

War God 601

Chapter 601: Asking Instructor Lin to Slay Lin Wudi!

"Hahaha, it's nothing."

However, Elder Liang suddenly burst into laughter, clasped his fists toward Lin Mu, and said, "I am Liang Yousheng, a Martial Alliance Elder. It's an honor to meet Instructor Lin!"

Liang Yousheng was an elder from the Martial Alliance Headquarters. He had come to see Lin Mu today on an important matter.

"Instructor Lin, could we perhaps find a place to speak in private?" Liang Yousheng asked tentatively.

"If you have something to say, say it here. I'm very busy." Lin Mu had no desire to deal with Liang Yousheng. People don't show up for no reason, and this man definitely wanted something from him.

"Here?"

Liang Yousheng hesitated for a moment before replying, "Very well, I'll speak my piece."

"I wonder, has Instructor Lin ever heard of a man named Lin Wudi?"

The moment Liang Yousheng spoke, Lin Mu froze.

"If you have something to say, just say it. I'm busy," Lin Mu said, cutting to the chase, not in the mood to waste time.

Liang Yousheng, however, misunderstood. "It seems Instructor Lin has indeed heard of this kinsman of his. In that case, I'll be direct."

"Instructor Lin, it's like this," Liang Yousheng began. "You're probably aware that this Lin Wudi is an arrogant and domineering man. He's utterly ruthless, ignorant of his own limitations, and it was he who single-handedly wiped out our Jiangling Martial Alliance Branch."

Of course, Lin Mu knew. He was the one who did it.

Liang Yousheng sighed. "Although Lin Wudi's strength is unfathomable, he goes too far and never shows mercy. Anyone who offends him is slaughtered without hesitation!"

"Since he first appeared, more than a dozen Grandmasters have died at his hands. His crimes are simply monstrous!"

Hearing Liang Yousheng recount his own accomplishments, a strange expression crept onto Lin Mu's face.

Kong Lin had a similar reaction. Could it be... he doesn't know that the Lin Wudi he's talking about is the man standing right in front of him?

"To be honest, if it weren't absolutely necessary, our Martial Alliance would not want to make an enemy of him," Liang Yousheng sighed again, his tone turning ice-cold. "But the man is audacious beyond belief! In the battle at Dongting Lake, he not only killed the two Grandmasters, East Madness Wen Lie, but he also murdered our Martial Alliance's Emissary, Jin Bumie! He even publicly humiliated Mr. Yao. This is the greatest shame the Martial Alliance has ever suffered!"

As he spoke, a look of deep resentment crossed his face. Clearly, Liang Yousheng hated Lin Wudi to the bone.

"And if that were all!" Liang Yousheng continued, "He even annihilated the Fire Cloud Sect! Liu Xiu from the Military Department was also killed by him. Instructor Lin, you are also an instructor for the military. Don't you think such a ruthless, unprincipled man should be killed?"

"He shouldn't just be killed, he should be cut into a thousand pieces!" the other man chimed in, his eyes burning with venomous hatred.

Liang Yousheng quickly made the introduction. "I forgot to mention, this is Liu Xiu's younger brother, Liu Wen."

"Instructor Lin, I was rude earlier. Please forgive me," Liu Wen said, bowing to Lin Mu. "We came today to ask for your help. We implore you to take action and execute Lin Wudi!"

At these words, the expression on Lin Mu's face grew even more peculiar.

COUGH, COUGH!

Kong Lin was so shocked he broke into a fit of coughing, his face turning red. Asking Lin Mu to execute Lin Wudi? Isn't that asking the man to kill himself? In all his years, Kong Lin had never heard such an outrageous request.

He decided it was best to keep his mouth shut. Forcibly suppressing his cough, Kong Lin acted as if he had heard nothing and turned his gaze away.

"Instructor Lin, you must act! For the sake of the people of Huaxia, you must slay this fiend!" Liang Yousheng implored with a deep bow. "As long as you agree, the Martial Alliance will provide a generous reward. Not only that, but Mr. Yao and I will personally recommend you for membership in the Martial Alliance!"

