

War God 381

Chapter 381: A dragon has its scale reverse, touch it and you will surely die!

A single sword strike slew the dwarf!

The two elders were even more shocked. The dwarf's cultivation level was not much weaker than theirs, yet he had been slain with a single strike. They exchanged glances, each seeing a flicker of fear in the other's eyes.

That man's power is terrifying!

Chen Xinlan and the others turned pale, their limbs growing ice-cold with fright, while the Qin Family members were overcome with ecstatic joy.

"It must be Lin Mu! It has to be Lin Mu!" Lady Xue was overjoyed, gripping Qin Yan's hand and refusing to let go.

"Hmph!" Qin Yan's face turned unsightly as she shook off her mother's hand.

Lady Xue gave an awkward smile but said nothing.

Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes were fixed intently on the sky above.

A figure flew rapidly from the distance, finally landing on the rooftop. He wore simple casual clothes, and his long hair draped over his shoulders. His posture was ramrod straight, and he emanated a murderous intent so potent it was painful to look at him directly. After more than half a year, he seemed even stronger, his entire bearing having become more ethereal and cold.

He slowly reached out his hand, and the Yulong Sword flew into his palm.

VMMM!

Sword Intent filled the world!

Lin Mu's gaze was icy as he wielded the Yulong Sword and slashed.

"You dare!" The two elders' expressions changed drastically. They let out a low roar as their True Qi erupted, attempting to block the attack.

But how could they possibly block such a strike? A clear streak of sword intent tore through the air, and in the blink of an eye, it was before one of the elders, descending viciously.

SCHLICK!

The elder let out a sudden, wretched scream as the sword sliced open his chest, spilling his internal organs onto the ground.

"You..." Terror filled the elder's eyes as he collapsed to the ground in despair, dead.

Seeing this, the other elder didn't dare to linger for a second.

Escape!

That was the only thought in his mind.

"I said that none of you would be leaving," an icy voice drifted from Lin Mu's lips. Another stream of Sword Qi burst from the Yulong Sword, howling as it shot forward.

The world seemed to contain nothing but that single streak of sword light. Its fierce intent made everyone's scalp tingle.

The elder was incredibly fast, fleeing several hundred meters in the blink of an eye.

Faster, faster!

His heart pounded with terror; that man was simply horrifying.

He shouldn't be able to catch up now, right?

The elder subconsciously glanced back with a sneer.

However, the sneer froze on his face. His entire vision was consumed by a flash of light. With a single slash, the elder was instantly sliced in half!

"No!" The elder only managed to utter a single word before he met the same fate as the other two.

All who witnessed this gasped, sucking in a cold breath.

That strike was too terrifying! But that wasn't the main point. The main point was that Lin Mu had acted without the slightest hesitation or mercy, cleanly killing three people in a row.

"You... you..." Pointing at the figure on the roof, Chen Xinlan was so frightened her body felt like ice and her lips trembled. Although the man's appearance had changed, his aura was unmistakable.

It's Lin Mu!

As if sensing her gaze, Lin Mu suddenly looked toward Chen Xinlan. A dazzling, divine light erupted from his eyes.

"AHH!" Chen Xinlan screamed, collapsing to the ground and shaking uncontrollably.

HUFF!

The two burly men exchanged glances, both feeling the immense pressure and gravity of the situation.

"You're Lin Mu? You killed the Young Sect Master of our Fire Cloud Sect?" one of the burly men asked, his face grim. Despite his tone, his legs couldn't help but tremble slightly. The sheer grace of that last sword strike had shaken them to the core.

"Fire Cloud Sect?" Lin Mu said indifferently. "Since you dared to come to the Qin Family seeking death, you will not be leaving alive."

As Lin Mu raised his hand to strike, one of the burly men suddenly shouted, "Wait!"

"If you kill me, your mother won't live either!" The man laughed. "Lin Mu, your mother is in our hands. Either cripple your cultivation and follow me to the Fire Cloud Sect to atone for your crimes, or you can watch your mother die!"

With a light wave of his hand, two Fire Cloud Sect disciples walked in, holding a middle-aged woman between them.

"Mom!" Qin Luoli's expression changed drastically, and she cried out. The woman was, shockingly, Lin Mu's mother, Lady Su.

"Luo Li, Xiao Mu!" Lady Su looked disheveled and weak, as if she had been mercilessly tortured. "Don't worry about me! This crazy woman from the Chen Family only captured me to threaten you. Don't believe a single word she says!" Despite her capture, Lady Su showed no fear.

"Chen Xinlan, how dare you capture my mother-in-law!" Qin Luoli was furious, her tone ice-cold. "Involving family is a line you don't cross. You are despicable!"

"Despicable?" Chen Xinlan sneered viciously. "Did you think of today when you drove me out of the Qin Family, when you angered my father to death?"

"Lin Mu, don't you claim to be invincible? Go on, kill me. I've poisoned your mother, and only I have the antidote. If you kill me, she is guaranteed to die!" Chen Xinlan's face was twisted with madness. "I want you to feel the same pain I felt! Lin Mu, Qin Luoli, if you kneel on the ground right now and beg me to let her go, maybe I'll consider it!"

Chen Xinlan looked triumphant, as if she had grasped Lin Mu's greatest weakness.

"And have him cripple his own limbs and deliver that woman, Qin Luoli, to me personally!" Luo Jinping added coldly. "You humiliated me, didn't you? Well, I'm going to make you, Lin Mu, the biggest joke in the world!"

"You... are very good," a cold voice suddenly echoed in their ears.

BOOM!

As the words fell, a surging killing intent erupted from Lin Mu.

"Dare to touch my family, and I will obliterate your souls, ensuring you never know rebirth for all eternity!"

Hearing this, one of the burly men immediately grabbed Lady Su's neck. "Lin Mu, you dare!" he threatened.

"Lin Mu, are you really going to defy all morality and watch your own mother die?" Chen Xinlan shrieked. "If you do, you will be condemned by the entire world!"

"You can try me." Suddenly, a divine light shot from Lin Mu's eyes, and a terrifying force from his Divine Soul swept out.

Everyone felt their bodies stiffen, unable to move. A phantom-like figure appeared beside Lady Su, wrapped an arm around her, and retreated rapidly. At the same time, he formed a blade with his fingers and instantly pierced the brows of the two Fire Cloud Sect disciples holding her.

This all happened so fast that by the time Lin Mu returned to Qin Luoli's side with his mother, no one had even processed what had occurred.

"Xiao Mu..." Lady Su was too weak. She managed to utter his name before fainting.

Lin Mu handed his mother to Qin Luoli, his killing intent surging to new heights.

"Lin Mu, what are you doing?" Chen Xinlan was terrified, scrambling backward frantically.

Lin Mu merely glanced at the woman, the corners of his lips curling into a cruel smile.

The two burly men from the Fire Cloud Sect were equally terrified. "Lin Mu, this woman captured your mother! It had nothing to do with us!"

"Is that so?" Lin Mu said indifferently. "Then you can die, too."

As soon as he spoke, he thrust out his hand. A violent suction force pulled the two men toward him, trapping them in his grasp.

"I said I would obliterate your souls, and I am a man of my word," Lin Mu said with a cold smile. A purple flame erupted from his palm, instantly incinerating the two men to ash.

Brushing his hands clean, Lin Mu turned to Chen Xinlan. "Now, how do you want to die?"

A dragon has its Ni Lin; touch it, and you die.

Lin Mu's family was his Ni Lin.

Chapter 382 Fury Unabated, Murderous Intent Endures!

The Chen Family had dared to target his family.

They'd better be prepared to die!

Seeing the two Fire Cloud Sect disciples reduced to ash, everyone turned deathly pale. Even Qin Luoli and the others looked at Lin Mu with a trace of fear.

Murderous intent saturated the air. In that moment, Lin Mu was like a god of slaughter, capable of killing anything in the world.

"Ugh..."

Lady Xue couldn't stop herself from vomiting, her face a mask of terror.

So ruthless! Lin Mu actually burned two people to death. Is he even human? He's a devil!

Qin Hongshu's expression was grim, but strangely, he remained silent. Chen Xinlan and the others were terrified out of their wits, completely frozen in fear.

"You... you want to kill me?" Chen Xinlan pointed at Lin Mu, her lips trembling.

"I gave you a chance," Lin Mu said as he slowly walked toward her. His indifferent tone made Chen Xinlan feel as though she were in the depths of a freezing winter night, her entire body turning to ice. "But unfortunately, you didn't take it."

This woman is as venomous as a viper. She absolutely cannot be spared!

"Lin Mu, you dare to kill people?" Chen Wen pointed at him furiously. "This is all your fault! You use your status as a Martial Artist to murder indiscriminately. Aren't you afraid the Martial Alliance will come after you?"

"The Martial Alliance?" Lin Mu slowly shook his head. "Didn't you just say that with the Fire Cloud Sect backing you, no one would dare to punish you? Then I'll punish you myself!"

The moment he finished speaking, he appeared before Chen Xinlan in a single step.

