

War God 451

Chapter 451: Please Grant Me a Battle!

"Ah, Jiangling has developed so quickly. When I came here more than twenty years ago, this whole area was just farmland," Elder Xiao said, looking out at the bustling city from the backseat of a car.

Fei Zhenghai, the former mayor of Jiangling sitting opposite him, replied, "Indeed. The development in recent years has been incredibly fast, and the city itself has gradually expanded."

"Hmm. Seeing this constant flow of traffic, all this concrete and steel, I find myself missing the green leaves that once covered the mountains," Elder Xiao said with a sigh of nostalgia.

Fei Zhenghai smiled wryly. "My old leader, with society progressing so quickly these days, the only places left to find some flowers and greenery are out in the countryside or in private villas."

Fei Zhenghai had been Elder Xiao's subordinate, following him since his youth. He was later assigned to a local post where he performed remarkably well, living up to Elder Xiao's expectations. Though he was now retired, it was only natural for him to accompany Elder Xiao on his visit to Jiangling.

"Grandfather, isn't there a place just like that in Jiangling now?" his granddaughter, Fei Xiaoyu, suddenly chimed in.

"Are you talking about Coiling Dragon Bay? That place is an Immortal Realm on earth, but it's far too expensive," Fei Zhenghai sighed. "Businesspeople today have no principles. They're charging a hundred thousand per square meter! Isn't that disrupting the market? How can ordinary people afford it?"

Elder Xiao laughed heartily. "You're not wrong. Even I can't afford it. However, when that boy gets back, I might just have him gift this old man a unit."

Elder Xiao gazed out the window and murmured to himself, "Kid, you have to win this fight."

「Dragon Tiger Mountain, the cradle of Taoism!」

Surrounded by mountains and shrouded in a purple haze, the geomancy of the land marked it as a true Cave Heaven and Blessed Land.

In the central square of Dragon Tiger Mountain sat a cross-legged figure with a wooden sword resting on his knees. It was difficult to guess his age; he looked to be thirty, perhaps forty, but certainly not over fifty. Dressed in a simple purple Daoist Robe, he seemed utterly ordinary, yet his very presence felt merged with heaven and earth.

This was none other than Zhang Daoyun of the Celestial Master Mansion.

A year ago, the young man from River City killed his junior brother, prompting Zhang Daoyun to set a one-year deadline for a duel. Today, that year was up. He had been sitting here for the entire time.

"Zhang Daoyun, must we go through with this fight?" From atop the grand hall of the Celestial Master Mansion, a white-robed figure holding a sharp sword spoke.

It was Sword God Shen Lang. For the entire year Zhang Daoyun had been sitting there, Shen Lang had been sitting on the roof.

A year ago, the world only knew that Shen Lang had challenged Dragon Tiger Mountain, forcing Zhang Daoyun to seal the mountain for a year and retreat to heal his wounds. But only Shen Lang knew the truth. They had exchanged but a single blow. It was a draw. Zhang Daoyun hadn't been injured; sealing the mountain was merely a concession to a certain old man. In return, Lin Wudi had to agree to this fight.

"With your disposition, you would never fight over a personal grudge. What are you thinking?" Shen Lang continued, "You've already reached such a high realm. Why do you hesitate to take that final step? What are you waiting for?"

Legend told that Zhang Daoyun could speak from birth and recite the scriptures of the Celestial Master Mansion by heart. At three, he began practicing the sword, his skills advancing a thousand miles in a single day. By seven, he could contend with Inner Strength masters without fail. At eighteen, he entered the Ancestral Master Hall and was designated the successor to the Heavenly Master. At twenty, he became a Grandmaster, unrivaled in the world.

Shen Lang knew this was no legend. It was fact.

Yet Zhang Daoyun's nature was tranquil. He rarely fought, so almost no one knew his true strength. He had only fought three battles in his entire life.

The first was against Yun Xu, who conceded the moment the fight began and relinquished the title of Heavenly Master. The second was against the previous Heavenly Master. He won with a single move and took the title for himself. The third was against Shen Lang, which ended in a draw.

Today would be his fourth battle: against Lin Wudi of River City.

"I'm not very good at fighting." Zhang Daoyun opened his eyes. His gaze was as calm as still water yet as profound as the sea, holding a trace of heart-stopping ancientness. He looked up at the sky, where auspicious clouds gathered and shifted forms. "But I am so very lonely."

A rare trace of emotion flickered in his voice. "Since I was seven, I've known that no one was my match." Zhang Daoyun glanced at Shen Lang. "Whether fighting you or my master, I never used my full strength."

Shen Lang's pupils contracted.

Zhang Daoyun held up two fingers, leaving only a tiny sliver of a gap between them. "I used about this much," he said. "Any more, and you both would have died."

Zhang Daoyun lowered his hand and caressed the wooden sword. "I can feel that it is lonely, too."

The wooden sword trembled lightly, and the auspicious clouds in the sky were torn asunder as if slashed by an invisible blade.

Zhang Daoyun smiled faintly. "I have waited far too long."

Shen Lang shot to his feet, his tone grave. "If you've waited this long, why not wait a few more years? You know that with his talent, he will surpass me in a few years."

"Surpassing you doesn't mean he can defeat me," Zhang Daoyun laughed heartily. "Besides, I've already waited a year for him. If he hasn't made any progress in that time, he'll have no one to blame but himself."

A hint of sword intent rose from Shen Lang. "You know that man is highly regarded by the Commander."

Zhang Daoyun replied nonchalantly, "Elder Xiao has taken an interest in many people. I'm merely helping him test if this one is up to snuff."

"Must you truly fight?"

"The fight is unavoidable."

CLANG!

The sharp sword in Shen Lang's arms unsheathed three inches, and Sword Qi surged to the heavens.

"Then you'll have to get past me first!" The Sword Qi pointed directly at Zhang Daoyun, ready to shatter him at Shen Lang's slightest whim.

However, Zhang Daoyun just waved his hand gently, and the Sword Qi vanished.

"I told you, you are no match for me." Zhang Daoyun's gaze suddenly shifted to the mountain path, a smile touching his lips. "Besides, he has arrived."

On the mountain path, a young man was approaching at a leisurely pace. It was Lin Mu.

"Lin Wudi of River City, here to answer Daoist Zhang's challenge!" Lin Mu declared as he stepped into the square, his eyes meeting Zhang Daoyun's.

"Excellent." Zhang Daoyun rose and offered a formal salute.

Shen Lang said, "Lin Wudi, if you wish to concede now or simply don't want to fight, I guarantee Zhang Daoyun will not trouble you."

"Thank you, Sword God." Lin Mu smiled faintly. "But since I have come to accept the challenge, how could I possibly retreat without a fight?"

"You really intend to fight?" Shen Lang pressed.

"Must you be so meddlesome!" Zhang Daoyun suddenly waved his hand. A fierce wind kicked up, tearing at the air. As if seized by a colossal force, Shen Lang was flung backward, disappearing from sight in an instant.

"Now, no one will disturb us." Zhang Daoyun looked at Lin Mu and gestured with one hand. "Please."

"Please." Lin Mu's expression turned solemn, and he immediately sat down cross-legged.

Zhang Daoyun nodded slightly and sat down in a formal posture as well. The wooden sword lay across his lap. "Let us decide this in a single move. What say you?"

Lin Mu nodded. "That was my intention as well."

"Please, draw your sword."

Lin Mu nodded. With a single gesture of his hand, the clouds above parted. A clap of thunder echoed, and the sword Dragon Tamer appeared in his grasp.

"To nurture a sword with the heavens and the earth... Admirable means, Lin Wudi!"

Zhang Daoyun laughed heartily. The wooden sword floated up from his knees and into his waiting hand. In that instant, his entire aura changed, becoming like that of a Heavenly Lord descending upon the mortal realm.

"I invite you to this battle!"

Chapter 452: Sword Qi Fills the World, Killing Intent Spills Over the Mortal Realm!

WHOOSH!

The fierce wind howled, transforming into endless Sword Qi that blotted out the sky. In that moment, the entire, vast Dragon Tiger Mountain trembled with shock.

"Is this..."

"Has it started already?"

"Such terrifying Sword Qi!"

Countless people looked up at Dragon Tiger Mountain, their expressions a mix of shock, excitement, and fervor.

"It's a pity we can't watch the battle with our own eyes. A true lifelong regret!"

"Indeed. Who would have thought that Lin Wudi would really dare to keep the appointment? He is truly a leader of the younger generation!"

"Who do you think will win this battle?"

Listening to the challenge echoing from Dragon Tiger Mountain, everyone was exhilarated, yet they lamented being unable to witness this earth-shattering duel firsthand.

"Even though Lin Wudi is strong enough to be called the number one young Martial Artist, there is still a significant gap between him and a veteran Grandmaster like Zhang Daoyun from the Celestial Master Mansion."

"Exactly. Zhang Daoyun is a legendary figure. Even if Lin Wudi has an outstanding track record, defeating Zhang Daoyun is simply impossible!"

"Hmph. And he had the nerve to boast he'd defeat Master Zhang in one move. Such arrogance!"

"Let's just wait here. The news of Lin Wudi's instant defeat might arrive any second."

The Martial Artists who came to watch were unable to ascend Dragon Tiger Mountain and could only observe from its foot. Even so, this was enough for them. A battle between two Grandmasters was bound to shake the heavens and the earth, and getting too close could mean being caught in the crossfire.

"Such strong sword intent!"

Dongfang Potian and Yao Kuohai stood in a pavilion halfway up the mountain. Feeling the overwhelming Sword Qi, their expressions became extremely solemn.