"Indeed. My Liu Family has also prepared a handsome gift," Liu Wen added, producing a file. "Instructor Lin, this is an estate my family owns in Demon City, along with several business properties. Please consider it a deposit. Whether or not you succeed in killing Lin Wudi, the Liu Family will never ask for it back!"

A proud smile touched Liu Wen's lips. The estate alone was worth several hundred million, and while the businesses seemed few, they were all incredibly profitable. The assets in his hand were worth nearly one billion. And, if Lin Mu agreed, it would all be his.

HISS!

So much money? The members of the Divine Machine Camp were all stunned.

"Instructor Lin..." Kong Ying said urgently, "you mustn't agree! I've heard of that Lin Wudi. He's been undefeated since he first appeared. His power is said to be earth-shattering."

For whatever reason, Lin Mu was still their instructor at the Divine Machine Camp. Kong Ying didn't want him to accept the request from the Liu Family and the Martial Alliance.

"Ahem," Kong Lin also spoke up. "That's right, Instructor Lin. You're a busy man, and you still have to train us. Where would you find the time to fight that Lin Wudi fellow?"

Kong Lin, of course, meant something else entirely.

But Kong Ying misunderstood him. "Exactly! Didn't you say you were going to lead us to win the championship? If something were to happen to you, how could the Divine Machine Camp possibly compete?"

Lin Mu put on a troubled expression. "You two heard them. It's not that I'm unwilling, but Zou Ju died because of me. If I can't properly train the Divine Machine Camp and win the championship, the camp will be disbanded."

"When you put it that way, my situation is almost as dire as that Lin Wudi's," Lin Mu said, shaking his head with a bitter, worried smile.

"Haha, Instructor Lin, you needn't worry about that," Liu Wen laughed heartily. "We've already investigated Zou Ju's death thoroughly. She falsified orders and unilaterally tried to cancel the Divine Machine Camp's eligibility to compete, which greatly displeased the higher-ups. That very day, my United Front Department had her removed from her post."

Hearing this, Kong Lin was left dumbfounded. The Liu Family was willing to pay such a steep price just to get Lin Mu to act? Everyone knew that Zou Ju had only dared to be so arrogant because she had the Liu Family's backing.

"Instructor Lin, the Liu Family isn't the only one showing its sincerity. The Martial Alliance can't let you act for nothing, either." Liang Yousheng produced a box, a knowing smile on his face. "Instructor Lin, have you ever wondered how I, despite not being a Grandmaster, can unleash the power of one for a short time?"

"It's all thanks to this." Liang Yousheng spoke mysteriously as he slowly opened the box. A divine light flared out, but before anyone could get a clear look, he snapped the lid shut.

Handing the box to Lin Mu, Liang Yousheng pleaded, "We implore you, Instructor Lin, take action and slay Lin Wudi!"

"I accept!" Lin Mu snatched the box, his expression suddenly firm and resolute. "I've had enough of that Lin Wudi for a long time now. I hear he's a reclusive genius of the Martial Way, a peerless monster. I, Lin Mu, would like to see for myself who is truly more powerful!"

Seeing the look of resigned helplessness on Lin Mu's face, Kong Lin nearly spat out a mouthful of blood. This kid is absolutely shameless!

Meanwhile, Liu Wen and Liang Yousheng were overjoyed. "Thank you, Instructor Lin!"

Lin Mu nodded, his face a mask of sincerity. "Rest assured, gentlemen. I, Lin Mu, value my reputation. Since I have accepted your gifts, I will most certainly help you execute Lin Wudi!"

"Just notify me once you've decided on a time and place," Lin Mu said, a hint of arrogance in his eyes. "I refuse to believe that Lin Wudi could possibly be a match for me!"

Chapter 602: The Sage Preaches, a Shower of Blossoms!

