune for both our families that the Dragon of the Xing Family wishes to marry you."

"Agree, and we are done. Disagree, and you will still agree!" Xing Yong's words were filled with absolute dominance, leaving Li Lingqing no room to refuse.

In their eyes, now that she was here, anything she said was a joke.

"Heh, the mighty Xing Family is nothing but a house of robbers and bandits. You utterly shame Great God Xingtian!" Li Lingqing mocked. "If I refuse, what will you do? Kill me?"

"We won't kill you, of course." Xing Yong's eyes narrowed slightly. "But, Saintess, you should think carefully. The lives of tens of millions of people of the Li Clan hang in the balance, all in your hands."

At these words, Li Lingqing's expression changed.

This was her only weakness.

And the Xing Family was despicable enough to threaten her with the lives of her own people.

Yet, Li Lingqing could not afford to ignore it. She was the Saintess. It was her duty, her destiny, to guard the Li Clan's legacy.

Xing Yong waved his hand. "Take the Saintess away to rest. When Chong'er emerges from his seclusion, they will hold the grand wedding!"

Xing Yong made this move to prevent any unforeseen complications. Although no one dared to cause trouble at the Xing Family's estate, it was a matter of utmost urgency for Chong'er to wed the Saintess and consummate their marriage for the sake of his cultivation.

Li Lingqing hadn't expected the Xing Family to be so overbearing, completely disregarding her opinion. At this thought, her heart sank, filled with despair.

Could it be... that this is my destiny?

Chapter 368: Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm, Gu Fills Hongfeng Lake!

"Family Head, once Chong'er and the Saintess are married, our Xing Family will have two Grandmasters in residence!" an elder said with a smile after Li Lingqing was led away.

"Becoming a Martial Arts Grandmaster isn't that easy," Xing Yong's expression stiffened for a moment before he smiled again. "However, as long as Chong'er and this girl are united, it's only a matter of time before he advances to Grandmaster."

"Indeed," the other man said. "I observe that this girl is brimming with a pure and spiritual aura. It is extremely similar to the Cauldron described in our ancestral records and will surely be of great aid to Chong'er's cultivation."

The ancestral records stated that the union of the dragon and phoenix would lead to Reaching the Divine!

Xing Chong was the Dragon of the Xing Family, while the Saintess, Li Lingqing, was the Phoenix of the Li Clan. It took them generations to confirm this truth, and they had exerted much effort to do so.

"Remember, this matter must not be spread!" Xing Yong said in a grave tone. "As soon as Chong'er leaves his seclusion, have him consummate their relationship immediately!"

"Yes!"

「...」

Li Lingqing stood at the window, her heart incredibly heavy as she looked out at the sparkling waters of the lake.

I cannot let the Xing Family succeed!

A resolute look flashed in her eyes as she turned and pushed the door open. However, just as Li Lingqing stepped over the threshold, a sneering voice reached her. "Saintess, shouldn't you be resting in your room? Is there something you need?"

It was Xing Yi. The Xing Family had actually sent this man to guard her.

Li Lingqing's heart sank. "It's a bit stuffy in the room. I wanted to take a walk."

Xing Yi shook his head. "I advise the Saintess to stay in her room. The Dragon of the Xing Family will be here to visit you shortly."

Li Lingqing's expression changed. The Xing Family is in such a hurry?

Xing Yi smiled. "Rest assured, Saintess. Once you unite with the dragon of our clan, you will be the future matriarch of the Xing Family. This is a win-win situation for both you and the Li Clan."

"I don't see it that way!" Li Lingqing retorted. "Bring Xing Chong here. I want to see him!"

"My apologies, the Young Master is in seclusion. It will be a while before he can..."

Xing Yi hadn't finished speaking when a chuckle interrupted him.

"Since the Saintess wishes to see me, I should come for a visit, no matter how busy I am."

A slender young man slowly approached. Strange lights flickered in his eyes, and he exuded a powerful aura.

It was Xing Chong.

"Young Master!" Upon seeing Xing Chong, Xing Yi immediately bowed respectfully, a flash of excitement in his eyes.