"No!"

Terrified, Chen Xinlan lost control of her bowels, and a foul stench filled the air.

"Lin Mu, you can't kill me! You can't kill me!"

Fear, panic, and regret flooded her.

"Can't kill you?" Lin Mu's eyes were deep and dark as he asked softly, "Give me one reason why I shouldn't."

"I..." Chen Xinlan shrieked, "I'm your aunt! I'm a daughter-in-law of the Qin Family! You can't kill me!"

Lin Mu shook his head. "Not since the moment you left the Qin Family."

"No, don't!" Chen Xinlan dropped to her knees, begging for her life. "Lin Mu, I'm begging you, don't kill me! The Fang Family made me do it! If you have to kill someone, kill them, please!"

Lin Mu was unmoved.

Chen Xinlan then turned to Qin Luoli, tears streaming down her face. "Luo Li, I'm your aunt! Please, ask Lin Mu to spare me."

Supporting Lady Su, Qin Luoli replied in a glacial tone, "I have nothing to say about you hating me. But you never, ever should have taken my mother-in-law."

If Chen Xinlan had only targeted her alone, Qin Luoli wouldn't have hated her so intensely. But the vicious woman not only captured her mother-in-law, she poisoned her. Leaving such a person alive would only cause more harm!

"I..." Chen Xinlan sobbed. "I was forced! I was forced into it!"

"No last words?" Lin Mu asked indifferently. "Since you have none, then die."

"Don't!" Chen Xinlan shrieked in terror. "If you kill me, your mother's poison will never be cured—"

A strand of Sword Qi shot from his fingertip, instantly piercing her brow.

"Gah..."

This vicious woman had finally paid the price for her actions.

Looking at Chen Xinlan lying on the ground, Chen Wen stood rigid, his eyes hollow. "Lin Mu, how dare you!" he roared. "How dare you kill her! You little beast, I'll kill you!"

As he spoke, Chen Wen charged toward Lin Mu, ready to fight to the death.

"Scram!"

With a simple wave of his hand, Lin Mu sent Chen Wen flying, crashing hard onto the ground.

"Don't be impatient. Your turns will come," Lin Mu said, his killing intent unabated. "I will let you watch the Chen Family fall. Only after every last one of them is dead will I come for you."

"You..." Hearing this, Chen Wen spat out a mouthful of blood, looking as if his very soul had been ripped from his body.

Without another glance at Chen Wen, Lin Mu turned to Luo Jinping.

"How would you like to die?"

Lin Mu hadn't actually had strong feelings about Luo Jinping. That changed, however, when he began moving against the Qin Family, colluding with the Fang Family to pressure Qin Luoli. At that point, Lin Mu's killing intent toward the man had surged to its absolute peak.

Sitting in his wheelchair, Luo Jinping trembled violently. The sight of the corpses on the ground filled him with fear and regret. "Lin Mu, I..."

He opened his mouth but found he didn't know what to say, because he was simply too terrified.

Lin Mu was truly merciless when it came to killing. He would kill without a moment's hesitation!

"Since you have nothing to say, then die."

A wisp of Purple Flame appeared in Lin Mu's palm. The intense heat it radiated didn't harm his hand in the slightest.

Purple Extreme Heavenly Flame!

As Lin Mu's Cultivation Level increased, so did his ability to control the Purple Extreme Heavenly Flame at will.

"No!" Terrified, Luo Jinping toppled out of his wheelchair and collapsed to the ground.

He had seen with his own eyes how two experts from the Fire Cloud Sect were turned to ash by that flame. How could an ordinary person like him possibly withstand it?

"Lin Mu, don't kill me!" Luo Jinping screamed frantically. "It was the Fang Family! The Fang Family did all of this! They would have killed us if we didn't agree! Don't kill me!"

"I really can't find a reason not to kill you," Lin Mu said indifferently. "The moment you stepped into the Qin Family, your fate was sealed."

He waved his hand, and the Purple Extreme Heavenly Flame flew out, landing on Luo Jinping.

"Lin Mu, no!"

As the flames touched him, Luo Jinping screamed in agony, rolling on the ground in pain.

"Bastard! You bastard! If you kill me, my grandfather will never let you go! The Luo Family won't let you go either!"

Watching Luo Jinping enveloped in flames, screaming horribly, the onlookers couldn't help but feel a pang of pity. Qin Yan wanted to speak, but in the end, she said nothing. She knew that if Lin Mu hadn't arrived in time, Qin Luoli would have suffered a fate worse than death in Luo Jinping's hands.

"Don't worry," Lin Mu's expression was cold as he controlled the Purple Extreme Heavenly Flame, slowly torturing Luo Jinping. "It won't be long before your grandfather joins you."

He wanted Luo Jinping to suffer absolute torment until his very soul disintegrated, making reincarnation impossible!

Luo Jinping's screams gradually weakened until all that remained on the ground was a pile of white powder, which scattered and dissipated in the wind.

His body was gone without a trace, his soul obliterated.

Everyone couldn't help but shiver, terrified by Lin Mu's ruthless methods.

With Luo Jinping dead, the only one left who had come to pressure the Qin Family was Chen Wen, the current Family Head of the Chen Family.

"Lin Mu, we've lost," Chen Wen said, lying on the ground and looking at Lin Mu with despair. "My death is inconsequential, and I know you won't spare me anyway. But for the sake of the past relationship between the Chen and Qin families, could you please spare the others?"

Lin Mu turned and glanced at Qin Luoli, who hesitated for a moment before giving a slight nod.

"Fine," Lin Mu said.

A faint smile appeared on Chen Wen's face. "Thank you," he said.

The next instant, a flash of Sword Qi shot through his head, and he collapsed to the ground.

Looking at Chen Wen's corpse, Qin Luoli and the others wore complicated expressions.

The Chen Family... was finished.

However, just when everyone thought it was over, Lin Mu suddenly spoke. "Is there anyone else who has acted against the Qin Family?"

Qin Hongshu's face fell. "Lin Mu, what more are you going to do?"

"To kill."

Chapter 383: You're looking for me, I've arrived!

Lin Mu.

Is he really going to keep killing people? Does he truly intend to exterminate everyone from these families?

Everyone looked at Lin Mu, trying to discern something from his expression. But while his face was calm, his eyes seethed with a thunderous killing intent.

HISS!

All the members of the Qin Family sucked in a sharp breath, not daring to speak another word.

Qin Luoli suddenly grabbed Lin Mu's hand. "I'll go with you."

"You're not afraid?"

"With you here, I'm not afraid."

"Good."

Lin Mu nodded. He then gently patted Lady Su's body, and a drop of green liquid instantly appeared in his palm, hovering motionlessly.

This was the poison Chen Xinlan had given Lady Su, yet Lin Mu had removed it with ease.

"Take good care of her."

With those words, Lin Mu turned and left the Qin Family with Qin Luoli in tow.

The Yulong Sword hovered beside Lady Su, exuding a chilling sword intent. Seeing the ancient sword levitating on its own, everyone instinctively took a few steps back, afraid of being caught in its aura.

「...」

「Four Seas Hotel.」

A crowd had gathered for a cocktail party. Laughter echoed throughout the hall, creating a cheerful atmosphere.

Luo Huai'an was there, along with several of River City's business magnates and even a few members of the Chen Family. Not only that, but Qin Hongbo and his son were also in attendance.

"It's about time. Chen Wen and the others should be on their way back, right?" an elder from the Chen Family said with a smile, glancing at his watch.

"Soon," Luo Huai'an said, a faint smile on his face as he held his wine glass. "As if the puny Qin Family would dare to compete with us."

"Of course not!" Patriarch Fan raised his glass and said to the man at the head of the table, "This is all thanks to Young Master Fang's efforts. If word got out that River City had fallen into the hands of a woman, it would be an embarrassment to all of us old-timers."

"Indeed! A toast to Young Master Fang!"

"To Young Master Fang!"

Everyone raised their glasses, toasting Fang Shaoning, who was seated in the place of honor.

"Haha, you are all too kind." Fang Shaoning held up his glass, smiling modestly. "I only came to River City to find the person who murdered members of my family. I just didn't expect the Qin Family to be so unscrupulous as to turn River City into such a chaotic mess."

"Well said," Luo Huai'an sighed. "The Qin family's girl does have some ability. It's just a pity she ended up with such an arrogant man. He flaunts his status as a Divine Doctor and looks down on us old men. It's truly infuriating."

The memory of having to apologize to the Qin Family and personally whip his grandson's back sent a sharp pain through Luo Huai'an's heart. His hatred for Lin Mu only grew deeper.

"We must also thank Young Master Fang and the masters from the Fire Cloud Sect for saving River City from this disaster." Luo Huai'an raised his glass to Fang Shaoning and the two elderly men beside him. "I raise this cup to you!"

This time, he used a respectful tone.

"Patriarch Luo, you are too kind."

"Very kind."