"The Green Lotus Sword Technique is the strongest sword art of the Celestial Master Mansion. It is said that Zhang Daoyun was born with an innate understanding of it. He had memorized all the Taoist scriptures of Dragon Tiger Mountain and mastered the technique without a teacher. His execution of the Green Lotus Sword Technique will naturally be anything but weak."

Dongfang Potian's eyes also blazed with a fighting spirit, wishing he could ascend the mountain himself to cross swords with Zhang Daoyun.

"It looks like Lin Wudi is doomed then."

Yao Kuohai sneered. "That kid thinks he's invincible, but he has no idea how many true experts exist in this world. Dragon Tiger Mountain will be his grave!"

Dongfang Potian nodded in agreement. "The boy is a rare talent, but he is too young. Trying to defeat Zhang Daoyun in a single move is nothing but a fool's dream."

「Atop Dragon Tiger Mountain.」

Shen Lang stood a hundred meters away, his eyes sparkling as he watched the two men seated cross-legged in the plaza. A battle of wills!

Martial Artists at his and Zhang Daoyun's level indeed had minds powerful enough to fight outside their bodies.

However, even someone of Shen Lang's caliber, ranked within the top ten of the Heaven's List and considered a top-tier expert in the world, did not dare to truly fight with his will alone.

After all, a battle of wills was fraught with extreme danger. A single misstep could result in utter annihilation—the death of the body and the dissipation of the soul.

What shocked him was that Lin Mu had also chosen to fight with his will.

The two sat on the ground, their two divine weapons facing each other, emitting an earth-shattering Sword Qi.

The Green Lotus Sword Technique of Dragon Tiger Mountain! As the strongest sword art of the current age, and with Zhang Daoyun's mastery having reached the pinnacle, it was not to be underestimated.

But where did Lin Mu learn his sword technique? Shen Lang was filled with countless questions.

This young man had burst onto the scene, reputed for his profound techniques, including the Controlling Thunder Technique and his swordplay, both the likes of which are seen only once a century. But all these were ultimate techniques, jealously guarded and hidden away. How had Lin Mu learned them?

Moreover, to reach such a level of mastery before the age of thirty... this young man was practically a living deity. Shen Lang had to admit that at thirty years old, he had been nowhere near Lin Mu's level.

Watching Lin Mu engage Zhang Daoyun in a battle of wills, a single phrase inexplicably flashed through Shen Lang's mind. An unparalleled prodigy!

BUZZ!

At that moment, the entire space of Dragon Tiger Mountain subtly trembled. The majestic Sword Qi crisscrossing the sky began to surge chaotically, as if stirred by some unseen force. Yet, amidst the chaos, a discernible pattern could be seen.

The next moment, a shocked expression appeared on Shen Lang's face.

This is...

Before his very eyes, a colossal figure materialized behind Zhang Daoyun. This person looked identical to Zhang Daoyun, but his attire was vastly different. The figure was draped in a Seven-Star Taoist Robe and wore a Lotus Crown. It had a sword sheath on its back, held a horsetail whisk in its right hand, and its left hand was performing a Hand Sealing Technique.

Most importantly, this figure was immense, standing a full three meters tall.

A Manifestation of Will... the Divine Communion Realm!

Shen Lang's expression turned incredibly grave. He had never expected that Zhang Daoyun had already stepped into the Divine Communion Realm, and it seemed he had been at that level for some time. Although Shen Lang was also in the Divine Communion Realm, he knew he was incapable of achieving what Zhang Daoyun just had.

Well done, Zhang Daoyun. No wonder you claimed you could defeat me in one move. A sharp light gleamed in Shen Lang's eyes, and a powerful battle lust surged within him, but he ruthlessly suppressed

it. If his aura were to stir, triggering the concentrated wills of the two combatants, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Zhang Daoyun's Manifestation of Will sat cross-legged in the air, its eyes as calm as still water as it gazed at Lin Mu.

"Lin Wudi, how about we settle this battle in a single move?"

His voice resonated like a great bell, as if a Heavenly God were imparting teachings, stirring the very fabric of heaven and earth. Dark clouds gathered, and lightning flickered. Above Dragon Tiger Mountain, thousands of thunderbolts roared to life, blotting out the sun. The Divine Communion Realm could indeed invoke the Heavenly Dao to manifest itself.

"That suits me just fine."

Lin Mu looked at Zhang Daoyun's physical body and then glanced at his Manifestation of Will. This manifestation was not a true Dharma Idol, because although Zhang Daoyun's Cultivation Level was extremely high, he had not yet reached the stage of forming one. He had merely touched upon a corner of the "Dao."

Lin Mu now finally understood. A Martial Arts Grandmaster could sense the Great Dao of heaven and earth. In the Divine Communion Realm, one had truly *touched* the "Dao." However, there was still a long way to go to truly comprehend and utilize it.

But he was different.

As the only cultivator on Earth and the reincarnation of an Emperor Zun, Lin Mu had long since committed the Great Dao of heaven and earth to memory. Furthermore, the Heavenly Dao Laws Record he cultivated was a method to achieve self-realization through the Great Dao itself. The higher his Cultivation Level, the more power from heaven and earth he could command.

Therefore, when facing Zhang Daoyun's challenge, Lin Mu dared to claim he could win in a single move.

"Excellent!"

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Zhang Daoyun's Manifestation of Will nodded in approval. It then extended a hand, palm facing upward.

"Come!"

The voice was clear and resonant, like that of a Heavenly God, echoing for thousands upon thousands of miles.

CRACK!

A purple thunderbolt suddenly fell into Zhang Daoyun's hand, solidifying into an Ancient Sword. Everyone on Dragon Tiger Mountain could hear the sound, but no one could see what was happening on the summit. At that moment, it was as if the workings of fate were obscured, hidden from mortal eyes.

Dongfang Potian's brow furrowed slightly. In that instant, he felt as though some force within him had been stirred, and a powerful sense of crisis bloomed in his heart.

"Lin Wudi, try and take this sword from me."

The Ancient Sword pointed at Lin Mu, and Zhang Daoyun's calm voice resounded across the land.

In an instant, Sword Qi flooded the heavens, and a murderous intent washed over the mortal realm

Chapter 453: Cut Your Peach Blossoms Twelve or Thirteen!

"CRY!"

"ROAR!"

As soon as Zhang Daoyun's voice fell, a dragon's cry and a tiger's roar echoed from the sky. All the Thunderbolt transformed into azure dragons and fierce tigers, plunging straight down and rushing toward Lin Mu along with the sword light.

"Heavenly Master Secret Technique, the Dragon and Tiger Divine Skill!" Shen Lang suddenly cried out, his face filled with disbelief.

He hadn't expected Zhang Daoyun to have actually mastered the legendary Heavenly Master Secret Technique of Dragon Tiger Mountain. According to legend, the Dragon and Tiger Divine Skill was the strongest secret technique created by the first-generation Heavenly Master of Dragon Tiger Mountain. Only those who inherited the position of Heavenly Master could cultivate it.

However, hundreds of years had passed, and this secret technique had long been lost in the chaos of war. Even after generations of Heavenly Masters from Dragon Tiger Mountain scoured the ancient records, they could only restore a portion of it. The versions practiced by later generations were incomplete, so they could not grasp the true method. But Shen Lang had never expected that Zhang Daoyun knew the complete Heavenly Master Secret Technique. Without the complete version, it was impossible to summon the Dragon and Tiger Divine Skill.

Meanwhile, the crowd watching from the foot of the mountain stared up in disbelief at the dragon, the tiger, and the sword in the sky. It was like a furious strike from the gods, descending from the heavens.

"What kind of move is this? It's too terrifying!"

"It must be a secret technique from Dragon Tiger Mountain. It's simply too powerful!"

"I wonder if Lin Wudi can block it!"

"Block it? What could he use to block it? Lin Wudi is doomed!"

The impact of this battle was immense, and many people had come to watch. Those who witnessed this scene immediately broke into discussion, and none of them believed Lin Mu could withstand this move.

"It's too strong!" Dongfeng Po Tian said with a grave expression. "If it were me, I simply couldn't withstand it."

Yao Kuohai's voice trembled as he said, "If even you can't withstand it, how can Lin Wudi? He's dead for sure!"

Sword Qi raged like a tempest, and murderous intent poured down like a torrential downpour. Amidst the storm, Lin Mu suddenly rose to his feet, as immovable as a great reef. An azure divine light flickered in his eyes, as brilliant as a river of stars and as vast as the universe.

The Thunder Sword in Zhang Daoyun's hand was indeed real Thunderbolt—Nine Heavens Divine Thunder!

This move was, without a doubt, the most powerful strike Lin Mu had faced since his rebirth. Although he could control Thunderbolt, the Thunder Law of the Dragon Tiger Mountain Heavenly Master Mansion was also second to none. Furthermore, Zhang Daoyun was a prodigy who had actually managed to fuse Thunder Law with swordsmanship to unleash such immense power.

For the first time, Lin Mu's expression grew solemn. This was because Zhang Daoyun's sword strike was a Divine Soul attack! If he failed to withstand it and his Divine Soul was damaged, recovery would be exceedingly difficult.

"Hah." Letting out a soft breath, a smile touched Lin Mu's lips. "As expected of Heavenly Master Zhang Daoyun. You haven't disappointed me."

As his voice fell, Lin Mu neither summoned his sword nor cast any spells. Instead, he simply began to walk, step by step, toward the sky.

"What is this kid doing?" Seeing Lin Mu ascend into the sky one step at a time, Shen Lang's expression changed drastically. "Could it be... he plans to block this sword with his physical body? Impossible!"

The kid is insane!