Xing Chong waved his hand, his gaze fixed on Li Lingqing. The more he looked, the more satisfied he became. "Not bad. You are worthy of being my woman."

He nodded in satisfaction. "Come, serve me while I rest."

His tone was extremely casual, as if he were discussing some trivial matter.

Li Lingqing's eyes suddenly turned icy. This Xing Chong... he's so impatient?

Xing Chong suddenly smiled. "Marriage is just a formality. Neither of us is an ordinary person. We don't need such cumbersome rites."

Li Lingqing took a deep breath and looked at him. "Let's fight. If I lose, I will do as you wish. But if you lose, this matter ends here. How about it?"

This was her true purpose for coming to the Xing Family in person! She would challenge Xing Chong!

"Hmm?" Xing Chong blinked in surprise. "You want to challenge me?"

Then, he slowly shook his head. "You are no match for me, and I would hate to hurt you."

"We'll only know that after we fight!"

Li Lingqing's aura suddenly erupted, and her form became a blurred afterimage as she charged toward Xing Chong.

"What a reckless woman," Xing Chong shook his head in annoyance and then casually threw a punch.

BOOM!

With that one punch, all of Li Lingqing's afterimages were shattered. She herself staggered back several steps, her face growing pale.

Xing Chong retracted his fist. "The Li ethnic group Saintess? Is that all you amount to?"

A trace of defiance flashed in Li Lingqing's eyes as she retorted coldly, "Again!"

A white light began to radiate from her body in waves, making her appear even more ethereal and otherworldly.

A hint of greed suddenly appeared in Xing Chong's eyes. Licking his lips, he chuckled, "Since you insist, then today I will beat you into submission!"

The moment he finished speaking, Xing Chong dashed forward, engaging Li Lingqing in combat. Their exchange was extremely fast, trading over a dozen moves in the blink of an eye and attracting countless spectators.

"What's going on?" Xing Yong asked, watching the two combatants with a grave expression.

Xing Yi explained the situation, then laughed. "Clearly, the Li ethnic group Saintess is not resigned to this, delusionally challenging the Dragon of the Xing Family."

"Hmm," Xing Yong said indifferently. "Send men to guard this area. Don't let any outsiders approach."

Xing Yi assented and quickly departed.

Meanwhile, Xing Yong continued to watch the fighters, his expression solemn. This Li ethnic group Saintess... such splendid agility. Li Lingqing was like a butterfly, continuously launching attacks as she fluttered around Xing Chong. Her graceful movements were like a dance.

A pity. She is no match for Chong'er, Xing Yong concluded.

"That's to be expected. Chong'er is the Dragon of the Xing Family and has already set one foot through that door. With just one more push, he will reach Half-step Grandmaster within three years and will surely become a full Grandmaster within ten!"

"Indeed, Chong'er's talent is extraordinary. He is no longer a mere mortal."

"..."

The few Xing Family elders who had rushed over also nodded frequently, their faces full of confident smiles.

They were right. Li Lingqing only managed to hold on for a few minutes before Xing Chong landed a palm strike on her shoulder, sending her flying.

COUGH! COUGH!

Blood trickled from the corners of Li Lingqing's mouth as she looked at Xing Chong in shock. She hadn't expected Xing Chong to be so powerful. She couldn't even defeat him.

But she had not yet unleashed her full strength.

At that thought, a coldness entered Li Lingqing's eyes. She stretched out her hand, and a white insect immediately landed on her shoulder, letting out a faint squeaking noise.

"What is that..." Xing Yong suddenly exclaimed. "The Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm?"

"Xing Yi was right! The Jiuli Tribe actually managed to cultivate this insect!" another elder exclaimed, his eyes burning with greed.

"Go! Fetch that item! This insect must be brought under the control of our Xing Family!" Xing Yong suddenly ordered.

"Yes!"

Li Lingqing's eyes were fixed coldly on Xing Chong. With a mere thought, the Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm on her shoulder began to flap its wings wildly.

SKITTER! SKITTER!

An eerie sound followed. To the shock of the Xing Family Members, Hongfeng Lake was suddenly overrun with countless snakes, insects, rats, and ants. The sheer density of the swarm was enough to make one's scalp crawl.