The two Elders from the Fire Cloud Sect exchanged a haughty glance. Their Young Sect Master had been killed, along with Elder Qi. They had come to River City under the Sect Leader's orders to execute Lin Mu. They hadn't expected Lin Mu to be absent, so their plan was to exterminate the Qin Family first and take Lin Mu's woman back to the Sect to await the Sect Leader's judgment.

"I heard Lin Mu has divine medical skills and considerable strength of his own. If the Qin Family is in trouble, would he really dare to come?"

"I also heard he's been missing for over half a year. Maybe he got word of this in advance and found somewhere to hide?"

"Exactly, that's what I think. This so-called 'Master Lin the Divine Doctor' is all hype, I'm sure of it!"

"But regardless, the title of Divine Doctor is still highly coveted. Lin Mu was already relying on a woman to get by. What if he moves somewhere else, uses his identity as a Divine Doctor to swindle people, and manages to latch onto a family even more powerful than the Qins? Do you think he'd come back for revenge?"

Luo Huai'an suddenly burst out laughing. "Revenge? That little wretch, Lin Mu? Could he possibly find a family more powerful than the Fang Family?" Glancing around the room, he added proudly, "And don't forget, we have two masters from the Fire Cloud Sect here with us!"

"Right, right, how could we forget that?"

"If that day ever comes, we'll be counting on you two masters to protect River City!"

The crowd repeatedly toasted the two elders from the Fire Cloud Sect, showering them with flattery and promising all sorts of benefits. The two elders simply smiled faintly and accepted everything.

One of them even laughed and said, "Everyone, do not panic. If that brat Lin Mu actually dares to show up, I'll kill him in a single move!"

WHOOSH!

As the words left his mouth, the elder's True Qi flared. The wine cup in his hand flew out and embedded itself in the hotel's hard wall, yet not a single drop of wine spilled.

"What brilliant skill!"

"The outcome is certain!"

"Lin Mu is a dead man!"

The crowd, initially startled, erupted into a new round of bootlicking, continuously raising their glasses to the two Fire Cloud Sect elders.

In a corner, Qin Hongbo and Qin Hao were silent, but a look of glee was on Qin Hao's face.

Hmph, Lin Mu. Let's see how you die this time!

Seeing Qin Hongbo looking somewhat downcast, Qin Hao said, "Dad, don't worry. Once Lin Mu is dead, will anyone in the Qin Family still dare to stop us from returning? As for Qin Luoli, she can't even save herself!"

Qin Hao's face was a mask of vindictive hatred. After more than half a year, his fear of Lin Mu had completely vanished.

"I don't know why, but I have a bad feeling about this," Qin Hongbo sighed, feeling an inexplicable sense of panic.

"Dad, relax. Lin Mu is as good as dead!"

Qin Hao said this aloud, but inwardly, he scoffed. Dad's really getting old. The two masters from the Fire Cloud Sect make one move and he's terrified.

Thinking this, Qin Hao shook his head slightly and stood up, preparing to go offer a toast to the two masters and get on their good side. But just as he rose, a deafening sound came from the entrance.

BOOM!

The doors to the hall burst open and flew inward, smashing directly into Qin Hao. He let out a scream as the doors slammed him to the floor, pinning him underneath.

As he lost consciousness, Qin Hao thought he saw two figures walking in through the ruined doorway. They looked familiar... but his mind went blank before he could place them, and he passed out completely.

Everyone was stunned by the scene, watching frozen as the two figures walked slowly into the hall.

"Qin Luoli?" Patriarch Fan's eyes bulged. "What are you doing here?" he exclaimed. Then, as if something had occurred to him, his expression turned gleeful. "Have you come to confess your crimes?"

Having been forced to kneel and apologize in front of the Qin Family Old Residence was a disgrace Patriarch Fan intended to remember for the rest of his life. Thus, he had sworn in private that he would one day make Lin Mu and Qin Luoli kneel before him and beg for forgiveness.

But before he could finish, he noticed the tall young man standing beside Qin Luoli. He had long hair, a cold demeanor, and a ruthless killing intent!

At first, he didn't recognize him. But after a closer look, Patriarch Fan stumbled backward.

"You... You're Lin Mu?!" he stammered. "How are you back?"

Lin Mu walked into the hall with his hands clasped behind his back and said indifferently, "You were looking for me. So, here I am."

Chapter 384: Were you the one who said you wanted to behead me?

Lin Mu!

He'd actually come!

Patriarch Fan almost collapsed to the ground, but he was greatly relieved when he realized it was only Lin Mu and Qin Luoli.

"Lin Mu, since you're here to admit your guilt, kneel and await the judgment of Young Master Fang and the two masters!" Patriarch Fan pointed a finger at Lin Mu's nose and began to scold him, clearly misunderstanding the situation.

"Admit my guilt?" Lin Mu was clearly surprised, then he sneered. "It seems you still don't know what happened."

Everyone was stunned.

What happened?

A sudden unease crept into Luo Huai'an's heart. "You... What did you do to Jinping?"

His words jolted everyone else to their senses. That's right. Lin Mu and Qin Luoli were here, but what about the men who went to the Qin Family? Why hadn't they arrived?

"Quick, tell me what you did to Jinping!" Luo Huai'an's face darkened, his old features twisting in anger.

"Killed him. What else?" Lin Mu said nonchalantly, tilting his head.

"Killed him?" Luo Huai'an staggered back several steps, almost falling. "You actually killed Jinping?" he stammered, completely dazed. "How could you dare to kill Jinping?"

"Keeping a good-for-nothing like him alive was a waste of air. Killing him was nothing," Lin Mu said indifferently. "Besides, I promised him I'd send you down to keep him company... if you can even find him, that is."

Luo Jinping's soul has already scattered to the winds; he can't even enter Hell for reincarnation. How could anyone possibly find him?

"You..." Luo Huai'an's face flushed red. He felt a choking pressure in his chest, unable to swallow or breathe.

"Nonsense! Utter nonsense!" an elder from the Fire Cloud Sect yelled, slamming his hand on a table. "The Fire Cloud Sect sent five disciples and two external Elders to the Qin Family. You think you could have killed someone right in front of them? What utter nonsense!"

Hearing this, Luo Huai'an and the others snapped back to reality.

That's right! The Fire Cloud Sect sent several Elders this time. Besides the Second and Third Elders here, two external Elders also went to the Qin Family. It's impossible for Lin Mu to have killed someone and gotten here so quickly. He must be lying!

"You little beast! I almost fell for your lies!" Luo Huai'an let out a long breath and pointed at Lin Mu. "At the Qin Family Ancestral House, you humiliated me endlessly. Today, I will have you torn to shreds!"

"Break his legs! I want him kneeling before me, begging for mercy!"

At Luo Huai'an's command, the two bodyguards he had brought with him advanced on Lin Mu, their faces twisted with cruelty.

"Boy, if you're here to confess, you'd better show some repentance!" one of the bodyguards sneered. "Kneel!"

He reached out a large hand, aiming to grab Lin Mu's shoulder. However, before his hand could land, a streak of azure light shot out from Lin Mu's body and wrapped around the man's arm.

CLATTER!

An arm fell to the ground.

"Ahhh!" The bodyguard clutched his severed limb and let out a piercing scream as his blood stained the floor red.

Witnessing this, the other bodyguard went pale and tried to retreat. He had only taken two steps back when the azure light severed his legs at the knees.

"No!"

The two bodyguards lay in a pool of their own blood, howling miserably and bashing their heads against the ground in agony.

Everyone watched, their faces pale with terror. No one had seen how Lin Mu attacked; they only saw a flash of azure divine light from his body before the two men's limbs were severed.

Lin Mu had absorbed the vital energy of the Innate Spirit Wood, making wood-attribute elemental energy the most abundant type within him. Forging the Twelve-Fold Towers had made his body incredibly strong. By comprehending the *Heavenly Dao Myriad Laws Record*, he had assimilated the

myriad laws of the universe. Now, his every move was a law, a technique, a Divine Skill in itself. The sword light he had just unleashed was none other than the Punishing Immortal Sword Qi, from the Twelve Styles of Slaying Gods, Demons, and Punishing Immortals. This was part of the Three Slays of Immortals, which consisted of the Immortal Slaying Secret, the Immortal Slaying Sword, and the Immortal Slaying Formation. The Immortal Slaying Secret could condense the most powerful Sword Qi in the world. The Immortal Slaying Sword used this Sword Qi to form a blade of law—a single strike of which could Shatter a Thousand Laws. As for the Immortal Slaying Formation, it was an ancient Sword Array that required specific environmental conditions to be cast. Against these ordinary people, however, the Sword Qi condensed by the Immortal Slaying Secret was more than enough.

Having dealt with the two bodyguards, Lin Mu slowly walked toward Luo Huai'an, a highly respected elder in River City.

Luo Huai'an didn't dare wait for Lin Mu to get close. He scrambled backward until he bumped into a table and could go no further.

"Lin... Lin Mu, what are you doing?" Luo Huai'an screamed. "Surely you wouldn't dare kill me?"