"Elder Liang, why do I feel that something is not quite right?" Liu Wen asked, a strange sense of unease creeping into his heart as they left the Divine Machine Camp.

Liang Yousheng chuckled. "Why? Are you worried that Instructor Lin is no match for Lin Wudi? You can rest assured on that point!"

He laughed heartily. "Although my own strength is lacking, I'm still considered a formidable expert within the Martial Alliance. The fact that Instructor Lin defeated me within three moves proves his strength is not to be underestimated. Moreover, for someone to subdue a profound master like the Spirit Seer... this Instructor Lin's capabilities can only be described as unfathomable."

As Liang Yousheng spoke, a trace of fear appeared in his eyes.

He was putting on a good front, but the truth was that Lin Mu had defeated him without even using a single technique. Of course, since Liu Wen wasn't a Martial Artist, he couldn't discern such subtleties. All that mattered to him was that Lin Mu was stronger than Liang Yousheng. As long as Lin Wudi was killed, no price was too great for his Liu Family to pay.

「Divine Machine Camp」

"Instructor Lin, you..." Kong Lin was at a loss for words. He'd really seen something new today. So, this Instructor Lin had a scheming side to him.

"No sense in refusing something that's delivered right to your door for free," Lin Mu said with a faint smile, gripping the box in his hand tightly. "Alright, let's discuss your upcoming training plan."

He put the box away, ready to begin instructing the members of the Divine Machine Camp.

Kong Ying had been staring at Lin Mu the whole time. When she saw the box in his hands suddenly vanish, a flicker of confusion crossed her face. Hearing Lin Mu say he was about to start training them, she didn't pay it much mind. She really wanted to see just how Lin Mu planned to train the Divine Machine Camp.

Even Kong Lin was somewhat curious. After all, the methods Lin Mu had displayed recently were simply too astonishing. Everyone hoped he would bring them yet another surprise.

"Alright," Lin Mu announced. "Anyone who is not a member of the Divine Machine Camp, please leave now."

Lin Mu planned to pass on some of the body-refining techniques of Cultivators to the Divine Machine Camp, so naturally, he couldn't let too many people watch. This was his greatest secret. In the future, it would also be the Divine Machine Camp's greatest secret. Not even Kong Lin could know.

The two men who had stepped forward earlier were stunned when Lin Mu's gaze fell on them again.

"Instructor Lin, we want to train with you too," one of them said, his voice full of regret. He had seen the exchange between Lin Mu and Liang Yousheng just now. Thinking about all the methods Instructor Lin had demonstrated recently, he felt that following him was a much more promising path.

"Too late," Lin Mu said flatly. "From the moment you stepped forward, you were no longer members of the Divine Machine Camp. Are you trying to spy on our secrets?"

The remaining soldiers all showed scornful smiles. To them, as soldiers, true warriors were those who dared to face life and death head-on.

"Let's go, let's go!" the other man said defiantly. "So what if we can't watch? I'd like to see what amazing tricks they can pull off in their training!"

After the two of them left, Lin Mu looked at Kong Ying.

"What's that supposed to mean?" Kong Ying's nose was practically bent out of shape with anger. Is this guy trying to kick me out? I haven't even seen how he plans to train them yet!

"You're not leaving?" Lin Mu simply stared at her without a word.

"Hmph!" Kong Ying snorted coldly and stormed off. Previously, she would have argued back, but now, for some reason, she felt a pang of fear whenever Lin Mu went silent.

Lin Mu then turned his gaze to Kong Lin.

"What? Are you kicking me out too?" Kong Lin was taken aback.

"Do you want to win the championship or not?" Lin Mu rolled his eyes.

"Fine, fine! You're the boss here. Whatever you say, goes!" Kong Lin left as well.

Once they were gone, the members of the Divine Machine Camp looked at Lin Mu, their faces filled with excitement and anticipation.

"Do you need me to come over there and handle you personally?" Lin Mu suddenly said, seemingly to no one.

"Hmph!"