Zhang Daoyun's mental manifestation spoke, "Lin Wudi, if you have no counters, you may concede. For the sake of Shen Lang and that person in the Capital, I can spare your life!" Seeing Lin Mu make no move to cast a spell and intending to block the sword with his body alone, the manifestation's tone grew cold. "To think you can block my sword with just your physical body... Are you not delusional?"

"Whether I am or not, you will soon see, Heavenly Master Zhang!" Lin Mu laughed heartily as he stomped on the void.

Heavenly Emperor Nine Steps—

First Step: Mountains and Rivers Shatter!

The earth trembled and the mountains swayed. Dragon Tiger Mountain itself quivered slightly. Zhang Daoyun's eyes narrowed.

At the same time, Lin Mu had already taken three more consecutive steps.

Second Step: Ghosts and Gods Cower!

Third Step: Heaven and Earth Change!

Fourth Step: The Stars Tremble!

Gales howled and lightning flashed as thunder roared. It was as if the apocalypse had descended upon Dragon Tiger Mountain. The light in Zhang Daoyun's eyes flared.

"What a Lin Wudi!" he couldn't help but praise. "To think you can channel the power of heaven and earth with your steps alone. You truly have made me see you in a new light!"

"But... it's still not enough!"

As Zhang Daoyun's voice fell, beams of light burst from his body and shot into the forms of the dragon and tiger.

CLANG! CLANG!

A sonorous sword hum vibrated through the void. Sword Qi shattered mountains and rivers as Godlight swept across Jiuzhou! Zhang Daoyun intended to annihilate Lin Mu with a single strike!

"Fifth Step: The Buddha Kneels!"

Lin Mu slowly took another step, and a domineering, majestic aura surged from his body. *I am Emperor Zun. Where I pass, all who see me shall submit! Not even a Buddha is an exception!*

"Sixth Step: Evil Demons Weep!"

I am invincible. Should any dare to offend me, I shall annihilate their body, destroy their soul, and erase their spirit! Even evil demons shall wail in terror!

"Seventh Step: The Ages Turn!"

I am who I am. Time cannot bury me, nor can the river of stars conceal me.

As Lin Mu's feet fell one after another, his figure rose continuously until he was suspended high in the air. Seven consecutive steps had brought him right before the Dragon and Tiger Divine Skill! Looking at the dragon and tiger forms so close at hand and feeling their terrifying power, Lin Mu smiled faintly.

He extended a finger and gently tapped the dragon's head.

WAIL!

A mournful draconic cry sounded as the dragon's form dissipated.

"Pfft!"

With one part of the secret technique broken, Zhang Daoyun's mental manifestation diminished significantly, and his physical body spat out a mouthful of fresh blood.

Lin Mu moved his finger again, pointing it at the tiger's head. "Break!"

The tiger's form vanished as well. With both the dragon and tiger gone, Zhang Daoyun's physical body spat out fresh blood once more.

"Lin Wudi, you truly did not disappoint me!" Zhang Daoyun's eyes sparkled, even as his mental manifestation began to fade, on the verge of disappearing. "But to think you can break my Divine Skill is nothing but a fool's dream!"

Although the dragon and tiger forms were broken, the blade of Nine Heavens Divine Thunder remained. A large hand suddenly grasped its hilt and swung it viciously at Lin Mu.

"CLEAVE!"

With a resounding shout, the Thunder Sword magnified to several meters long as it slashed down. In that moment, everyone on Dragon Tiger Mountain heard Zhang Daoyun's voice and witnessed the majestic power unleashed by the sword.

RUMBLE!

The earth quaked and the mountains shook as Sword Qi swirled. Everyone, including Shen Lang, was forced to retreat from the pressure. Only after the sword's energy dissipated did the crowd hurriedly look up again. However, atop Dragon Tiger Mountain, dust and smoke billowed, and the air was in such turmoil that nothing could be seen clearly.

"Is he dead?"

"He must be dead!"

"I told you! How could Lin Wudi possibly be a match for Master Zhang!"

The people exchanged glances, sighing and shaking their heads. No one could have withstood that last strike. Lin Wudi was no exception, so he had to be dead.

Standing on a distant mountain peak, Shen Lang gazed at Dragon Tiger Mountain and murmured, "Dead? He's actually dead..."

But at that moment, no one knew what was happening on the plaza atop Dragon Tiger Mountain, which was concealed by the Great Array.

Zhang Daoyun stared blankly ahead and gave a bitter smile. "I've lost."

As his words fell, his mental manifestation slowly vanished.

"Pfft!"

His physical body, meanwhile, violently spat out a mouthful of blood as he snapped back to consciousness.

"Zhang Daoyun, you've lost," Lin Mu said. He was not in a good state either; blood trickled from the corner of his mouth, and his body was covered in wounds that were already healing rapidly.

Zhang Daoyun's last-ditch sword strike had been an all-out effort that had nearly cost Lin Mu dearly. Fortunately, Lin Mu had forged the Twelve-Fold Towers, granting him a physical strength unimaginable to ordinary people. That was how he had blocked it. Zhang Daoyun was exhausted from that single strike, his mental manifestation dissipated, and he was unable to launch a second attack. Lin Mu, however, still had the strength to fight on.

That was why Zhang Daoyun conceded.

Zhang Daoyun gave a tragic laugh. "The younger generation is truly to be feared. Lin Wudi, you are more than just the number one of the younger generation; you are truly invincible in this world." Closing his eyes, Zhang Daoyun said, "You won. Make your move."

However, he waited for a long time, but Lin Mu did not act.

Zhang Daoyun opened his eyes slightly, only to see a figure walking slowly down the mountain.

"Since you have conceded, this battle ends here," Lin Mu's faint voice drifted back. "Zhang Daoyun, today I have cut down a dozen of your mountain's peach blossoms. As of now, my debt to your Heavenly Master Mansion is cleared!"

He activated Dragon Tamer, and instantly, the majority of the peach blossoms on Dragon Tiger Mountain were severed.

Chapter 454: Everything is Under Control!

"Many thanks."

Zhang Daoyun bowed deeply toward Lin Mu's departing figure, expressing his respect.

"Should Master Lin ever have a command in the future, we of Dragon Tiger Mountain shall not hesitate to face a thousand deaths!"

Lin Mu simply waved his hand, not taking it to heart.

But what he didn't know was that when the apocalypse arrived and the holy war began, Zhang Daoyun of Dragon Tiger Mountain would lead three thousand disciples down the mountain, never to return.

That day, three thousand Heavenly Masters descended from Dragon Tiger Mountain, their sword light illuminating the mortal realm.

That day, tens of thousands of demons were slain as the Heavenly Masters protected the common folk.

「...」

"Master, you..."

A disciple walked over, his face flushed with fervor.

"Lin Wudi has been defeated by my hand. From today onwards, Dragon Tiger Mountain shall officially seal itself off!"

Zhang Daoyun sat cross-legged, his expression calm.

The disciple was shocked. "Master, why?"

His master had clearly defeated Lin Wudi, so why seal the mountain?

Zhang Daoyun didn't explain, instead saying something inexplicable. "A great calamity is approaching. We will seal the mountain and wait for the right moment."

After the disciple left, Zhang Daoyun looked at the peach blossoms fluttering across the mountain and cursed with a smile, "You've done it now, Lin Wudi. By cutting down all my mountain's peach blossoms, you've destroyed the greater part of Dragon Tiger Mountain's thousand-year Great Array."

"PFFT!"

The moment he finished speaking, Zhang Daoyun spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, yet his complexion improved significantly.

Zhang Daoyun muttered, "Lin Wudi, you're in the limelight now, surrounded by enemies. I can only help by suppressing the news for a while. Hurry up and grow stronger. People like us can't hold on for much longer."

「...」

"What? Lin Wudi was defeated?"

"Hahaha, I knew it! How could Lin Wudi possibly be Master Zhang's opponent? Still, being able to fight Master Zhang makes it an honorable defeat."

"Defeated is defeated. What's so honorable about it?"

"If you think you're so good, why don't you go and try?"

As the news spread from Dragon Tiger Mountain, the initial shock among the public gave way to a sense of predictability. After all, no one believed Lin Mu could be Zhang Daoyun's match.

"He was actually defeated."

At the foot of the mountain, an old man sighed softly upon hearing the result, but he also smiled. "To be able to take a sword strike from Heavenly Master Zhang truly makes it an honorable defeat."

"Grandpa, since Master Zhang won, will he kill Lin Wudi?" a woman in martial attire asked.

Jiang Yawei sighed. "In a battle between such powerful experts, the outcome is always life for the victor and death for the vanquished."

"What?"

Jiang Mingyue's expression changed as she exclaimed, "You mean... Lin Wudi is dead?"

Jiang Yawei nodded. "That should be the case."

As this word spread, the Martial Arts World was instantly shaken.

Lin Wudi is dead? Killed by Zhang Daoyun?

This...

Countless people cried out in shock, though many also cheered, and many more sighed in regret.

"What a pity. I had hoped to one day battle you, Lin Wudi, only for you to die at Zhang Daoyun's hand."

"To lack a worthy rival in life... what a regret, what a shame."

"Lin Wudi? Hmph. You're lucky you're dead. Otherwise, I would have killed you myself!"

For a time, rumors were rampant.

When Lin Mu heard this news, he was momentarily stunned. His eyes then flickered as he realized there must be something strange about this matter. Although it was his first time meeting Zhang Daoyun, the man was certainly not someone who chased fame with empty claims.

If I wanted to refute it, I would only need to reveal my identity, and Zhang Daoyun's lie would crumble. So, why would he do this? Sealing the mountain...

Lin Mu turned to look back at Dragon Tiger Mountain, his eyes narrowing slightly.

Zhang Daoyun, thank you.

Casting one last deep glance at Dragon Tiger Mountain, Lin Mu headed directly for Jiangling.