Lin Mu tilted his head. "Since I promised your grandson I'd send you down to meet him, I always keep my word."

He pointed his finger, and a thread of Punishing Immortal Sword Qi shot forth, piercing straight through Luo Huai'an's head.

BANG!

Luo Huai'an's eyes bulged as he collapsed. Brain matter and blood poured from the wound, terrifying the nearby Patriarch Fan so badly that he fell to the ground, shaking uncontrollably with his eyes wide with horror.

"Ven... Venerable Master, I..." Patriarch Fan was paralyzed by fear, unable to speak a complete sentence.

He was terrified. Not only had he betrayed Lin Mu, but he had also enacted his insane revenge against the Qin Corporation. It would have been fine if he had succeeded, but he never imagined that Lin Mu would not only return but also dare to kill people right in front of them.

"Wouldn't it have been better to just live a good life? Why did you have to be a traitor?" Lin Mu asked, his expression cold as he looked down at Patriarch Fan.

"I..." Patriarch Fan swallowed hard and kept backing away. Suddenly, he scrambled on all fours toward the high stage. "Young Master Fang! Two masters, please save me!"

However, before he could reach the stage, a stream of Punishing Immortal Sword Qi wrapped around his neck.

THUMP!

A head rolled across the floor. Blood splattered, and the entire hall erupted into chaos. Since his arrival, Lin Mu had killed the heads of both the Luo and Fan families, acting with decisive and merciless brutality.

"Enough!" Qin Hongbo suddenly stood up and roared at Lin Mu. "Lin Mu, how many more people do you intend to kill? Are you really not afraid of the police coming after you?"

Seeing Qin Hongbo intervene, everyone felt a strange sense of relief. Lin Mu was simply too terrifying; it was good to have someone try to restrain him.

He wouldn't dare attack his own uncle, would he?

"You want to stop me?" Lin Mu looked at Qin Hongbo coldly before dismissing him completely.

"Get lost."

Qin Hongbo trembled where he stood, not knowing whether to move or stay. He was left in an extremely awkward position. Lin Mu's dismissive gaze and arrogant air sent a deep chill down his spine.

No one else dared to speak. They all silently lowered their heads, too afraid to even look at Lin Mu.

Lin Mu stood below the stage and slowly raised his head. His gaze swept over Fang Shaoning before finally landing on one of the elders from the Fire Cloud Sect.

"Were you the one who just said you were going to kill me?"

At these words, the elder's face turned ashen, and he began to tremble uncontrollably.

Chapter 385: I Know Now, You Can Die!

"What's wrong? Weren't you just clamoring to kill me a moment ago? Why are you too scared to even fart now!" Lin Mu's tone was filled with thick disdain.

"You insolent brat, don't be so arrogant!" The elder, infuriated by Lin Mu, trembled all over, his beard quivering. His aura swelled with murderous intent as he snarled, "I will take your life!"

CRACK! The old man slammed his palm on the table, and the thick marble surface instantly fractured.

The old man soared into the air like a great roc, lunging for Lin Mu's head. He intended to tear the man's head from his shoulders and hang it on the battlements of River City!

"Lin Mu, be careful!" Qin Luoli blurted out, her voice laced with nervousness.

The rest of the crowd couldn't help but cry out in approval, stunned by the elder's terrifying movement technique.

Another Elder chuckled, stroking his beard. "Haha, the Third Elder's Swallow-tailed Hawk Flying Technique has grown even more profound."

The Swallow-tailed Hawk Flying Technique was a profound Cultivation Technique of the Fire Cloud Sect. Ordinary Disciples were simply incapable of practicing it; only those at the rank of Elder or higher could cultivate it.

The Third Elder smirked, his speed increasing another notch.

Lin Mu slowly shook his head. "You dare call *that* a movement technique? It seems you've never seen a real one. Then today, I'll show you what a true movement technique looks like."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lin Mu's body swayed slightly and vanished.

"Hm?" Everyone started in shock at his sudden disappearance.

The Second Elder of the Fire Cloud Sect felt a pang of unease, his pupils constricting.

The attacking Third Elder's expression changed drastically. He wanted to retreat, but how could he while suspended in midair?

His unease grew more intense. The Third Elder let out a low roar as a layer of almost tangible red True Qi erupted from his body.

WHOOSH! The True Qi flared like fire, making everyone in the hall feel as if they were in a furnace, their skin burning and stinging.

"Brat, get out here!" the Third Elder bellowed, repeatedly striking out with his hands. A series of palm imprints, seemingly condensed from flames, struck the air, leaving a trail of illusory traces.

However, no matter how much force the Third Elder exerted, it was as if Lin Mu had simply vanished. Not a single trace of him could be found.

The Third Elder felt more and more that something was wrong. He whipped his head around and suddenly saw that everyone was staring at him in terror, their faces showing expressions as if they had seen a ghost.

That's not right! They're looking behind me!

"Third Elder, behind you!" the Fire Cloud Sect's Second Elder suddenly cried out, his voice thick with shock.

The Third Elder whipped his head around. The sight nearly scared him to death. A figure was standing there, watching him with a faint smile.

"Die!" The Third Elder had ample combat experience. Though startled, he remained composed enough to immediately lash out with a palm strike. His blazing hands, carrying rampaging True Qi, struck viciously, intending to kill Lin Mu in one blow.

WHOOSH! The force of the palm strike passed directly through Lin Mu's chest.

"Lin Mu!" Qin Luoli cried out, her face turning deathly pale at the sight of his body being pierced.

The others, however, had expressions of wild joy.

He's dead! Lin Mu is dead!

Someone cried out, but it was a scream not of joy, but of terror. Because they saw that the head of the Fire Cloud Sect Elder, still suspended in midair, had vanished.

THUD! Only after his headless body hit the ground did the crowd let out a collective, sharp gasp, followed by a series of terrified cries.

What happened? How did the Fire Cloud Sect Elder just die?

On the high platform, the Second Elder of the Fire Cloud Sect shot to his feet, staring in horror at the corpse on the ground. While others hadn't seen clearly, he had.

Just now, the Third Elder's palm strike had gone right through Lin Mu's chest. Yet, there was no blood, no scream. Their opponent had only offered a strange smile before his figure slowly dissipated. An afterimage! The Third Elder must have realized the same thing. But by the time he could react, it was too late. A large hand had already closed around his head. With a gentle lift, the man had effortlessly plucked it from his shoulders.

THUD! A head was tossed before the Second Elder. Its face was a mask of utter terror and despair, clear evidence of the great fear the Third Elder had experienced in his final moments.

Lin Mu appeared in front of Qin Luoli, moving to shield her from the bloody scene. But Qin Luoli only gripped his hand tighter and shook her head, her expression resolute.

Lin Mu smiled slightly, breathing a sigh of relief.

He had agreed to let her come along precisely so she could get accustomed to scenes like this. The future Qin Luoli was to be his companion on the Great Path. She would inevitably face slaughter and encounter things far more gruesome and cruel. If she had become soft-hearted and asked him to stop, he wouldn't have refused, but he would certainly have been disappointed. Thankfully, she didn't let him down. On the Great Path, misplaced mercy is the greatest taboo. Qin Luoli ran a corporation; she had the means and the ability. The only thing she lacked was a ruthless edge. Yet, he didn't want her to become someone whose hands were drenched in blood. He would do everything in his power to protect her, to keep her shielded from this slaughter and these dark schemes. As for all the bloodshed and sin... he would bear it all alone!

The Second Elder stared at the head at his feet, his mind reeling from the shock.

The movement technique Lin Mu had just displayed was something he had never seen or even heard of. It was phantom-like, exquisite to the point of divinity!

It was... divine!

The Second Elder's pupils shrank. "You're a Grandmaster?!"

The Second Elder forced the words out. His declaration was met with a moment of stunned silence, which was then shattered by a roaring uproar.

A Grandmaster? A Martial Arts Grandmaster! Lin Mu was a Martial Arts Grandmaster!

"You're River City Lin Wudi!" The Second Elder was clearly startled by his own deduction. He stared at Lin Mu in disbelief, a half-mad look in his eyes. "Right. It all adds up now!"

The rumors about a Grandmaster backing Lin Mu... The stories of him being a Divine Doctor with miraculous medical skills... They were all lies, but they were also true! Because they are one and the same person! Lin Mu is Lin Wudi! He is the Divine Doctor! And he is the Grandmaster!

"No wonder, no wonder!" the Second Elder said hatefully. "You deliberately spread those rumors to the outside world to confuse us! Lin Wudi, your scheming is terrifyingly deep!"

The Second Elder's gaze toward Lin Mu was now completely filled with terror and despair.

This young man's schemes are profound, his talent monstrously unparalleled. Who in this world could possibly be his match?

Fang Shaoning's complexion also began to change, turning visibly pale.

"Since you know my identity now, you can all go die," Lin Mu said with a grin, preparing to unleash a slaughter.

"Wait!" the Second Elder suddenly exclaimed. "Lin Mu, since you are Lin Wudi, our Sect Leader has a message he asked me to deliver to you!"