For the first time, Xing Chong's expression changed. "What are you doing?" he demanded.

Her face slightly pale, Li Lingqing declared, "Defeating you, of course!"

She pointed a finger, and ice-cold words escaped her lips. "Devour them!"

Countless insects began to gnaw at everything around them. Flowers, plants, trees, buildings—anything visible was being frenziedly devoured. Even many Xing Family Members began to fall victim, letting out piercing screams.

"You're asking for death!" A cold glint flashed in Xing Chong's eyes. "Do you think I don't dare to kill you?"

"That depends on whether you have the ability!"

With a cold snort, Li Lingqing utilized the Exterminate God Gu Sutra to command the thousands of insects, madly planting Gu throughout the Xing Family's estate.

That madwoman! To think she would actually control the Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm to plant Gu all over Hongfeng Lake

Chapter 369: Lotuses as Ladders, Starlight as Bridges!

If she succeeded, the Xing Family would be doomed even if he killed Li Lingqing.

Gu poison has been feared and loathed since ancient times for its extreme contagiousness. If not personally removed by the one who cast it, the poison would remain hidden within the body, ready to erupt at any moment.

Lin Mu had taught Li Lingqing the Exterminate God Gu Sutra and bestowed upon her the Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm. With them combined, she could command tens of thousands of insects and control countless Gu, making her skills in both raising and deploying them comparable to a Grandmaster's.

This was why Lin Mu had said Li Lingqing could even hold her own against a Grandmaster.

It was also why Li Lingqing dared to come to the Xing Family alone.

Xing Chong cursed in anger. His aura surged as he moved to capture Li Lingqing.

"Chong'er, catch!"

Just then, Xing Yong suddenly threw something to Xing Chong. He caught it, his face immediately lighting up with elation.

"The Bu Ling Wang!"

The Bu Ling Wang was a treasure passed down from the Xing Family's ancestors, capable of subduing any Gu King. It was the perfect tool to use against Li Lingqing.

However, only those with the Xing Family bloodline could wield it.

Xing Chong gripped the Bu Ling Wang and channeled his True Qi. With a flick of his palm, a large net shot out instantly.

"SQUEAK! SQUEAK!"

As if encountering its natural predator, the Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm shrieked piercingly. It broke free of Li Lingqing's control and flew straight into the net.

At the same time, the countless other insects went limp and fell motionless to the ground.

"PFFT!"

Li Lingqing suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood, her face turning deathly pale.

"You... you actually have the Bu Ling Wang."

Xing Chong held the net. Inside, a snow-white insect struggled frantically, but its strength waned until it finally went limp and still.

Xing Chong sneered, "Li Lingqing, you truly have surprised me."

Carrying the Bu Ling Wang, Xing Chong said coldly, "If my Xing Family hadn't made thorough preparations, we really would have been destroyed by you."

Xing Chong walked toward Li Lingqing step by step and abruptly slapped her across the face. "Did you really think I wanted you to be my woman?" he said in a cold voice.

"How utterly foolish!"

Xing Chong looked at Li Lingqing with a cold, vicious sneer. "It's only because my Xing Family has been cursed for generations, unable to ascend to the Divine Communion Realm no matter how we cultivate. To lift this curse, the essence blood of the Li ethnic group Saintess is essential!"

The alliance with the Jiuli Tribe was a sham. Using Li Lingqing for cultivation was also a lie.

The Xing Family's goal had always been to use Li Lingqing to break their curse.

In ancient times, countless generals under the Great God Chiyou swore an oath to follow him to the death.

However, the Xing Family's descendants later betrayed the Li Clan. As a result, they suffered a bloodline backlash and were forever unable to advance to the Divine Communion Realm.

After generations of research, the Xing Family discovered that to break the curse, they needed the bloodline of the Li ethnic group Saintess.

After biding their time until today, the Xing Family had finally made their move!

Li Lingqing finally understood. Shocked, she also felt a deep-seated fear at the Xing Family's incredible patience.

This family is insane! They were the ones who had betrayed their ancestral teachings, and now they are the ones committing this insubordination! They're utterly detestable!