At that moment on Dragon Tiger Mountain, Zhang Daoyun stood on the summit, nodding slightly as if bidding someone farewell.

"You really won?"

Shen Lang appeared behind Zhang Daoyun, a trace of curiosity on his face.

Zhang Daoyun chuckled. "Didn't you see for yourself?"

Shen Lang said, "But why do I see that the peach blossoms on your Dragon Tiger Mountain have been almost completely slashed away?"

Zhang Daoyun snorted, "A battle between the powerful has far-reaching consequences. You don't understand a thing!"

Shen Lang sighed. "Then why are you sealing the mountain? Since you won, why not take this opportunity to recruit more disciples?"

Zhang Daoyun's smile faded. "I'm not part of the Martial Arts World. I don't need all that fame and fortune."

"Then what do you want?"

"I only want peace for the nation and stability for the world!"

Shen Lang was stunned.

Watching Zhang Daoyun's departing figure, Shen Lang bowed deeply. "On behalf of all the people, I thank you, Heavenly Master!"

To willingly bear eternal infamy just to protect the hope of Huaxia... Zhang Daoyun truly deserved this bow from him. Lin Wudi, you must not fail the Heavenly Master's painstaking efforts, and you must not disappoint Elder Xiao's expectations!

「Jiangling.」

"Hahaha, great news!"

Lu Tong walked into the Fang Family residence, his face beaming with joy. "Lin Wudi has been defeated!"

Fang Tang was startled, then asked with delight, "Is he dead?"

Lu Tong nodded. "Defeated means dead!"

Fang Tang clapped his hands in excitement and laughed loudly. "Excellent!"

Lu Tong said coldly, "Now that Lin Wudi is dead, about Coiling Dragon Bay..."

Fang Tang replied, "Don't worry, I've already made preparations. Since Lin Wudi is dead, Coiling Dragon Bay is ours!"

「In the afternoon.」

Xiao Juan and a few other sales staff were preparing to leave work when the phone at the front desk began ringing frantically.

"This is bad, Coiling Dragon Bay is on fire!"

Hearing this, Xiao Juan's expression changed drastically. She shouted, "Manager, Coiling Dragon Bay is on fire! Send someone to check on it, quickly!"

Instantly, the entire sales department was thrown into chaos.

When Qin Luoli received the call, her expression also changed dramatically. She demanded, "What exactly happened? How could it suddenly catch fire?"

The security captain in charge of Coiling Dragon Bay said, "President Qin, I don't know either. It just caught fire out of nowhere. I'm sending people to extinguish it now!"

Qin Luoli said coldly, "I don't care what method you use, you must put out the fire as soon as possible! And find out who did this!"

"Yes, ma'am!"

The captain hung up. Looking at the half-burnt Coiling Dragon Bay, a sinister smile touched his lips.

"Well done."

Gao Xing walked over and handed the security captain an envelope. "Here is your reward. You're done here."

"Right, right, thank you, thank you."

Taking the money, the security captain left quickly.

Gao Xing watched the raging flames and sneered, "This fire is burning nicely. It won't be long before Coiling Dragon Bay is finished!"

Feng Yang laughed. "Don't worry, it won't burn down completely. This is just part of the Fang Family's plan."

Gao Xing added, "As long as there's a fire here, how can our Qin Corporation keep selling the properties? The Fang Family will step in and take over, and Qin Corporation will suffer a huge loss."

Feng Yang nodded, then said suddenly, "Hey, have you noticed? For such a big fire, there doesn't seem to be any heat."

Gao Xing paused, then said in surprise, "You're right. Logically, we should feel intense heat from this close, but not only do I feel nothing, my neck actually feels a little chilly."

Feng Yang turned to look at Gao Xing. His pupils shrank as he pointed. "You... behind you..."

"What is it?"

Gao Xing glanced back instinctively and let out a shrill scream, his eyes wide with terror.

Because, clinging to his back, was an infant with a head as large as a basketball, its bulging veins making it resemble a Li Gui.

At that moment, the infant revealed its sharp teeth to Gao Xing, a faint smile on its face.

Meanwhile, Qin Luoli was sitting in a Western restaurant, clinking glasses with Lin Mu. "Are you sure nothing will go wrong?"

Lin Mu swirled the red wine in his glass, a smirk playing on his lips.

"Everything is under control."

Chapter 455: Bloodbath at the Fang Family!

That night, Fang Tang received a phone call.

"What? Dead? What in the world happened?"

Feng Yang cried over the phone. "Patriarch Fang, I really don't know what happened! Gao Xing is dead, and Coiling Dragon Bay is completely fine!"

"How can that be? Didn't I order you to start a fire?" Fang Tang was furious, cursing Feng Yang for being an idiot.

Feng Yang's voice was laced with terror. "We did, but the fire couldn't reach Coiling Dragon Bay at all! Ah... Patriarch Fang, save me..."

Before Feng Yang could finish, he screamed as if he had encountered something horrifying.

"Feng Yang!"

Fang Tang shouted, but there was no response. Instead, a chilling, crunching sound came from the other end of the line. It sounded like... an animal gnawing on bones.

Startled, Fang Tang was about to hang up when a cold, detached voice spoke. "Patriarch Fang, don't be in such a hurry to die. I'll come to escort you personally."

The call disconnected.

Fang Tang was so scared he turned pale, slumping into his chair. He recognized that voice. It was Lin Mu.

Lin Wudi isn't dead!

The thought filled Fang Tang with absolute terror. He immediately called Lu Tong, but it was as if Lu Tong had vanished. He was completely unreachable.

"What's going on? What in the hell is going on?"

Fang Tang violently slammed his phone onto the ground, looking utterly flustered and enraged.

「Coiling Dragon Bay.」

Feng Yang was cowering in a corner, trembling uncontrollably. His face was a mask of fear, tear streaks still wet on his cheeks.

"Please, don't kill me! Please don't!" Feng Yang cried and begged for mercy, his voice thick with pleading.

He was pleading not only with Lin Mu but also with the ghostly infant squatting before him. A moment ago, this very creature had bitten off Gao Xing's neck. He had watched in horror as Gao Xing's entire body was devoured, leaving nothing behind.

Feng Yang had tried to run, but after only a few steps, the ghostly infant had caught him and dragged him straight into the sea of fire. He had screamed in terror, certain he would be burned to death. Unexpectedly, the fire they had lit was like an Illusory Realm—fake.

And then, Lin Mu had appeared. Feng Yang watched as Lin Mu walked out from the midst of the fire, and all the flames instantly vanished without a trace, leaving Coiling Dragon Bay exactly as it was before.

Lin Mu crushed the phone in his hand and looked at Feng Yang, a cold smile lifting the corners of his mouth. "If I remember correctly, don't you still owe me a life?"

Feng Yang froze, his pupils shrinking. He remembered. He had made a bet with Lin Mu, and he had lost. But he had been so scared he fainted, and by the time he woke up, Lin Mu was gone. He had foolishly thought the matter was over, never expecting Lin Mu to bring it up again.

"Lin Mu, for Luo Li's sake, since I was her class president, please just let me off this one time." Feng Yang knelt on the ground, kowtowing repeatedly to Lin Mu. "I really know I was wrong! I'll never do it again!"

However, Lin Mu remained indifferent and unmoved by Feng Yang's pleas.

"I already spared your life once out of respect for Luo Li," Lin Mu said, shaking his head, his tone detached. "But you shouldn't have become the Fang Family's dog and targeted me."

"It's not like that!" Feng Yang shouted. "Fang Tang forced me! They all forced me! If I hadn't agreed, the Fang Family would have definitely killed me!"

Lin Mu scoffed. "You're that afraid of the Fang Family?"

"The Fang Family's influence in Jiangling is too great for me to mess with. An arm can't win against a thigh, and I was truly forced into it." Feng Yang wept, hardly recognizable as the once confident and ambitious young talent from the restaurant.

"So the Fang Family is untouchable, but I am?" Lin Mu stated calmly. "Is that what you mean?"

"No!" Feng Yang shook his head violently. "I'm Luo Li's class president! I loved her so much once; she'll definitely forgive me, right?"

"I've never met someone so shameless." Disgust filled Lin Mu's eyes as he waved his hand. "He's all yours."

"Heh, heh!"

The ghostly infant was overjoyed and pounced on Feng Yang.

"No, don't... Ah!"

Feng Yang's screams were cut short as the ghostly infant bit through his neck.

Lin Mu looked up at the sky. The moon was full in the vast heavens. With a single leap, he instantly appeared atop a building over ten stories high, standing with his hands clasped behind his back. Gazing down at the neon glow of the modern metropolis, a city of millions, his expression was indifferent.

It's time to end this.

Lin Mu closed his eyes, and his overwhelming Divine Soul power instantly unfolded. The vast spiritual energy spread out like a tide, emanating from Coiling Dragon Bay and rushing outward in all directions like a surging sea. His Divine Soul swept across mountains and over rivers, extending for miles.

Then, in an instant, his Divine Soul condensed into a single, focused line, shooting straight toward the center of Jiangling City. His Divine Sense, sharp as a sword, pierced through skyscrapers and office buildings, swept over residential communities and shops, and finally enveloped the entire city center.

BOOM!

Countless pieces of information flooded his mind: the hum of traffic, the cry of a baby, the cough of an old man, the scurrying of animals. Lin Mu was experienced with this, handling the influx with ease. Under the cover of night, the city's decadent pleasures and sordid dealings—its darkness and its light—all unfolded before him. To his eyes, the city no longer held any secrets.