"What is it?"

The Second Elder took a deep breath and said gravely, "The Sect Leader of the Fire Cloud Sect, Fan Li, awaits the arrival of Lin Wudi in Jiangling."

The Sect Leader of the Fire Cloud Sect wants to challenge me?

Lin Mu nodded slightly. "I see. You can die now, too."

With that, a wisp of Punishing Immortal Sword Qi shot out. Before the Second Elder's disbelieving eyes, it sliced clean through his neck, severing his head.

The crowd was left speechless.

Chapter 386 You Overestimate Yourself!

Everyone stared at Lin Mu in stunned silence. They already knew the Fire Cloud Sect's Leader was about to challenge him, yet Lin Mu had gone ahead and killed their Second Elder?

Is he trying to make a mortal enemy of the Fire Cloud Sect? This guy is completely unreasonable. The crowd felt their minds reel, at a complete loss for words.

After killing the two Elders from the Fire Cloud Sect, Lin Mu turned his gaze toward the man who had been sitting in his chair, silent the entire time.

The man was in his early thirties, with a refined appearance. He emanated an air of nobility, and his eyes exuded an innate pride that seemed to radiate from his very bones, as if it were something he was born with.

This was the pride of a descendant of the Fang Family!

This was Fang Shaoning of the Jiangling Fang Family!

Fang Shaoning watched Lin Mu, his lips curling into a faint smile. "Lin Mu? Lin Wudi?"

He shook his head and chuckled. "No wonder you dare to kill a member of my Fang Family. You do have some backbone." He paused, his tone shifting. "A pity."

Fang Shaoning said indifferently, "With your rank of sixteenth on the Heaven's List, you are nothing before my Fang Family!"

His words sent a slight shock through the entire hall.

Lin Mu is ranked sixteenth on the Heaven's List, yet that means nothing to the Fang Family?

Fang Shaoning suddenly stood up, a faint smile on his face. "Lin Mu, out of respect for you being a Martial Arts Grandmaster, I will offer you a way out."

"Oh?" Lin Mu replied, a smile playing on his lips that wasn't quite a smile. "Let's hear it."

"Become a servant of my Fang Family. If you do, I can guarantee I won't kill you, nor will I trouble the Qin Family." Pointing to Qin Luoli beside him, he added, "Including this woman. Although I've taken a fancy to her, I can bestow her upon you."

Fang Shaoning's face was filled with supreme confidence, as if he were certain Lin Mu would agree.

"As long as you agree, I will not hold you accountable for the crime of killing a man from my Fang Family. The condition is that from this day forward, you will be a servant to my Fang Family, and the Qin Family must also serve us!"

Upon hearing this, everyone's jaw dropped in disbelief.

Make Lin Mu a servant to the Fang Family? And not hold him responsible? This... Where does Fang Shaoning get such audacity and confidence? Was he scared out of his wits by Lin Mu's earlier display? Otherwise, how could he possibly say such things?

"Become a servant for your Fang Family?" Lin Mu tilted his head, looking intently at Fang Shaoning. "And you've set your sights on my woman?"

His tone seemed devoid of any emotion.

Fang Shaoning smiled and nodded. "That's right. Become a servant to my Fang Family and serve us for life, without a hint of betrayal!"

He then pointed a finger at Qin Luoli. "This woman's appearance and temperament are both top-class, and her abilities are not bad either. She is certainly qualified to be my handmaiden. But, seeing as you are about to become a servant to my Fang Family, what does it matter if I bestow her upon you?"

Qin Luoli's expression turned grim. Her hands involuntarily clenched into fists, anger flaring in her eyes. This Fang Shaoning was humiliating her so brazenly, and worst of all, he was doing it right in front of Lin Mu!

Lin Mu gently took her hand and asked in a soft voice, "How would you like him to die?"

His question hung in the air. Who was to die? Naturally, it was Fang Shaoning.

Qin Luoli took a deep breath, gritted her teeth, and said hatefully, "I want to smash his mouth!"

"Okay."

Lin Mu smiled, then slowly walked towards Fang Shaoning, a faint smile still on his face. To the onlookers, however, that smile was as cold as a winter gale. It wasn't a smile at all, but a killing intent so intense it had reached its peak.

"Lin Mu, what do you think you're doing?" Fang Shaoning's face paled slightly as he snarled, "You dare act so presumptuously in front of me!"

SLAP!

The only response he received was a crisp slap across the face.

"Ah!"

The blow was exceptionally powerful, sending Fang Shaoning spinning in a full circle. The moment he stopped, Lin Mu backhanded him again.

SPIT!

This time, the slap knocked two of Fang Shaoning's teeth out.

"Lin Mu, you dare hit me?!" Fang Shaoning clutched his face, staring at Lin Mu in utter disbelief.

The others were just as shocked.

Lin Mu... he actually dared to strike Fang Shaoning? This man is simply reckless, with no regard for the consequences!

"Your mouth is so foul. Didn't you brush your teeth before coming out?" Lin Mu raised his hand again and delivered another slap.

Fang Shaoning desperately wanted to dodge, but to his horror, he found he couldn't move. He could only stand there, watching in terror as Lin Mu's palm struck his face again.

"Lin Mu!" Fang Shaoning's face instantly swelled up like a pig's head and was covered in blood. But his eyes were full of venomous hatred as he stared at Lin Mu and said grimly, "You'll pay a heavy price for hitting me today!"

SLAP! SLAP!

Two more slaps sent Fang Shaoning crumpling to the ground, screaming in agony.

"Lin Mu, you dare!" he roared. "The power of the Fang Family is far beyond your imagination! We can even mobilize the Martial Alliance! Annihilating a single Grandmaster is a trivial matter for us!"

Fang Shaoning gave a sinister smirk. "Lin Mu, you think you're strong, do you? Are you stronger than the entire Martial Alliance?"

The Jiangling Fang Family had always maintained a good relationship with the Martial Alliance.

"Even if you're a skilled fighter, do you dare challenge the Martial Alliance?" Fang Shaoning smiled cruelly. "Moreover, my Fang Family also has connections within the Military Department!"

The mention of the Military Department made everyone's expression change drastically. Given their status, they knew things ordinary people didn't, like the existence of martial artists and the Martial Alliance. And the Military Department ranked even higher than the Martial Alliance! This was no ordinary military; it was rumored to be filled with countless experts, each one a master among masters.

"Do you know why Guan Chengye didn't dare help the Qin Family, even though he knew they were in trouble?" Fang Shaoning sneered. "It's because someone gave a warning, and he didn't dare make a move!"

Everyone finally understood. They now knew why Fang Shaoning had been so certain that the Guan Family wouldn't intervene, that River City was under his control, that the Qin Family was doomed, and that Lin Mu would surely die. The Fang Family's influence was far stronger and deeper than any of them had imagined.

"A Martial Arts Grandmaster?" Fang Shaoning scoffed. "You're still subject to the Martial Alliance's authority. You wouldn't dare defy them and kill me, would you?"

He slowly stood up, rubbing his swollen face. Seeing Lin Mu remain silent, he assumed his words had terrified him, and his killing intent grew colder.

So you're arrogant? When you become a servant of my Fang Family, your woman will become my plaything.

Thinking this, Fang Shaoning's expression grew even more ferocious. He pointed at Lin Mu and spat, "Get on your knees and admit your mistake! If your attitude is satisfactory, I might just spare your worthless life!"

Hearing Fang Shaoning's words, everyone assumed Lin Mu would have to agree. After all, who would dare to offend both the Martial Alliance and the Military Department? That was suicide, even for a Grandmaster.

However, Lin Mu just laughed.

It was a laugh that made one's scalp tingle.

He looked at Fang Shaoning and slowly shook his head.

"The Fang Family? The Martial Alliance? The Military Department?"

Though a smile was on Lin Mu's face, his voice was filled with a murderous intent that was almost tangible.

"You think too highly of them!"

The murderous intent erupted like a volcano, threatening to tear through the roof of the hall.

"And you overestimate yourself far too much!"

Chapter 387: Prepare the Fang Family for Ruin!

"In your eyes, the Martial Alliance might be an untouchable existence," Lin Mu said indifferently. "But in my eyes, if I want to kill you, what can the Martial Alliance possibly do to me?"

His killing intent surged, a tidal wave threatening to drown Fang Shaoning.

"You... you want to kill me?" Fang Shaoning's pupils shrank as he cried out, "I am a direct descendant of the Fang Family! If you kill me, the Qin Family will be buried with me, and you, Lin Mu, will die a gruesome death!"

"I told you, you overestimate yourself." Lin Mu slowly raised his foot and planted it on Fang Shaoning's face, gradually pressing down.

"If I kill you, someone will indeed be buried with you." Lin Mu gazed down imperiously at Fang Shaoning, his voice as cold as the winter wind. "But it won't be the Qin Family, nor anyone else. It will be your Jiangling Fang Family!"