"Chong'er, stop wasting your breath on her!" Xing Yong said coldly. "Kill her and take her essence blood! Not only will you have a chance to step into the Grandmaster realm, but *that person* in our Xing Family will also be able to advance further!"

"Mm," Xing Chong nodded. The 'that person' Xing Yong mentioned was, of course, the Xing Family Patriarch, Xing Zirong!

He was at a critical juncture! Therefore, the essence blood of the Li ethnic group Saintess was absolutely indispensable!

Xing Chong slowly approached Li Lingqing, his eyes filled with a cruel and overwhelming killing intent.

All the Xing Family members watched this scene with palpable excitement.

As long as they took Li Lingqing's essence blood, the Xing Family would be saved.

Although they themselves had no hope of becoming Grandmasters in this life, this was a moment that would change the fate of the entire Xing Family's lineage—a moment destined to be recorded in the clan's annals.

Li Lingqing was suffering from the backlash, and with her Spiritual Energy severely depleted, she had no chance to resist. But she wasn't the slightest bit afraid. On the contrary, her expression held a trace of mockery.

"You want my blood?" Li Lingqing's eyes filled with defiance. "Dream on!"

Suddenly, Li Lingqing mustered all her remaining strength and dashed toward the nearby Hongfeng Lake.

"Stop her!" Xing Yong's expression changed, and he shot forward.

"Trying to die?" Xing Chong was incredibly fast. In the blink of an eye, he appeared behind Li Lingqing, reaching out to grab her. "It would be better to surrender obediently and save yourself the pain!"

Just as his palm was about to close around Li Lingqing, an impossibly indifferent voice suddenly reached his ears. "If your hand so much as touches her, I will kill one person from your Xing Family for it."

"Master!" Hearing this voice, Li Lingqing's entire body trembled, and her forward rush came to a halt.

It's Master! It has to be Master! She abruptly lifted her head, her gaze searching frantically.

Finally, in the center of Hongfeng Lake, she saw a familiar figure.

The figure seemed to have been standing on the lake's surface for some time, unmoved by the gentle breeze or the rippling water.

A smile so stunning it could captivate the world blossomed on Li Lingqing's face, and as she smiled, tears began to stream from her eyes.

"Master, you came," she whispered.

The person was Lin Mu. His expression was placid as a gentle breeze lifted his bangs, revealing a pair of brilliant and mysterious eyes.

Just then, starlight cascaded down upon him, its reflection on the water forming a shimmering bridge. Yet, the light of a million stars could not outshine the brilliance in his eyes.

Every member of the Xing Family who witnessed this held their breath. What kind of power is this? Standing on water? A Martial Arts Grandmaster?!

Everyone's pupils constricted.

But what truly made their hearts seize was watching Lin Mu take a step, and then another, walking toward them across the water.

With each step he took, the water beneath his feet churned, blossoming into a lotus flower. Each new lotus rose higher than the last, forming what looked like a staircase to the heavens.

Lin Mu ascended this lotus staircase until he was finally standing on solid ground.

The staircase of lotuses suspended over the lake slowly descended, sinking silently back into the water without making a single ripple, as if afraid to disturb him.

"HISS!" The Xing Family members watching this spectacle were utterly shaken, as if they were looking upon a Heavenly Being. Lotuses for stairs and starlight for a bridge!

"Enough with the theatrics!" Xing Chong's face hardened, his tone dripping with disdain as he lunged for Li Lingqing again.

As long as I capture this woman, no matter how powerful this man is, I'll have a bargaining chip.

"It seems you didn't take my words to heart," Lin Mu said, glancing at Xing Chong.

That single glance made Xing Chong's very soul tremble. For a moment, he felt as if he had plunged into a bottomless Abyss, one filled with endless mountains of corpses, seas of blood, and countless Demons and Monsters.

Xing Chong froze, his back instantly drenched in a cold sweat.

"Who on earth are you?!" Xing Chong's tone grew heavy. This man was too enigmatic, his strength unfathomable. For a moment, Xing Chong didn't dare to make a move.