Lin Mu "saw" Feng Yang's body being gnawed to the bone; he saw Qin Luoli's silhouette as she worked at her desk; he saw Lu Jia tossing and turning in bed; he saw Long Ao, Hua Meiniang, and others playing cards in a casino; he saw Zheng Mingye and Sun Tianyang each going about their own business. He also saw a kindly old man gazing at the sky with loving eyes, the simple, honest man behind him looking somewhat bored. And in the Fang Family Manor, he saw an anxious Fang Tang pacing back and forth, and he spotted several Ghost Charms stealthily sneaking toward Coiling Dragon Bay.

Found them.

A slight smile touched Lin Mu's lips as his will moved.

CLANG!

The Yulong Sword automatically hovered before him. It shot from its sheath, transforming into a streak of clear light that whistled through the air. Following a few screams, the Ghost Charms that had infiltrated Coiling Dragon Bay were instantly pierced through.

"Go!"

The Yulong Sword did not stop. At the direction of Lin Mu's Divine Soul, it streaked toward the city center. In the blink of an eye, it left a faint white scar across the night sky. The people of the world mistook it for a stray moonbeam, paying it no mind.

「Fang Family Manor.」

In Jiangling, the Fang Family Manor was a famously luxurious estate, complete with pavilions, multistoried buildings, rock gardens, and flowing streams—everything one could desire. More than a dozen Fang Family security guards patrolled in the shadows, protecting their master's home.

BUZZ!

A soft hum, and a flash of light zipped by.

"Who's there?!"

The security captain's expression changed. He had just turned when the light pierced his throat.

"Ugh..."

Clutching his neck, the captain slowly collapsed. Before the others could even react, several more flashes of light flickered through the dark, and every guard fell, their throats pierced.

The scent of blood filled the air.

Tonight, I will annihilate the Fang Family with my sword!

Chapter 456 Drawing the Snake Out of Its Hole!

CREAK!

A door swung open, and a head peered out. Seeing no one around, the door was promptly locked tight from the inside.

Fang Shaobin pushed a wheelchair, slowly making his way to the bedside. On the bed, a girl lay with her eyes closed, her cheeks flushed as though she were drunk. She was unconscious. It was Yang Qing.

Fang Shaobin gave a cold smile. He reached out and began to slowly unbutton Yang Qing's clothes. Fang Shaobin carelessly tossed her outer garment to the floor, revealing the underwear beneath. His breathing became rapid and his eyes slightly reddened, betraying a hint of viciousness.

Yang Qing was his arranged fiancée, but her repeated rejections had filled his heart with rage. Today, he had Yang Qing kidnapped. With the Yang Family's tacit approval, she was now completely his for the taking.

Fang Shaobin's fingers touched Yang Qing's underwear, slowly beginning to undo it and revealing a patch of snow-white skin.

PFFT!

Just as Fang Shaobin was about to undress Yang Qing, a sword tip pierced through his chest.

"Ugh..."

Fang Shaobin lowered his head slightly, staring at the sword sticking out of his chest. His eyes widened and his mouth fell agape, about to cry for help.

PFFT!

The sword tip swiftly withdrew, taking Fang Shaobin's life with it.

"The first one!"

Moonlight filled the sky and Sword Qi surged powerfully. Lin Mu, controlling the Yulong Sword with his Divine Soul, moved swiftly through the Fang Family Manor. After finishing off Fang Shaobin, he pressed on.

Ever since Fang Shaoning's return to Jiangling, he had been kept in the rear courtyard to recuperate. The entire Fang Family knew that Fang Shaoning had long since lost his mind. Ever since he brought back that news, Fang Shaoning had been stripped of all status within the family and barred from important matters.

At this moment, Fang Shaoning had just finished his medicine and lay in bed with vacant eyes, neurotically muttering something.

"Devil... don't kill me..."

"Devil... don't kill me..."

The servant taking care of Fang Shaoning paid no mind to the sounds coming from the room. It wasn't the first time Fang Shaoning had acted crazy; she had grown accustomed to it. Thankfully, the Fang Family paid well, and she just had to tend to his basic needs. So, the servant didn't take it seriously.

But Fang Shaoning's voice seemed to grow louder, and it sounded like he was struggling on the bed. Annoyed by the noise, the servant stood up, intending to warn him. As soon as she pushed the door open, a bright light flashed before her eyes.

The servant jumped in fright. She quickly looked up, her face instantly turning ashen, her eyes filled with terror. Because the Fang Shaoning lying on the bed—his head had been severed from his body.

"Ah!"

The servant collapsed to the floor with a thud, scrambling backward.

A shrill scream rang out through the entire Fang Family Manor, but strangely, the usually vigilant security guards seemed to have vanished. No one came over.

「...」

"Damn it, why can't I reach Lu Tong!"

Fang Tang paced back and forth in the room with an ugly expression, growing more and more uneasy. The incident with Feng Yang had already gone south, a clear sign the plan had failed. If it had been the Qin Corporation's doing, Fang Tang wouldn't have been worried at all. What he feared most was that the man hadn't died, and that Lin Wudi had never even lost the battle at Dragon Tiger Mountain!

Impossible! Lu Tong's information is always reliable; he wouldn't deceive me. Fang Tang comforted himself as he pushed the door open. No, I must find Lu Tong myself!

He needed confirmation. No sooner had Fang Tang stepped out than a bright light suddenly swooped down on him.

"Family Head, be careful!" a low shout came. A figure burst from the corner, throwing a punch.

"Ah!"

The bright light pierced straight through the fist, and blood dripped onto the ground. A muscular man in a tank top squatted on the floor, clutching his injured fist. His expression was grave as he stared at the dark green ancient sword suspended before him, his eyes filled with horror.

"A-Hui, what happened?" Fang Tang's expression changed dramatically as well. A-Hui was his most formidable personal bodyguard, yet he had just been injured by a sword. Moreover, there was only a sword, no wielder. What kind of ability is this?

"Family Head, don't come any closer!" A-Hui gritted his teeth against the severe pain in his hand and slowly stood up. Looking at the ancient sword, he said, "Stop hiding in the shadows! If you have any guts, come out and fight me!"

The ancient sword hung in the air, emanating a faint sword intent.

"Hmph!" A-Hui snorted coldly. "You charlatan, take my punch!"

Enraged, A-Hui threw another punch.

BUZZ!

The ancient sword, as if provoked, trembled, and a dazzling sword light howled forth.

PFFT!

Blood sprayed as A-Hui was sliced in two by the sword.

"A-Hui!" Fang Tang's pupils shrank, and he stumbled a few steps backward. "Who are you? Show yourself!" he yelled, glancing around, his heart filled with fear.

"Fang Tang, I told you I would take your life sooner or later. Today, I have come."

An aloof voice emanated from the ancient sword, causing Fang Tang's eyes to widen in disbelief. "Lin Mu, you're still alive? How could you possibly be alive!"

Didn't Lu Tong say Lin Mu was dead? How has he returned?

"Who said I was dead?" Lin Mu's voice was filled with mockery. "Did you really think Zhang Daoyun could kill me?"

"Could it be that you won?" Fang Tang cried out. "How is that possible? How could you possibly defeat Zhang Daoyun!"

"Nothing is impossible," Lin Mu said, his voice laced with murderous intent. "Today, your Fang Family will be erased from Jiangling."

"You dare!" Fang Tang roared furiously. "Lin Mu, so what if you're a Martial Arts Grandmaster? Do you really dare to kill me? Let me tell you, the Fang Family's connection to the Martial Alliance is beyond your imagination!"

"Heh, the Martial Alliance?" Lin Mu scoffed. "Do you know why I staged that little show at Dragon Tiger Mountain? It was to lure out all that trash and capture them in one fell swoop!"

As his words fell, the sword light howled, and Fang Tang was cut down with a single strike.

After killing Fang Tang, the Yulong Sword split into countless beams of light, which raced and flickered swiftly through the Fang Family Manor. In an instant, screams echoed one after another as the stench of blood shrouded the entire estate.

With that, the Jiangling Fang Family was eliminated.

The Yulong Sword ascended into the sky, heading straight for Coiling Dragon Bay. Lin Mu grabbed the sword, but the killing intent radiating from him did not diminish in the slightest.

"With the Fang Family wiped out, let's see who jumps out next," Lin Mu murmured, his lips curving into a cold arc.

In the battle at Dragon Tiger Mountain, I defeated Zhang Daoyun in a single move. If news of this spreads, it will surely cause an uproar, and I'll become a public enemy. The tallest tree catches the most wind.

Naturally, Lin Mu feared nothing. But thinking of the phone call from Han Xiaochuan, his lips revealed a cold smile.

"I, Lin Mu, have never cared about becoming an enemy of the entire world," he said indifferently as the Yulong Sword radiated a cold killing intent. "However, this is a good opportunity to lure out those flies hiding in the dark and eliminate them all at once."

Chapter 457: The Taller Tree in the Woods, Wind Will Destroy!

"Lin Wudi?"

In a luxurious suite inside a four-star hotel in Xiangxi, Yao Kuohai, Dongfeng Po Tian, and a tall middle-aged man were carefully looking at a screen. The video was quite blurry, likely recorded secretly.

On the screen, all that could be seen were two indistinct figures facing off against each other with thunder rolling above their heads, but it was impossible to make out any specific details.

"What a pity this video is too blurry. Coupled with the Great Array being active on Dragon Tiger Mountain, it's completely impossible to gauge their strength," the middle-aged man said, his brows deeply furrowed as he analyzed the footage carefully.

The battle at Dragon Tiger Mountain had triggered the activation of the Great Array. Since there were no eyewitnesses, the outcome was unclear, especially when viewed through a secretly recorded video. At that time, the Celestial Master Mansion had sealed off the entire Dragon Tiger Mountain, strictly forbidding anyone from ascending or filming.