Fang Shaoning shrieked under Lin Mu's foot, his face twisted into a grotesque mask. From a young age, he had been the exalted Young Master Ning of the Fang Family. When had he ever suffered such humiliation? Lin Mu trampling him underfoot was the same as trampling his dignity. He was viciously stomping on the Fang Family's honor!

"Lin Mu, how dare you humiliate me like this! You will die a horrible death!" Fang Shaoning ground out through gritted teeth. "I swear, I will personally break every bone in your body, inch by inch, and then make your woman weep and beg for mercy before me... AARGH!"

Before Fang Shaoning could finish, he let out a bloodcurdling scream. Lin Mu had stomped down, directly shattering his cheekbone.

SPLAT!

A spray of blood and broken teeth erupted from his mouth. Fang Shaoning wailed in agony, a truly miserable sight.

Lin Mu's eyes were like cold stars as he watched Fang Shaoning indifferently. "Do you know why I'm going to kill you?"

The killing intent radiating from Lin Mu suddenly planted a seed of terror in Fang Shaoning's heart. He shook his head subconsciously, because he still couldn't truly believe Lin Mu would dare to kill him.

"You can look down on me. Your family can target me. You can even destroy my company. I don't care about any of that." Lin Mu's voice was like a sigh from the Demon King in Hell. "But you never should have set your sights on my woman!"

As the words fell, Lin Mu applied pressure with his foot again, crushing Fang Shaoning's shoulder inch by inch.

"AARGH!"

Fang Shaoning's eyes bulged as he roared like a wounded beast. Everyone who heard the sound shuddered, not daring to look.

This was especially true for Qin Hongbo. He was long familiar with Lin Mu's ruthless side, but he had never expected Lin Mu to do something so brutal to a member of the Fang Family.

"Luoli, you... you have to talk some sense into Lin Mu," Qin Hongbo couldn't help but say to Qin Luoli, his voice laced with worry. "If he really kills Fang Shaoning, the feud with the Fang Family will be irreconcilable."

No matter what, he was still a member of the Qin Family. If the Fang Family bore a grudge against them because of this, with their power, annihilating the insignificant Qin Family would be as easy as flipping a hand.

Qin Luoli gave Qin Hongbo a deep look and said faintly, "Is it your hope, Uncle, that Lin Mu kneels and apologizes to Fang Shaoning, becoming his servant? Or do you wish for our Qin Family to become the Fang Family's lapdogs, for me, Qin Luoli, to be his slave?"

"I..." Qin Hongbo opened his mouth, but no words came out.

Qin Luoli continued coldly, "If you're hoping to use this as a way back into the Qin Family, then I'm telling you to save your effort."

"Luoli, how can you think that?" Qin Hongbo said with a grim face. "No matter what, I am a Qin. The blood in my veins is the blood of the Qin Family. Are you really going to stand by and watch Lin Mu destroy our family?"

"That is no longer your concern, Uncle," Qin Luoli said, her tone icy. "After all, the Old Madam expelled you. You are no longer part of the Qin Family."

"You..." Qin Hongbo was furious. This was the humiliation of his lifetime. Having been banished, he was now a laughingstock to the world. Qin Luoli was twisting the knife, all but slapping him in the face.

"But I can't just stand by and watch Lin Mu act so recklessly!" Qin Hongbo snorted and strode towards Lin Mu, apparently intending to stop him.

"Have you forgotten how the Fang Family treated the Qin Family?" Qin Luoli's chilling voice reached Qin Hongbo's ears. "Furthermore, you are well aware of who abducted my mother-in-law to threaten Lin Mu, aren't you, Uncle?"

Hearing this, Qin Hongbo froze in place, his body trembling with a hint of terror.

"So, I'll give you a piece of advice," Qin Luoli said. "If you don't want to die, it's best you do nothing at all."

Qin Hongbo's expression shifted erratically, a flash of madness even appearing in his eyes. But in the end, he heaved a long sigh, turned slowly, and stood silently in a corner.

...

"Lin Mu, I'll kill you! I'll definitely kill you!" Fang Shaoning roared, his eyes wide with rage, his face a fearsome, twisted mess brimming with hatred.

CRACK!

In response, Lin Mu, without a word, began to crush Fang Shaoning's thigh bones, inch by inch.

"AAAH! No, please! I beg you, spare me!" Fang Shaoning screamed for mercy, all his previous arrogance gone.

"Didn't you say you were going to break every bone in my body? How does it feel now?" Lin Mu squatted down and infused a strand of Mana into Fang Shaoning's body to keep him from dying.

However, Fang Shaoning only felt an even sharper, clearer pain coursing through him, causing him to howl ceaselessly and beg for his life.

Forget the others; even Qin Luoli found the sight hard to bear. Fang Shaoning's current state was simply too tragic. Not a single bone in his body was left intact.

But Qin Luoli forced herself to endure it.

Fang Shaoning's words had enraged her just as they had enraged Lin Mu. If their positions were reversed, Fang Shaoning would undoubtedly be torturing Lin Mu in an even more vicious way. And at that time, she, Qin Luoli, would also suffer a fate worse than death!

Taking a deep breath, Qin Luoli cleared the pity from her eyes, replacing it with cold indifference.

"I really don't know how you plan to kill me," Lin Mu said, looking at Fang Shaoning dispassionately. "With your mouth? Or do you think the Fang Family's name will scare me to death?"

"Lin Mu, let me go! I can make the Fang Family drop this, I swear!" Fang Shaoning pleaded, tears and snot streaming down his wretched face.

"Don't worry, I won't kill you right now," Lin Mu said with a sudden smile, giving Fang Shaoning a light pat. The gentle touch, however, made Fang Shaoning scream in agony.

"If you dare to make another sound, believe me, I will kill you this instant," Lin Mu said with sudden menace. Fang Shaoning immediately clamped his mouth shut, his body contorting and his face flushing crimson from the escalating pain. But he truly did not dare to scream again.

"Didn't you say your Fang Family was powerful?" Lin Mu said with a smile. "Then go back and tell the Fang Family Head that I, Lin Mu, will be paying a personal visit to Jiangling soon. Tell him... to be ready."

"I will make the Jiangling Fang Family disappear from this world entirely!"

Lin Mu rose abruptly, his imposing aura washing over everyone in the hall.

"ROAR!"

Suddenly, Lin Mu opened his mouth, and a dragon's cry echoed forth as ripples of green energy pulsed outward.

"Heavenly Dragon Eight Sounds!"

In the blink of an eye, everyone in the hall, except for Qin Luoli, collapsed to the ground, unconscious. When they awoke, their memories of these events would be gone.

Lying on the floor, Fang Shaoning watched Lin Mu leave with Qin Luoli, his gaze filled with a mixture of confusion and terror.

Chapter 388: He Chose You!

"Mother, is she okay?"

「Qin Zhu Courtyard.」

Qin Luoli's face was full of worry, even a touch of self-reproach. "Lin Mu, I'm sorry. I didn't protect Mother well."

She felt responsible for Chen Xinlan's group capturing Lin Mu's mother.

Lin Mu checked on Lady Su. He had already removed the poison, and she was now just suffering from a bit of a fright. She would be fine after some rest.

Hearing Qin Luoli's words, Lin Mu took her hand and said, "How could this be your fault? You had no idea that woman Chen Xinlan would do something like that."

Qin Luoli's eyes were slightly red, her face filled with guilt.

"Alright, don't overthink it. Isn't Mom okay now?"

His soothing words finally managed to calm Qin Luoli's emotions.

"By the way, Xiao Tian is still waiting outside. You should go see him. I'll stay here with Mother." Qin Luoli sat by the bedside, holding Lady Su's hand, unwilling to leave.

Lin Mu nodded and walked out of the room.

Shi Potian was in the living room, so restless he could neither stand still nor sit down, his expression a mask of complexity. He was both excited and apprehensive, not even knowing where to put his hands.

When Lin Mu saw him, he furrowed his brow slightly. "Are you alright?"

Lin Mu walked over and glanced at Shi Potian, who was covered in blood, his face a little pale. But Lin Mu noticed something deeper. Shi Potian's aura was in extreme chaos, his internal qi and blood constantly battering his meridians and blood vessels. If it wasn't resolved quickly, Shi Potian could very well die from his blood vessels bursting under the pressure.

"Lin... Brother Mu!"

Hearing Lin Mu speak to him, Shi Potian's face flushed with excitement, but before he could finish his sentence, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. He was about to lose control of the wildly surging qi and blood within him.

"Don't speak. Close your eyes and feel carefully."

Lin Mu walked over and gently tapped Shi Potian's shoulder.

Shi Potian's entire body trembled. He felt a vast yet gentle stream of energy flow from Lin Mu's hand, like a refreshing rain swiftly dousing the raging fire within him. Not only that, but the rampaging qi and blood, as if suppressed by some incredible force, began to calm down, resting peacefully within his vessels. Then, guided by a new force, it began to circulate slowly throughout his body.

A look of utter shock appeared on Shi Potian's face; it all felt so incredible. However, having witnessed so many unbelievable things recently, Shi Potian was no longer a complete novice. He knew what this moment meant for him, so he quickly sat down cross-legged and carefully guided the force within his body.