From behind a reef, Kong Ying emerged indignantly. She glared at Lin Mu, huffed, and turned to board her yacht. This time, she was truly leaving.

Still, her heart was pounding. She had been hundreds of meters away from him and had even slowed her breathing to a bare minimum, yet he had still detected her. Is this guy a monster?

"All of you, attention!"

As Lin Mu's voice fell, the members of the Divine Machine Camp immediately snapped their feet together, their expressions serious, their bodies ramrod straight.

"Sit!"

In a single, swift motion, everyone sat cross-legged on the ground.

"Listen carefully to what I am about to say." Lin Mu stood with his hands behind his back. The sea breeze ruffled his clothes, giving him an otherworldly air, as if he might float away at any moment. The members of the Divine Machine Camp adopted solemn expressions and sat attentively, ready to listen.

"I will only say this once. How much you remember will depend on your own destiny."

After speaking, Lin Mu suddenly closed his eyes. When he opened them again, his aura had transformed dramatically. If before he was like a divine spirit on the verge of ascension, now he was like a Banished Immortal looking down upon all living things.

Beams of light radiated from his body, and in the sky above, the winds gathered and the clouds surged.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The men of the Divine Machine Camp stared at the sky in disbelief, their eyes filled with shock.

"Hold your breath! Condense your spirit!"

A voice like a great bell resounded in their ears. It was Instructor Lin's voice, but it didn't seem to come from his mouth. Instead, it felt as if it descended from the highest heavens, pouring directly into the depths of their souls. The soldiers quickly composed themselves and listened intently.

Then, something even more astonishing happened. Above the clouds, thunder boomed and lightning flashed like thousands of writhing serpents. A voice that seemed to echo from Ancient Times fell upon their minds, transforming into golden characters. It was the same voice for everyone, yet the characters that appeared in each person's mind were different. This was because Lin Mu was using the Devil's Thought Division Technique to split his single Divine Sense into a hundred streams to impart his teachings.

「A few minutes later」

"Hngh!" Someone grunted, his body swaying as if on the verge of collapse.

"Sit straight!" a cold, merciless voice echoed in their minds. "The longer you endure, the greater the benefits you will receive. Your potential will become limitless. Diligently comprehend its profound mysteries, and you will benefit endlessly."

At that, a look of grim determination appeared on every soldier's face as they gritted their teeth and persevered.

In contrast to the pained expressions of the others, Leng Feng and Shi Potian were the most relaxed. They were even imitating Lin Mu, sitting cross-legged on the ground and slowly moving their hands. Golden runes danced around their fingertips, as cheerful as playful sprites.

「In the distance」

Kong Lin and the others who were just leaving seemed to sense something. They spun around sharply, their faces instantly showing their astonishment. Over the Divine Machine Camp, resplendent Godlight shone and multicolored clouds danced in the sky. Not only that, but golden lotuses bloomed and shot toward the heavens, causing fleeting lights to shimmer across the horizon, as if gods themselves were appearing.

"This is..." Kong Lin's expression changed drastically as he was suddenly reminded of a legend. He cried out in shock, "A heavenly shower of blossoms... the sign of a sage imparting the Dao!"

The two special forces soldiers who had quit the Divine Machine Camp glanced at each other, their faces etched with profound regret.

Chapter 603: Innate Gengjin Metal, Golden Core Treasure!

At Lingyan Temple in Suzhou.

An old Daoist, sweeping the courtyard, suddenly looked up and gazed toward the distant sea.

There, lotus flowers were materializing as a golden radiance filled the sky.

"A sage is imparting the Dao... It's the phenomenon of flowers raining from the heavens. Quite interesting."

The old Daoist smiled faintly, standing tall in the wind.

Despite his ordinary appearance, he exuded a celestial, otherworldly aura.

"Temple Master, are you saying this is the phenomenon of a sage imparting the Dao?" Spirit Seer suddenly approached, his expression solemn.

"Indeed."