Although they had used the most advanced equipment, the video quality was so poor it was blurrier than a low-quality film. If it got out, no one would be able to identify the figures as Zhang Daoyun and Lin Wudi.

"However, it's vaguely evident from the video that Zhang Daoyun's strength is truly profound. He has reached an extremely high level." The middle-aged man was also filled with shock as he looked at the vast manifestation of will on the screen.

"Even I am no match for this sort of technique," the middle-aged man murmured. "It seems it's true after all. Lin Wudi lost."

Yao Kuohai spoke from the side, "Of course. Zhang Daoyun admitted it himself—how could it be untrue?"

The middle-aged man's brows furrowed slightly, clearly indicating some doubt.

"Although Lin Wudi has slain several Grandmasters since his debut, even killing Xing Zirong who was tenth on the Heavenly Ranking, how could he possibly stand a chance against Zhang Daoyun?"

Yao Kuohai said, "Moreover, Po Tian and I were waiting at the foot of Dragon Tiger Mountain, and we didn't see anyone come down. Lin Wudi must have died at Zhang Daoyun's hands."

"That's not right," Dongfeng Po Tian suddenly said. "Although Dragon Tiger Mountain has been sealed off, you can tell from the video that no one died in battle. At most, Lin Wudi was defeated."

"Hmph, even if he isn't dead, he's gravely injured," Yao Kuohai snorted coldly. "It would be better if Lin Wudi had died. If he's not dead, I'll make his life a living hell!"

Lin Wudi had destroyed the Fire Cloud Sect and killed Liu Xiu and Zhao Dalong, which enraged Yao Kuohai immensely. Everyone in the Martial Alliance and the Military Department knew. The Fire Cloud Sect was a traditional martial arts sect fostered by Yao Kuohai, and Liu Xiu and Zhao Dalong were his people planted in the Military Department. With all three gone, it was like losing one of his arms.

"Dead or not, why don't we test it and find out?" the middle-aged man suddenly smiled. "Draft a letter of challenge for me. Send it to Lin Wudi and say that I, Nangong Xiu, wish to battle him. Of course, if he's recovering, I'll give him time. I will seek him out whenever he has recovered."

The middle-aged man was none other than the Southern Butcher Nangong Xiu, known as one of the four great Grandmasters.

No one knew that he had an extremely good relationship with Western Poison Little Ouyang. The two could be considered martial brothers. With Ouyang Ming killed by Lin Mu, Nangong Xiu naturally had to seek revenge for him.

Dongfeng Po Tian said, "Nangong Xiu, shouldn't you reconsider?"

"Reconsider what?" Nangong Xiu responded with a faint smile. "Just because Lin Wudi fought Zhang Daoyun, does that mean no one dares to challenge him anymore? I, Nangong Xiu, refuse to believe that!"

"Excellent!" Yao Kuohai slammed the table. "Spoken like the Southern Butcher Grandmaster! Rest assured, this Lin Wudi is nothing but a clown seeking attention. I even suspect that his battle with Zhang Daoyun was just an act they put on together."

Dongfeng Po Tian was surprised. "You mean..."

Yao Kuohai laughed coldly. "That old fellow Xiao deliberately suppressed the news of Liu Xiu's death, and that was followed by Lin Wudi's battle with Zhang Daoyun. How could there be no connection between these two incidents?"

Currently, the Huaxia Martial Arts World was divided into several factions. The royalist faction, led by Elder Xiao, was the weakest but had the Sword God watching over them, so the other factions didn't dare to act rashly. Meanwhile, the extremist faction, led by Yao Kuohai and others, was the strongest and had the most members. The likes of Liu Xiu and Lu Tong belonged to the extremist faction and frequently opposed the royalists.

Dongfeng Po Tian and Nangong Xiu could now be considered part of the extremist faction, viewed by Yao Kuohai as his right-hand men.

Elder Xiao only had the Sword God, Shen Lang, under him. His cultivation level was extremely high, but his personality was such that he disliked dealing with these matters. Therefore, Elder Xiao was continuously trying to cultivate a successor.

Unfortunately, the several individuals he had high hopes for either mysteriously perished or proved to be of little use.

Now there was only Lin Wudi!

Strike him while he's down!

That was Yao Kuohai's goal.

"I am now only a step away from that threshold. If I don't have a formidable opponent to grow stronger through battle, I don't know how long it will take for me to break through," said Nangong Xiu. "Only a battle of life and death can push me further!"

Dongfeng Po Tian nodded. Lin Wudi's fame in the Martial Arts World was currently unrivaled. A battle with him would not only stimulate one's own potential but could also build a great reputation. This was the lifelong pursuit of every martial artist. Dongfeng Po Tian was no exception. However, he truly did not wish to take advantage of another's predicament, so he had no intention of fighting Lin Wudi.

Just then, Dongfeng Po Tian and Nangong Xiu simultaneously turned to gaze out the window. A bright light flashed across the sky as a piercing Sword Qi soared to the heavens.

"Such powerful sword intent!" Dongfeng Po Tian said with a solemn expression. "Such sword intent can only belong to the Sword God, Shen Lang!"

...

"Commander, in the battle at Dragon Tiger Mountain, Lin Wudi was victorious!" In Jiangling, Shen Lang stood before Elder Xiao, his expression slightly excited.

"Good!" Elder Xiao laughed heartily. "Call that boy and tell him that tomorrow morning, this old man will personally pay him a visit."

Shen Lang's expression changed. "Commander..."

Elder Xiao smiled faintly. "I helped him suppress news of his victory. That boy is probably complaining about me in his heart. It's only right that I go and tell him in person."

After a pause, Elder Xiao suddenly narrowed his eyes and smiled. "I hear the kid has created some kind of Cave Heaven Blessed Land. I might as well go take a look and see if there's anything he needs that I can provide."

Shen Lang was caught between laughter and tears. If you want to take advantage of the situation, just say so. Why dress it up so nicely?

"Then I won't accompany you, Commander. I have other matters to attend to, so I'll be leaving now." As soon as Shen Lang finished speaking, he turned and left.

Watching Shen Lang's retreating figure, Elder Xiao shook his head with a smile. "Little Shen, you're a Sword God Grandmaster, but you're too concerned with saving face."

Shen Lang picked up his pace.

Elder Xiao laughed heartily, appearing extremely pleased. "The tallest tree in the forest will be toppled by the wind? You, Lin Wudi, are not one to fear trouble."

Elder Xiao's smile faded, and he sighed. "But sometimes, it doesn't hurt to exercise a little forbearance."

「The next morning, at the crack of dawn.」

Jiangling trembled.

The Fang Family had been eradicated

Chapter 458: Ah!

The Fang Family, which had stood firm in Jiangling for over a hundred years, had been exterminated?

As soon as this news broke, Jiangling was shaken to its core.

Everyone speculated about who could have done it. Who could have had the audacity to annihilate an entire family?

"This has to be fake, right? You can't joke about something like this!"

"The news has been confirmed. Early this morning, someone went to visit the Fang Family. The moment they stepped inside, they saw nothing but blood and bodies everywhere. The shock drove them mad on the spot."

"Good heavens, they were really exterminated?"

As people were guessing who the perpetrator might be, Elder Xiao also received the news.

"This kid... why is he so impetuous?"

Elder Xiao hurriedly commanded, "Call Lin Mu! I want to see him!"

Han Xiaochuan, who had already rushed to Jiangling overnight, said, "Commander, this matter will be difficult to handle."

Elder Xiao sneered, "What's so difficult about it? The Fang Family brought this upon themselves. If they're wiped out, they're wiped out."

With a grave expression, Han Xiaochuan said, "But the head of the Fang Family and Yao Kuohai have always been on good terms. If he finds out..."

Elder Xiao waved his hand dismissively. "It doesn't matter. If Lin Wudi dared to do this, it proves he fears no one's revenge."

"Besides, don't you forget, even Zhang Daoyun is no match for this kid. In the world today, who could possibly suppress him?"

Han Xiaochuan said, filled with anxiety, "That's exactly why I'm worried."

Heroes violate prohibitions with their martial prowess. The very reason Huaxia established the Martial Alliance to govern the world's martial artists was to prevent them from using their strength to act as they pleased.

But this Lin Wudi, how many major incidents has he caused since his debut? If it were anyone else, the Martial Alliance would have taken them down long ago.

"If Lin Wudi isn't afraid, what are you afraid of?" Elder Xiao laughed. "Do you know why I gave Zhang Daoyun a heads-up in advance?"

Han Xiaochuan replied, "Wasn't it to shield the kid from the fallout? After all, if news of this really got out, wouldn't it send the entire Martial Arts World into an uproar?"

"You think that kid is afraid of trouble?" Elder Xiao said, "I know that guy has never been afraid of trouble. I did this to lure out the rats hiding in the gutters and catch them all in one swoop!"

As Elder Xiao spoke, a sharp glint flashed in his eyes, and his entire being radiated an iron-blooded aura.

Han Xiaochuan gasped.

Is the commander planning to overhaul the Martial Alliance? Or is he trying to recruit Lin Wudi into the Military Department?

Either scenario was significant enough to trigger a tidal wave and would inevitably be met with immense opposition.

"Go on, call the kid," Elder Xiao straightened his clothes and said, "I want to see for myself what this Lin Wudi—hailed as the number one genius of the Martial Arts World who defeated Zhang Daoyun in a single move—actually looks like."

...

"Commander, Lin Wudi is waiting for us at Coiling Dragon Bay. Shall we head over now?" Han Xiaochuan asked. "Should we bring some men with us?"

Elder Xiao rolled his eyes at him. "We're not going to a fight, why bring men? Besides, who do you think would even be useful?"

Han Xiaochuan gave a wry smile and said no more.