Lin Mu's lips curled into a smile. "You may call me the Miao King. Or you can call me... Lin Wudi!"

Chapter 370: An Immortal Strokes My Head, Granting Me the Secret of Eternal Life!

Miao King?

Lin Wudi?

The entire Hongfeng Lake fell silent.

Everyone's eyes widened as they stared at the young man standing beneath the starry sky, their expressions shifting.

These two names were all too familiar to them.

Setting aside the title of Miao King, the name Lin Wudi alone represented a Grandmaster ranked sixteenth on the Heavenly List.

Legend had it his techniques reached the heavens. Atop the Bolan River, he had slain Yun Xu with his bare hands and even accepted the challenge of Zhang Daoyun from the Celestial Master Mansion.

But since when had he also become the Miao King of the Jiuli Tribe?

"You are the Miao King?" Xing Yi snorted coldly. "The Jiuli Tribe has an ancestral teaching that an outsider cannot inherit the position of Miao King. If you are Lin Wudi of River City, how could you possibly be the Miao King?"

"Indeed! This person must be bluffing; his words can't be trusted!"

"Who cares if he's the real Miao King or not? Daring to come to our Xing Family is a death wish!"

...

Listening to the chatter, Lin Mu didn't get angry. Instead, he looked toward Xing Yi in the crowd.

"Was it you who barged into Bai Miao Village and forced my disciple into the Xing Family?"

Caught by Lin Mu's gaze, Xing Yi felt a flicker of panic, but he quickly covered it with a cold snort. "Yes, it was me. What are you going to do about it?"

"What am I going to do?" Lin Mu shook his head and said lightly, "I am, of course, going to kill you."

"Kill me?" Xing Yi was stunned for a moment, then burst into laughter. "You? A wet-behind-the-ears brat? It's not yet decided who will be killing whom!"

Xing Yi slowly stepped out from the crowd, his aura flaring as his murderous expression fixed on Lin Mu. He was already highly skilled, or he wouldn't have been able to injure the Great Elder of Bai Miao Village with a single punch. As for Lin Mu, he simply didn't believe the man was the Miao King, let alone Lin Wudi. Lin Mu appeared to be under thirty; how could he have possibly broken through to the Grandmaster realm at such an age, much less become the Miao King of the Jiuli Tribe?

"So this is why the Saintess refused to marry into our Xing Family. It seems it was all because of you!" Xing Yi sneered. "She claimed to be the Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe, destined to serve the Miao King for life. It turns out she just had someone else on the outside, and it was all just an excuse!"

Xing Yi's words brought a sudden realization to the Xing Family members. So that's what was going on!

"Xing Yi, don't waste your breath on this kid. Go kill him!" Xing Yong ordered immediately. The Xing Family had to obtain the vital blood of the Jiuli Tribe's Saintess. This concerned the very legacy of the Xing Family. As for Lin Mu, killing him was a trivial matter.

"Alright!" Xing Yi shouted in agreement. His figure shot forward, his aura swelling with every step.

In the end, Xing Yi's aura had reached a terrifying level: the peak of Internal Energy!

The eyes of the Xing Family members lit up. When had Xing Yi broken through to the peak of Internal Energy?

Xing Yong, however, was overjoyed. It seemed he could entrust important family matters to Xing Yi in the future.

"Master..." Seeing Xing Yi charging over, Li Lingqing looked at Lin Mu with an inquiring gaze. Of course, she wasn't worried about her master; she was asking if she should be the one to kill this man.

Lin Mu shook his head. "Your injuries haven't healed yet. Just watch from the side for now."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lin Mu stepped forward, his expression calm as he watched Xing Yi approach.

Seeing Lin Mu standing with his hands clasped behind his back, Xing Yi snorted inwardly. What a pretentious brat!

"Take my punch!"

Xing Yi's fist smashed forward, making the very air tremble.

"Hmm. Xing Yi's strength has indeed grown much stronger than before," Xing Yong said, nodding in satisfaction.

The crowd also praised Xing Yi, declaring that he was truly a Xing Family Elder whose strength was growing more and more unfathomable.

In their eyes, Lin Mu was already a dead man.