A trace of melancholy touched the old Daoist's face as he spoke. "In ancient times, when a sage lectured on the Dao, it would inevitably cause divine phenomena. To all living beings, it was like a long-awaited, life-giving rain."

"It seems Huaxia is about to witness the rise of another great figure."

The smile on the old Daoist's face gradually softened.

"Is this a good thing for me?" the Spirit Seer asked anxiously.

"How could it not be?"

The old Daoist suddenly burst into hearty laughter. "If you hadn't met that person, you would have been long dead. Would you still be standing by my side now?"

"Temple Master, what are you talking about?"

Spirit Seer was shocked. "How do you know..."

The old Daoist smiled slightly. "Spirit Seer, remember this: I taught you everything you know. Did you think I wouldn't be able to tell?"

"Alright, just stay quietly on the mountain for the next six months. Don't go anywhere."

Carrying his broom, the old Daoist turned and left. "As for when you can leave the mountain, you will understand when the time comes."

"Yes."

Spirit Seer bowed respectfully and glanced at the horizon, a trace of fear in his eyes.

Master, just how high is your Cultivation Level?

「Divine Machine Camp.」

The golden light had enveloped the entire island. All the members of the Divine Machine Camp were on the verge of collapse. Some even had pained expressions, as if enduring tremendous torment.

PTUI!

The first one to falter, surprisingly, was Jiaolong.

He suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood and collapsed to the ground. A flash of unwillingness showed in Jiaolong's eyes as he tried to get up and continue listening to the god-like voice, but he could no longer do so.

"There's no need to force yourself if you can't hold on."

The gentle voice reached his ears, soothing his parched heart like a nourishing rain.

Gradually, Jiaolong calmed down. Mustering his energy, he sat up straight. He stopped listening to the sounds from the outside world and instead focused on adjusting his breathing to digest what he had learned.

Following Jiaolong's collapse, many others began to falter as well. One after another, people coughed up blood and regained their senses, but they all sat down in silence and began to commit the words to memory.

After half a day had passed, the only one who remained sitting as still as a statue was Shi Potian. Yet his face was pale, and the veins on his exposed arms were bulging.

WHOOSH!

As a breeze passed by, the phenomenon disappeared.

Lin Mu opened his eyes, his face also showing a hint of paleness. Even with his current Cultivation Level, casting the Devil's Thought Division Technique was draining on his Divine Sense. However, to rapidly enhance the strength of the Divine Machine Camp's members, this method was the most suitable.

Lin Mu had not only drawn upon the spiritual energy of heaven and earth to cleanse their bodies and purge residual toxins, but he had also planted a Spiritual Energy Seed within each of them. In the future, as long as they cultivated according to his method, they could become invincible in the mundane world, even if they never truly entered the Dao.

Lin Mu couldn't care less about being the champion of some major competition. How could ordinary people possibly understand the things he pursued?

By the time everyone had digested their gains, Lin Mu had already recovered his strength and was smiling at the crowd.

"On your feet!"

At Jiaolong's command, everyone rose and gave a solemn salute.

Lin Mu nodded slightly and turned to leave.

All eyes followed Lin Mu's departure. No one spoke, but the fervor and deep respect in their eyes would never fade.

What they didn't know was that because of this Instructor Lin, the Divine Machine Camp's 108 warriors would soon become an invincible army known throughout the world. They would be unstoppable, victorious in every battle.

「Elsewhere」

The divine phenomenon in the skies above Suzhou led to widespread speculation. However, only those who were either close by or possessed profound strength could witness the scene.

Lin Mu had anticipated this but paid it no mind. With his current strength, he no longer feared the powers of the mortal world.

Moreover, after this transmission of the Dao, Lin Mu faintly sensed he was not far from breaking through to the next realm.

When that time came, the Twelve-Fold Towers would evolve once more. His cultivation would reach the Golden Core Stage, and his physical body would become indestructible. He wouldn't even need to concern himself with the most advanced weapons of the modern age.