They had hoped Lin Mu would win and suppress the Huaxia Martial Alliance. But now that he had, they were worried instead. Han Xiaochuan suddenly found it all so difficult.

「Coiling Dragon Bay」

Lin Mu ended the call with Han Xiaochuan, a slight smile touching the corners of his lips.

It seems that old man can't sit still.

Still, if he wants to meet, then I'll grant him a meeting.

But before that, I should deal with you first.

Lin Mu looked at the Ghost Infant crouching in the corner. "You did a good job, but you are a being formed from resentment and must consume blood essence to survive. Today, I'll give you two choices. First, I can help you find the daily blood essence you need, but I will place a restrictive seal on you. You'll be under my control, and I can determine your life or death with a single thought. The second option is that I help you reincarnate and be reborn as a human."

"Choose one."

The Ghost Infant squatted on the ground, seemingly pondering Lin Mu's words. Although it was a Ghost Infant, it had developed its own consciousness. Its intelligence wasn't high, but it understood that these two choices would determine its fate.

If it continued as a Ghost Infant, its life and death would no longer be its own. If it chose reincarnation, its life, death, and future were all uncertain.

The Ghost Infant hesitated for a moment, then held up one finger.

It chose the first option.

Though its intelligence was low, it knew that following the man before it was far better than reincarnation, where it wasn't even guaranteed to be reborn as a human. The Ghost Infant had witnessed Lin Mu's methods firsthand. By following him, it might even receive greater benefits.

Lin Mu smiled faintly at the Ghost Infant's choice. This Ghost Infant wasn't stupid; it knew which choice was more advantageous.

"Since you have made your choice, we must sign a contract and lay down three rules."

Lin Mu sat cross-legged, his expression serious.

"Given that you possess a yin body, you naturally cannot be exposed to sunlight. You also need daily blood essence to sustain yourself, but these are not problems for me," Lin Mu said lightly. "However, without my permission, you are forbidden from harming anyone or secretly absorbing their blood essence. If I discover you have done so, I will see to it that your soul is utterly destroyed!"

The Ghost Infant, well aware of Lin Mu's power, hurriedly nodded in agreement.

"However, you can rest assured," Lin Mu continued. "Once my cultivation level recovers, it will not be difficult for me to help you reconstruct a physical form and even transform into a Spiritual Body."

"YA YA!"

The Ghost Infant quickly knelt on the ground and kowtowed to Lin Mu.

"In that case, sit still. We shall sign the contract now."

Hearing Lin Mu's words, the Ghost Infant promptly sat up, its body trembling slightly. It was clearly afraid.

Lin Mu smiled faintly and tapped a finger on the Ghost Infant's head.

"YAAH!"

The Ghost Infant shrieked, seemingly in pain. But the agony vanished in a mere second. The Ghost Infant collapsed limply on the ground, its eyes filled with terror as it stared at Lin Mu.

On Lin Mu's fingertip, a tiny soul, the very image of the Ghost Infant, now hovered. A wisp of Purple Extreme Heavenly Flame emerged, enveloped the soul, and was placed into the Mountain and River Cauldron.

From then on, Lin Mu could incinerate that soul with a single thought. When that happened, the Ghost Infant would also dissipate into nothingness. The infant would be forced to remain loyal, obeying his every command. This method of controlling ghosts was all too simple for him.

"Since you've acknowledged me as your master, I naturally won't treat you unfairly."

Lin Mu chuckled and waved his hand gently. A streak of cyan divine light shot out and entered the Ghost Infant's body.

"YA YA!"

The Ghost Infant squealed softly, and a look of pure bliss soon spread across its face. The red patterns covering its body began to slowly fade, and its emaciated frame gradually filled out.

After a few minutes, the ghastly-looking infant had transformed into a rosy-cheeked, delicate child.

"YA YA!"

Seeing its new appearance, the Ghost Infant clapped its hands and jumped for joy, appearing utterly delighted.

Lin Mu smiled knowingly. Having absorbed the energy of the Innate Spirit Wood, his mana was naturally suffused with rich life force. Improving the Ghost Infant's appearance was a piece of cake. Moreover, with the energy of the Innate Spirit Wood present, the infant's malevolent aura would be suppressed and gradually diminish.

"From today on, you are responsible for guarding Coiling Dragon Bay. If any intruders trespass, there is no need to report to me. You will handle it yourself," Lin Mu instructed. "Of course, if they're just petty thieves, you can simply scare them away. But if anyone dares to damage the foundations of Coiling Dragon Bay, devour them directly."

Coiling Dragon Bay would serve as his training ground in the future, so its security could not be overlooked. While this Ghost Infant wasn't particularly powerful, it was more than enough to handle ordinary martial artists.

"YA YA!"

The Ghost Infant nodded repeatedly, accepting its new duty.

Lin Mu thought for a moment and said, "Since 'ya ya' is all you can say, I'll call you Ya Ya from now on."

"Ya ya."

Chapter 459: The Land Beyond the World, Cave Heaven Blessed Land!

Jiangling's geographical location is exceptionally unique. As a transportation hub, its economy was naturally developed, and prices were naturally high as well. However, compared to the Capital, there was still a significant gap.

Elder Xiao was from the Capital and held an extremely high status there. At this moment, he and Fei Zhenghai were sitting in a car, observing the bustling scenery outside. This was the second time Fei Zhenghai had accompanied his old leader on a tour of Jiangling, so he appeared quite relaxed.

Still, Fei Zhenghai's gaze occasionally drifted to Han Xiaochuan in the front passenger seat. He knew the man was the old leader's bodyguard. Though he looked honest and unassuming, he radiated a palpable sense of danger. As for Fei Zhenghai's own bodyguards, they were driving in a separate car behind them.

Fei Zhenghai's granddaughter, Fei Xiaoyu, who was driving, asked, "Grandpa, where are we going today? How about we go to the suburbs? Elder Xiao has been in Jiangling for several days but hasn't had a chance to visit the countryside. I know a nice farmhouse resort with beautiful scenery," she suggested, her eyes suddenly lighting up.

"Xiaoyu!" Fei Zhenghai chided her softly. "Today, Elder Xiao and I are going to Coiling Dragon Bay. Just drive."

"Coiling Dragon Bay?" Fei Xiaoyu exclaimed before adding excitedly, "Coiling Dragon Bay has quite the reputation in Jiangling now. It's hailed as the Immortal Realm on Earth."

Because of her strict upbringing, Fei Xiaoyu had heard of Coiling Dragon Bay many times but had never seen it with her own eyes.

"Haha, that's right." Fei Zhenghai laughed heartily before sighing. "Even though I've been retired for so long, I haven't really gotten out to enjoy myself. Staying home all day, I feel like I'm getting sick from boredom."

Fei Xiaoyu pursed her lips into a smile. "Grandpa, that reminds me of a joke. A man was so bored from being cooped up all day that a mushroom grew on his head. He picked it off and ate it, but he ended up getting poisoned and was rushed to the hospital. Do you know what the doctor said?"

"What did he say?" The two old men looked at Fei Xiaoyu curiously, genuinely having no idea what the doctor might have said.

Fei Xiaoyu struggled to contain her laughter and said with a straight face, "The doctor told him, 'Well, I guess you don't have mushroom for friends!'"

After a moment of silence, they all burst into laughter.

"Hahaha, Zhenghai, your granddaughter takes after you," Elder Xiao said, still chuckling. "Back in your youth, you used to tell one lame joke after another."

Fei Zhenghai's face darkened, and he was left speechless with embarrassment.

Fei Xiaoyu glanced at Han Xiaochuan and pouted. "If you want to laugh, just laugh. No one will make fun of you."

Han Xiaochuan remained stone-faced, not uttering a single word.

Once the laughter subsided, Elder Xiao said, "Zhenghai, now that you've retired, you should be enjoying your golden years. Let your subordinates worry about everything else."

"Yes, I understand," Fei Zhenghai replied, though his brows remained furrowed.

Elder Xiao added lightly, "Do not concern yourself with the affairs of an office you no longer hold. What are you meddling for?"

"I wish I could," Fei Zhenghai said with a wry smile. "To be honest, Elder Xiao, sometimes I truly envy you. Your mansion in the Capital at least has a back garden where you can tend to your flowers, plant some grass, and feed the fish. The apartment my former unit assigned me is on the fourteenth floor, and I'm not even allowed to place a few flower pots on the balcony."

Elder Xiao smiled but did not reply.

Soon, the group arrived at the foot of Coiling Dragon Bay and was immediately stunned by the sight before them. By nature, Fei Zhenghai was an incredibly sharp man, possessing the iron-willed decisiveness of a soldier. But as he gazed upon the mist-shrouded peaks and the converging morning clouds, even his expression held a hint of surprise. Elder Xiao, too, let out a quiet gasp of awe.

Fei Xiaoyu, standing beside them, was wide-eyed, silently marveling at the beauty. Although Han Xiaochuan maintained his frosty facade, he was inwardly stunned.

"Grandpa, should we just drive straight in?" Fei Xiaoyu asked, noticing the lack of security guards.

"No," Fei Zhenghai said. "Let's walk." He knew his old leader was here to meet a very important guest, and walking in was a sign of respect.

"You can drive in."

Just then, a calm voice emerged from the mist, reaching their ears with perfect clarity. As the voice faded, the fog blocking their path parted suddenly, revealing a clear road. Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Grandpa, that tree by the gate must be hundreds of years old, right?" Fei Xiaoyu pointed to a colossal, ancient tree as she drove.

Fei Zhenghai was also baffled. He knew that this place, Coiling Dragon Bay, used to be called Haiyuan Tiancheng. He had visited once before, so how could it have changed so dramatically? The current Coiling Dragon Bay felt nestled against mountains and water, with lush green grass everywhere. Even the air was so pure it felt completely free of impurities.