Gradually, the chaotic qi and blood in Shi Potian's body were subdued. His wounds began to heal at a visible rate, scabbing over and flaking off. In the blink of an eye, his injuries were almost completely healed. Moreover, he found he could control the surging qi and blood in his body with much greater ease, and his strength had grown even more formidable.

Shi Potian was now confident that if he were to encounter those Dwarfs again, he wouldn't be in such a pathetic state. He was even confident he could take them all down with him!

Shi Potian opened his eyes and looked at Lin Mu with excitement. "Thank you, Brother Mu." Scratching his head, he asked bashfully, "Can I call you that?"

Lin Mu gave a rare, gentle smile. "You can call me Little Uncle-Master."

"Ah? Little Uncle-Master?!" Shi Potian's mouth hung open, unable to process it for a moment. "Then... wouldn't I have to call Sister Qin..."

Lin Mu chuckled. "We'll address each other as we see fit."

"Oh, that's good," Shi Potian said, sighing in relief. But he still seemed to have something on his mind.

"If you have a question, just ask." Lin Mu seemed to have a great deal of patience for Shi Potian.

Shi Potian took a deep breath. "Lin... Little Uncle-Master, why are you being so good to me?"

I used to be just a security guard, an insignificant nobody. It's impossible for someone like Little Uncle-Master to be this kind to me for no reason.

Yet he couldn't figure out what about him was worthy of such kindness.

Lin Mu hesitated for a moment before replying calmly, "Because you remind me of an old friend."

"An old friend?" Shi Potian asked. "Is it the person who's always appearing in my mind?"

Ever since he had woken up, whether he was eating, sleeping, or doing anything at all, a figure would always emerge in his mind. The man's head touched the sky while his feet stood upon the earth, surrounded by a vision of mountains of corpses and seas of blood. The ghastly wounds covering his body were a shocking sight. But the powerful, unyielding obsession conveyed in his repeated cry of "Nine deaths, no regrets!" always made Shi Potian's eyes turn red and his heart ache with an unbearable sorrow.

"Yes." Lin Mu looked at Shi Potian, his gaze deep and ancient. "In you, I see his shadow."

Shi Potian felt a bit uncomfortable under Lin Mu's gaze. "Was he your senior brother?"

Lin Mu's voice was heavy with memory. "He was my sworn elder brother."

Back in the Eternal Immortal Realm, when I had no family, I traveled far and wide, making many friends. I still remember meeting him because we both rushed to help a little girl who was being bullied. The three of us became acquainted and traveled everywhere together, eventually becoming sworn siblings. That fellow always insisted he was the eldest brother since he was the oldest, and the little girl, being the youngest, was our dearest little sister. As for me, I was the happiest of all. I had an elder brother to protect me and a younger sister whom I could protect—a happiness anyone would envy. Indeed, even up to the very last moment, he never stopped protecting me and the little girl, facing nine deaths without a single regret!

When we were young, we each had our own dreams. I wanted to become a great Immortal with boundless longevity; he wanted to become the most admired of all heroes; and the little girl would always shyly say she wanted to marry her Second Brother.

That fellow would always earnestly tell the little girl, "You and Second Brother can't get married."

The little girl would always ask naively, "Why not, Big Brother? We aren't related by blood."

He would become exasperated and say, "After you get married, you're bound to argue. If you both come crying to me, who am I supposed to side with?"

The little girl would always hug his arm and say with a grin, "Second Brother adores me; he would never bully me."

And so, he would always end up sitting on the threshold sighing, wearing a sorrowful expression, as if his precious daughter were all grown up and leaving the nest.

「Later.」

He never became a great hero. Instead, he became the most feared Demon Lord in the entire Eternal Immortal Realm.

The little girl never married me. Instead, she was taken away by the Luo River Goddess Clan to become a candidate for their next Goddess.

And I became the most revered existence in the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths of the Eternal Immortal Realm: the Grazing Emperor.

「In the end, however...」

For my sake, my brother fought the Twelve Demon Gods alone, perishing without regret, his very Dao obliterated.

For my sake, my sister sacrificed her Divine Soul, summoning a mysterious power to open a cosmic passage and send me away.

As for me, I became a lone soul, wandering the depths of the universe, waiting for my own return.

These memories from a past life, though from two lifetimes ago, felt as vivid as yesterday, causing Lin Mu's heart to twinge with pain.

He patted Shi Potian's shoulder and said, "So, it wasn't I who chose you. It was he."

"Cultivate diligently. Don't disappoint the expectations he has for you."

Chapter 389: Would You Like to Try?

"Venerable Master, we are ready!" Cheng Bugui walked in and reported to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu nodded. "How are the preparations in Jiangling coming along?"

"Everything is ready. The Venerable Master may proceed to Jiangling at any time," Cheng Bugui replied respectfully, but then he hesitated, looking as if he wanted to say more.

"Speak your mind," Lin Mu said.

"Why doesn't the Venerable Master simply reveal his identity to go to Jiangling? Why go to all this trouble?" Having asked the question, Cheng Bugui immediately lowered his head, his back breaking out in a cold sweat. He instantly regretted asking.

Lin Mu didn't get angry. Instead, he just smiled faintly. "I want to uproot the Fang Family completely, to make them regret ever laying a hand on my family."

「Boheng Pharma.」

Because Su Ke'er had proactively helped Qin Corporation, Boheng Pharma was also targeted and repeatedly suppressed by the Fang Family and other major corporations.

Now, several of Boheng Pharma's development projects had been obstructed for various reasons and ground to a halt. Even the sales of some health products and medicines that were successfully developed and ready for market were now under attack. Boheng Pharma was on the brink of collapse. The reason was simple: a few enterprises and small companies saw an opportunity to acquire it and were taking an aggressive stance.

Inside the Boheng Pharma boardroom, Su Ke'er's pretty face was dark as she looked at the representatives sitting across from her. The heads of East China Technology and Xinglong Real Estate were among them.

"I'm sorry, Director Lin isn't here," she said. "I can't make decisions on these matters. We'll have to wait for his return to discuss them further."

"President Su, let's be frank." The representative from East China Technology, a middle-aged man, pointed to a document on the table. "Our two companies operate in different fields and have no private grievances. The merger we're proposing is a win-win for everyone." He smiled confidently. "I really can't imagine any other company offering such a fair price."

"I wouldn't be so sure, Manager Sun." The representative from Xinglong Real Estate, a woman who still possessed a mature charm, held up a bottle of medicine developed by Boheng Pharma. "When it comes to strength, Xinglong Real Estate is certainly no weaker than East China Technology. Furthermore, we are planning a transformation and have already dedicated significant resources to promoting and selling

Boheng Pharma's projects. Honestly, if our chairman wasn't confident in Boheng Pharma's products, he wouldn't have even asked about them, let alone sent me here to negotiate."

Su Ke'er said coldly, "If that's the case, why are you here? Isn't it just because Director Lin is away and Qin Corporation is in trouble that you've come to kick us while we're down?"

"President Su, there's no point in saying that," said Manager Sun. "If you don't agree to the merger, Boheng Pharma will declare bankruptcy within three days. I'm sure you don't want to see that happen, do you?"

Manager Wen from Xinglong Real Estate added, "You said it yourself. The Jiangling Fang Family is moving against the Qin Family, and who knows where your Director Lin has disappeared to. How much longer do you think Boheng Pharma can possibly hold on?"

"Three days? I think that's being generous," Manager Wen sneered. "Think about it. How long did it take for even the mighty Qin Corporation to fall from its peak to the brink of collapse?"

Su Ke'er's expression turned ugly. She knew they were right. But they can forget about acquiring Boheng Pharma!

How much had she given for this company? How much had Lin Mu given? She would never allow Boheng Pharma to fall into anyone else's hands. The problem, however, was that Lin Mu had vanished, and the Fang Family was attacking Qin Corporation. For some reason, several of Boheng Pharma's shareholders were also unreachable, as if they had met with some accident. Right now, only a handful of people were struggling to keep the company afloat.

"President Su, let me give you another piece of news," Manager Wen said suddenly. "That Manager Liu of yours, wasn't he sent to Jiangbei? Your company is in a crisis, yet he hasn't even called to ask what's going on. Aren't you the least bit curious?"

"What?" Su Ke'er was shocked. "You dare to touch Manager Liu? Aren't you afraid of Director Lin coming back to settle the score?"

Manager Sun and Manager Wen exchanged a smile. "This is just normal business competition. Even if your Director Lin comes back, what can he do?" Smug, triumphant smiles spread across both their faces.

Boheng Pharma was preparing to establish a branch in Jiangbei, an endeavor they had invested a great deal of capital and manpower into. If headquarters ran into trouble, the branch would surely face problems as well. Liu Zijian wouldn't be able to hold out much longer in Jiangbei. The move by East China Technology and Xinglong Real Estate was designed to force Su Ke'er's hand. They didn't dare target Qin Corporation directly because of the Jiangling Fang Family's power, not to mention that both the Luo and Chen families were eager to carve a slice from the big cake that was Qin Corporation. East China Technology and Xinglong Real Estate planned to snatch up Boheng Pharma before anyone else could react.