But just as Xing Yi's fist was about to connect, Lin Mu slowly raised a hand, extended a single finger, and lightly tapped the air.

TSST!

An almost inaudible sound was heard. Everyone felt their scalps tingle for a moment, but then nothing happened.

"Uh..." The crowd looked at each other, then erupted into mocking laughter.

"This is the Miao King of the Jiuli Tribe? Is he here to be a comedian?"

"What Miao King? I think 'Meow King' is more like it."

"Meow King? Hahahaha, you're killing me!"

...

The Xing Family members roared with laughter. Even Xing Yong couldn't help but shake his head in wry amusement. When Lin Mu had made his move, he had been genuinely startled, thinking the man might possess some earth-shattering technique. In the end, it turned out to be nothing but a bluff. It seemed Xing Yi had been right after all. This person wasn't the Miao King, nor was he Lin Wudi of River City—just some man the Saintess had met on the outside, using their names to try and rescue her.

"Xing Yi, stop fooling around and kill him," Xing Yong commanded coolly, shaking his head.

However, Xing Yi remained motionless.

Huh?

He didn't move, just stood there with his back to the crowd. Everyone stared, confused.

"Xing Yi, what's wrong with you?" Xing Yong's expression turned ugly. What game was Xing Yi playing at?

WHOOSH...

A light breeze blew past. Xing Yi's body twitched slightly before he collapsed to the ground with a dull THUD.

Only then could everyone see it clearly: a bloody hole had appeared in the center of his forehead.

Blood slowly oozed out.

His face was a mask of mockery, confusion, fear, and despair. Clearly, even at the moment of his death, he had no idea what had happened.

Only then did Lin Mu slowly lower his finger, his serene gaze sweeping over the members of the Xing Family.

HISS!

The Xing Family members all sucked in a sharp breath, their faces etched with disbelief.

Xing Yi was dead?

The main question was, how? No one had seen Lin Mu make a move.

No, wait, he did seem to poke with his finger. But to kill a man with a single poke? That was impossible!

But Xing Yi was truly dead.

Someone must have struck the killing blow.

A chaotic murmur rose from the crowd. "Could it be a Gu Insect? The Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe is an expert with them. Didn't she plant a bunch around Hongfeng Lake earlier?"

"Nonsense! Our Xing Family's Bu Ling Wang is specifically designed to counter all Gu Insects in the world. We don't need to worry about being cursed by them!"

"Then you tell me, how did Xing Yi die?"

"How should I know!"

...

Listening to the bickering, Xing Yong roared impatiently, "All of you, shut up!"

His expression turned grave as he faced Lin Mu. In a deep voice, he asked, "Kid, who in the world are you? What is your purpose in coming to the Xing Family?"

"I've already told you," Lin Mu replied, a faint smile on his face, as if killing Xing Yi was the most insignificant thing in the world. "You can call me the Miao King, or you can call me Lin Wudi."

"Fine, fine, fine! Still spouting nonsense on death's door! Today, I'll cripple you with my own hands!" Xing Yong declared, striding toward Lin Mu.

He was actually going to act himself?

"Dad, no need!" Xing Chong suddenly cut in. "This person," he declared, his eyes narrowed at Lin Mu, "is mine to kill."

"Good!" Xing Yong agreed without a hint of hesitation. Even the Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe was no match for Chong'er, so what chance did this unknown kid have?

"Ling Qing," Lin Mu said suddenly to his disciple, "this one is yours."

What?

Not just Li Lingqing, but the entire Xing Family was stunned.

Hadn't the Saintess just been defeated by Xing Chong? Why was she being asked to fight again?

In the face of everyone's shock and confusion, Lin Mu offered no explanation.

He patted Li Lingqing on the head. His lips moved, but no one nearby could hear a sound. They could only see a mysterious and profound Godlight radiating from his body.

Li Lingqing's eyes grew brighter and brighter, until finally, she closed them.

When she opened her eyes again, they were as tranquil and clear as a placid lake.

Lin Mu withdrew his hand and asked, "Do you remember?"

"Thank you for your guidance, Master," Li Lingqing replied, bowing respectfully. "This disciple remembers!"