It was refreshing and natural.

"This place is magnificent," Fei Zhenghai declared, his voice filled with admiration. "Look at those flowers and plants! Their species, their vibrancy—every one is a priceless treasure! This alone makes me even more eager to meet the honored guest Elder Xiao has brought us to see!"

Fei Zhenghai instantly fell in love with the place, his heart filled with anticipation. Anyone who could live here was obviously of no simple background.

Fei Xiaoyu listened from the side, clicking her tongue in silent amazement. Everyone knew her grandfather didn't just hold an extremely high status in Jiangling; he was also famously ill-tempered. His standards were sky-high, and he rarely offered such praise to anyone.

So it's true, the friends of Elder Xiao, my grandfather's old leader, are no ordinary people!

As they drove further up the mountain, Fei Zhenghai and the others grew increasingly shocked. It was truly like a legendary Immortal Realm. Every breath of air carried an enchanting aroma, and every patch of earth exuded a rejuvenating fragrance. The buildings half-hidden in the swirling mist had the aura of celestial manors, filled with a sense of profound mystery.

An earthly paradise, a true Cave Heaven and Blessed Land!

However, once they reached midway up the mountain, the dense mist obscured the road ahead, making it impossible to see.

Elder Xiao smiled slightly and said, "Let's get out of the car."

The group alighted and began to walk.

Fei Xiaoyu pouted and grumbled, "Why all the fuss?"

Despite her words, she had been eager to get out of the car and explore. Just as she reached out to pluck a small flower, Han Xiaochuan's voice cut in sharply, "If you don't want to die, don't touch it."

"Hmph, what's wrong with me plucking one?" Fei Xiaoyu defiantly ignored him, her hand closing around the flower's stem.

"Miss, watch out!"

At that moment, a figure shot forward and shoved Fei Xiaoyu aside.

With a muffled grunt, the figure staggered back several steps, his face slightly pale.

Fei Zhenghai's expression changed. "Feihu, are you alright?"

"I'm fine," the tall man named Feihu replied, rubbing his chest. There, on his shirt, was a palm-sized slash. If not for the bulletproof vest he wore underneath, he would have been seriously injured.

And the attacker had been nothing more than a small flower.

Fei Xiaoyu sat on the ground, staring dumbly at the flower, her eyes wide with lingering fear.

"I told you not to touch things recklessly," Han Xiaochuan said, shaking his head.

He, too, was inwardly astounded. Even he had only been able to discern that beneath the incredible beauty of this place lay countless hidden killing arrays. He had never imagined that a single small flower could repel an elite soldier. Lin Wudi, you are always full of surprises!

Chapter 460: Heartless Little Bastard!

"You knew already, didn't you?" Fei Xiaoyu scrambled up, patting her backside as she looked at Han Xiaochuan resentfully.

Han Xiaochuan couldn't be bothered with her; he just rolled his eyes.

"Xiaoyu, stop this nonsense!" Fei Zhenghai chastised, his expression visibly displeased. Doesn't she realize where we are? Is this a place for her to cause trouble?

Fei Xiaoyu pouted but said nothing.

Just then, the mist parted to reveal another passageway. The group, no longer surprised by such things, followed the path inside. In an instant, their vision cleared, and the space opened up before them.

Beneath a massive, towering ancient tree, a tea table sat on a carpet of green grass. On it was a pot of steaming tea.

It was Lin Mu.

Seeing them enter, Lin Mu offered a faint smile. He arranged several cups on the table and gestured for them to join him.

Looking at the handsome and imposing young man before him, Fei Zhenghai felt a jolt of shock. A veteran of many battles and a man of high standing, Fei Zhenghai had met his share of extraordinary people. But this was the first time he had encountered someone so young with such a unique presence. Lin Mu gave him the impression of a calm lake on the surface, one that concealed an ancient, fierce beast within.

Fei Zhenghai had only felt this sensation once before, last year. It had come from Lu Tong, the Jiangling Martial Alliance Hall Master. Yet, compared to Lin Mu, the disparity was immense. The two were simply not on the same level.

For a moment, a sense of respect for Lin Mu bloomed within Fei Zhenghai. This man... is no ordinary mortal!

"Haha, you sure know how to enjoy life, kid." Han Xiaochuan laughed heartily upon seeing Lin Mu. He sat down without ceremony, picked up a cup of tea, and downed it in one gulp. "There's a special charm to entertaining guests under a tree."

Han Xiaochuan looked at Lin Mu with a small smile, but inwardly, he was reeling with shock. The last time he saw Lin Mu was a year ago. Back then, while Lin Mu's aura was strong, it was too sharp and overt, lacking a certain gravitas. Now, however, Lin Mu's aura was perfectly contained, showing no signs of abnormality. If he didn't already know this was the man who had defeated Zhang Daoyun in a single move—the famous Lin Wudi of the Martial Arts World—no one would ever guess Lin Mu possessed such a terrifying identity.

"Young Friend Lin, I hope you won't take offense at my uninvited visit," Elder Xiao chuckled. He also sat down on the ground, picked up a cup, and drained it in one go.

"Old Leader..." Fei Zhenghai's expression shifted slightly, but he quickly shut his mouth when Elder Xiao waved a hand at him.

Han Xiaochuan had drunk the tea first to test if Lin Mu had poisoned it. However, since the Old Leader was addressing Lin Mu as 'young friend,' their relationship must be excellent. Lin Mu would have no reason to harm him.

"Excellent tea!" Elder Xiao laughed, looking utterly delighted.

Lin Mu gave a slight nod. "You flatter me, Elder Xiao," he said calmly. "If you enjoy it, please have a few more cups."

Elder Xiao's eyes crinkled as he nodded. "Then I won't be polite." Holding his cup, he glanced at the somewhat uncomfortable Fei Zhenghai and the others. "All of you, sit down. Now that you're here, make yourselves at home."

"Ah. Yes, of course!" Fei Zhenghai nodded quickly and sat down, staying close to Elder Xiao.

Fei Xiaoyu didn't dare act out, sitting obediently and huddling near her father. Feihu, however, remained standing behind Fei Zhenghai, his eyes warily scanning their surroundings.

"Mr. Lin, please don't misunderstand, that's just Feihu's nature," Fei Zhenghai explained, then suddenly changed the subject. "Mr. Lin, to be honest, I'm a simple man. I grew up in the countryside. While I can't say I've traveled across thousands of mountains and rivers in my youth, I've still seen my share of beautiful landscapes.

"But your place here... it's like an Immortal Realm, a true Shangri-la. I must say, I really like it."

"Mr. Lin, this Haiyuan Tiancheng... oh, Coiling Dragon Bay, I've been here before. How has it changed so much?" Fei Zhenghai felt a refreshing comfort seeping into him, allowing him to relax completely.

Moreover, numerous birds were landing on the ground nearby, pecking for food right beside them without the slightest fear. Fei Xiaoyu even glimpsed what looked like colorful pheasants and deer leaping joyfully in the mist, which astonished them even more.

It all felt so natural. If not for the mist occasionally parting to reveal rows of tall buildings and villas hidden within, they would have thought they were in a true, untouched wilderness. There wasn't the slightest trace of man-made craftsmanship.

"Hey, can I ask how much a house here costs per square meter?" Fei Xiaoyu asked, her eyes shining with anticipation. It's just too beautiful. She secretly decided she had to buy a place for herself here.

"One hundred and fifty thousand," Lin Mu stated calmly.

"One hundred and fifty thousand?" Even Elder Xiao almost sprayed out his tea. "Are you robbing people, kid?"

Even for him, that price was too expensive. In fact, it was completely unreasonable. At 150,000 per square meter, a single unit would cost over ten million, wouldn't it?

"Wasn't it one hundred thousand just a few days ago? How did the price jump so much?" Fei Xiaoyu was also shocked. After all, Coiling Dragon Bay had been featured on television several times.

"Because I'm the one who set the price," Lin Mu said, his expression unchanging.

Whether an item is expensive depends on its value. If it's worth the price, it isn't expensive. If it isn't, you wouldn't take it for free. And Lin Mu felt that his Coiling Dragon Bay was worth every bit of this price. In fact, 150,000 per square meter was a bargain.

"You mean... you set the price?" Fei Xiaoyu scoffed. "You're not the developer of Coiling Dragon Bay. What makes you think you get to decide?"

The others also looked at Lin Mu with curiosity. It was clear none of them knew he was the one in charge of Coiling Dragon Bay. Although the Qin Corporation had purchased the land, Qin Luoli had already transferred it to him. Besides, what was Lin Mu's was also Qin Luoli's. Her only job was to collect the money.

Lin Mu smiled slightly. "As it happens, this place was developed by me, so I do have the final say on the price."

Hearing this, even Elder Xiao was stunned. He had only heard that Coiling Dragon Bay was a nice property belonging to Lin Mu. But seeing it with his own eyes made him doubt that. Now, hearing Lin Mu admit it himself, he was truly shaken. This picturesque, immortal landscape was actually conjured up by Lin Mu? How on earth did he manage that?

Thinking this, Elder Xiao chuckled slyly. "So, kid, about that..."

"Not a chance!" Lin Mu cut him off without a hint of politeness. "Even close family keeps clear accounts. If you want one, sir, you'll have to pay for it with real money."

Just then, Lin Mu's phone rang.

"Elder Brother Mu, I heard you started a real estate project in Jiangling?" Liu Zijian's voice came through the phone. "Save a place for your brother, I'll pay for it."

"Pay for what? It's a gift. A villa!"

Lin Mu hung up, turning to find everyone staring at him with their mouths agape.

Elder Xiao was the first to explode, cursing, "You heartless little rascal..."