"What can I do? Didn't your chairmen tell you before you came?"

Just as Su Ke'er was reaching the peak of her anxiety, a calm voice suddenly drifted in from outside. The office door was pushed open, and a young man slowly walked in.

"President Su, your employees are incredibly rude!" Manager Wen snapped. "We're in the middle of a discussion, and he just barges in without knocking. Does he have no manners at all!"

Clearly, Su Ke'er had been on the verge of agreeing, only for this person to interrupt. Thinking this, Manager Wen's glare at the newcomer grew even more hostile.

When Su Ke'er saw the man, however, her whole body trembled slightly, and her eyes reddened with emotion.

"Lin Mu..."

Lin Mu nodded, walked over to sit beside Su Ke'er, and leaned back in his chair. He looked at the company representatives across from them.

"What do you want to discuss? I'll talk with you."

His voice was calm, with almost no trace of anger. But Su Ke'er knew these companies were doomed. At the same time, a wave of relief washed over her. For some reason, as long as Lin Mu was here, no problem seemed too great.

"Who do you think you are? What gives you the right to talk to us!" Manager Sun sneered.

"I'm the chairman of this company. You tell me if I'm qualified." Lin Mu glanced indifferently at the representatives, whose expressions had changed drastically. "However, I've just realized that you aren't qualified to talk to me. Therefore, I'm going to invite your chairmen to come talk to me instead!"

He then ordered, "Go. Bring the chairmen and responsible parties from these companies here. If a single one is missing, don't bother coming back!"

Cheng Bugui, Liang Yue, and the others immediately acknowledged the order and hurried out to "invite" their guests.

"Kid, who are you trying to fool?" Manager Sun scoffed. "You think that's enough to scare us? Let me tell you straight: you're signing this contract today, whether you like it or not!"

Lin Mu grinned. "The last person who said that to me has already been reincarnated. You want to be next?"

Chapter 390: You've Got Some Nerve!

"Are you really the chairman of this company?" Manager Wen sized up Lin Mu. She recalled her boss telling her before she came that the chairman of Boheng Pharma was a young man, but he hadn't elaborated.

At the time, Manager Wen had assumed it was Su Ke'er. After all, she had done some research in preparation for acquiring Boheng Pharma.

Boheng Pharma was under Su Ke'er's management.

As for that other young man, wasn't that Liu Zijian, who was far away in Jiangbei?

"The genuine article." Lin Mu smiled, but his expression was cold.

Manager Wen immediately flashed a charming smile, intentionally puffing out her chest. "Since you are indeed the chairman of this company," she said in a sickeningly sweet voice, "then we can have a proper discussion."

Lin Mu replied indifferently, "There's no need."

Manager Wen's smile didn't falter. She even deliberately tossed her hair and said, "Director Lin, you could at least look at our terms. I guarantee you'll be satisfied."

With her figure and looks, Manager Wen was considered a beauty. When negotiating contracts, she usually just had to make a few suggestive gestures to bewitch the other party, who would then sign the contract in a daze.

Thus, she was very confident in her abilities.

This young, virile chairman of Boheng Pharma certainly won't refuse.

Su Ke'er watched Manager Wen with a mocking gaze, a hint of disdain in her eyes.

This seductive wretch is in for a world of hurt.

Lin Mu glanced at Manager Wen but said nothing.

Seeing Lin Mu's expression, a flicker of anger ignited within Manager Wen.

What does this bastard mean? Is he looking down on me?

At that thought, Manager Wen took a deep breath, slowly stood, and walked gracefully toward Lin Mu.

She placed a delicate hand on Lin Mu's shoulder, exhaling a fragrant breath. With her eyes smoldering, she placed her other hand on his chest and began to caress it gently.

"Handsome, just take a look. Don't worry, the terms are very generous."

Manager Wen sneered inwardly, but her face was all smiles. "As long as you sign the contract, our two companies will become partners. Then, I'll agree to whatever you want."

Manager Sun of East China Technology subconsciously swallowed at the sight.

What an enchantress!

However, he then saw Su Ke'er, who was beside Lin Mu, stand up with a slight change in her expression and take several steps back.

What does that mean?

The next moment, he understood perfectly.

"AH!"

Lin Mu had suddenly seized Manager Wen's hand, a faint smile on his face.

"Director Lin, you're hurting me..." Manager Wen's brow furrowed in apparent pain.

However, Lin Mu's next action caught her completely by surprise.

"Get lost!"

With a slight exertion of force, Lin Mu flung Manager Wen away.

She flew four or five meters before crashing to the ground, screaming in agony.

Everyone was stunned.

The chairman of Boheng Pharma had just been so violent with a woman? Did he have no sense of chivalry at all?

"You..." Manager Wen grit her teeth against the pain, her face dark as she glared at Lin Mu with cold, venomous eyes.

"Kid, that's going too far! Treating a woman so crudely, are you even a man?" Manager Sun roared, rushing to help Manager Wen up. "Are you alright?"

Manager Wen got to her feet and subtly brushed his hand away. "Thank you."

Manager Sun, his face a mask of righteousness, declared, "It's nothing! Any man would stand up for justice in a situation like this!"

A flash of disgust appeared in Manager Wen's eyes before she turned back to Lin Mu. "What is the meaning of this?"

"My apologies, I have an issue with cleanliness." Wiping his hands with a tissue, Lin Mu said, "Your scent is too strong."

"You..."

Manager Wen's face turned utterly grim. "To think the dignified Chairman of Boheng Pharma is such a petty and unrefined man. I must have been blind!"

"If you're blind, you should get it treated," Lin Mu said, not in the least angered. "Coincidentally, our company has some excellent medicine. Care to try some?"

Manager Wen was on the verge of losing her mind.

How could the Chairman of Boheng Pharma be such a scoundrel? So rude, despicable, and undignified!

Manager Sun said coldly, "We're here today to discuss the acquisition, not to trade barbs with you."

Lin Mu sat up straight, his expression aloof. "I've already told you. You aren't qualified to negotiate with me."

Manager Sun sneered. "Do you really expect our Chairman to negotiate with you personally? Let me be honest, Boheng Pharma's days are numbered. If you agree now, you can still get something out of it. If you wait for our Chairman to come, you won't get a single cent."

"Heh." Lin Mu gave a faint smile. "Then we'll talk when they get here."

A few minutes later, Cheng Bugui and his men returned.

"Venerable Master, the people you asked us to 'invite' have been brought here," Cheng Bugui said, heavily emphasizing the word "invite."

Lin Mu stood up. "Good. The people we were waiting for have arrived. You two can come out and see for yourselves."

With that, Lin Mu walked straight out of the conference room.

Manager Sun and Manager Wen exchanged a look, both seeing unease and shock in the other's eyes.

Did the people from Boheng Pharma really bring all of our companies' chairmen here?

"Come on, let's go see!"

When Manager Sun and Manager Wen reached the reception hall of Boheng Pharma, they were stunned by the scene before them.

The Chairman of East China Technology, the Chairman of Xinglong Real Estate, and the heads of several other companies were all present in the hall.

They were all disheveled, and two of them looked as if they had been dragged straight out of bed, still in their pajamas. Their faces were bruised, as if they had been beaten up.

"Liang Yue, right? I'll remember you. I swear I'll have you killed when I get the chance!" the Chairman of Xinglong Real Estate, a portly middle-aged man, snarled with a vicious look on his face.

He had delegated the acquisition to his subordinates while he took his mistress to a hotel for some fun. He never expected to be yanked out of bed and hauled directly to Boheng Pharma.

This infuriated Qiang Shijie.

Once the Qin Corporation falls completely, I'll find a way to finish off Liang Yue and his people. And Lin Mu! That bastard who humiliated me so terribly!

Qiang Shijie's face twisted with rage as he shouted, "Not just you, but Lin Mu too! I'll have all of you killed!"

"I'd like to see how you plan on having me killed," Lin Mu said, slowly walking over and looking at Qiang Shijie with an indifferent expression.

"Who the hell do you think you are, interrupting m— Lin Mu, when did you get back?!" Qiang Shijie's tirade was cut short the moment he saw Lin Mu. His legs instantly went weak, and he collapsed to his knees.

The Chairman of East China Technology had the same reaction, his face paling as he knelt, his body trembling uncontrollably. A note of terror entered his voice.

"Venerable Master, I..."

Lin Mu looked down on them coldly, his face emotionless. "You decided to acquire my company while I was away from River City? Who gave you two the guts?"

"We..." Qiang Shijie fought to suppress his terror. "We... we were forced! Otherwise, we wouldn't have dared, not even with ten times the nerve."

"Is that so?" Lin Mu gently patted Qiang Shijie's shoulder. "On the contrary, I don't believe that. In fact, I think you're extraordinarily brave."