When the time comes, this will come in handy.

With a flip of his hand, a box appeared in his palm. It was the very box Liang Yousheng had delivered.

Opening it revealed a peculiar, fist-sized stone. A faint green light flickered on its surface.

A smile touched Lin Mu's lips. He swept his hand over the stone, and the surface dirt and debris scattered, causing the faint green light to vanish. In his hand now lay a golden stone the size of a thumb.

In the room, a brilliant golden light erupted.

"Innate Gengjin Metal... To think this still exists in the world."

Lin Mu couldn't hide the joy on his face. Innate Gengjin Metal was a treasure on par with Innate Spirit Wood, perhaps even rarer. This was because it could only be found by chance within volcanic magma deep beneath the sea. Not only was it filled with the power of fire spirits, but it also possessed the formidable killing power of the metal element. If he could absorb all the Spiritual Energy within it, Lin Mu was certain he could advance to the Golden Core Stage.

And it would be the strongest possible Golden Core Stage.

Innate Gengjin Metal, a Golden Core Treasure!

It not only makes the Golden Core as hard as steel but is also an exceptionally rare treasure for sword cultivators. Even in the Immortal Realm, obtaining a piece of Innate Gengjin Metal the size of a fingernail was enough to instantly transform an ordinary sword cultivator into an terrifyingly invincible existence. This alone showed its immense importance.

To think those ignorant fools from the Martial Alliance treated it as a common treasure simply for boosting one's strength. Utterly laughable!

However, it seems they've done me a favor. Lin Mu smiled. Thinking of Liang Yousheng and Liu Wen's intentions, the smile on his lips grew wider.

Inviting me here... to kill me? I really don't know what that idiot Yao Kuohai is thinking.

A gleam flashed in Lin Mu's eyes as he said indifferently, "However, this is an opportunity."

「Martial Alliance Headquarters.」

When Yao Kuohai heard Liang Yousheng's report, he was overjoyed.

"Hahahaha, Lin Wudi, you're definitely done for this time!" he exclaimed.

Then, Yao Kuohai suddenly asked, "How great are Instructor Lin's chances?"

Liang Yousheng replied confidently, "Mr. Yao, please rest assured. While my own strength is lacking, there are few who can defeat me within three moves. Even Qiu Yi himself wouldn't dare claim he could best me. Moreover, I even brought the treasure you provided, Mr. Yao."

A trace of lingering fear appeared in Liang Yousheng's eyes as he recalled how the Divine Machine Camp's instructor had drawn his blood with a single move. It was a good thing that Instructor Lin was on their side.

"Very good!" Yao Kuohai was even more elated. "Immediately issue a challenge to Lin Wudi! Tell him that three months from now, the Divine Machine Camp Instructor will challenge him at Changbai Mountain!"

Chapter 604: Three Months Later, the Summit of Mount Changbai!

「River City.」

"Luo Li, have you really thought this through?" Madam Qin clasped Qin Luoli's hand, her cloudy eyes filled with reluctance and pain.

"I have." Qin Luoli bit her lip, a resolute look appearing in her eyes. "But if they think they can make me submit, they've got the wrong idea!"

"Luo Li, don't be reckless!" the Old Madam said anxiously. "I don't want anything to happen to you. If it comes to that, tell Lin Mu. That boy is clever and capable; he'll definitely be able to help you."

"Great-grandmother, this is my own affair, and Lin Mu is busy right now. I don't want to trouble him," Qin Luoli said with a faint smile, a hint of reluctance flashing in her eyes again.

The Old Madam sighed. "Yes, that's true. After all, those people are ruthless. Even back then, I..."

Qin Luoli held the Old Madam's hand, comforting her. "Great-grandmother, please don't worry too much. Besides, I believe that no matter how great the difficulty, Lin Mu can handle it. I just want to see if there's another way to resolve this."

A cold look crossed Qin Luoli's face. "If they dare to use force, then someone will make trouble for them!"

The Old Madam let out another deep sigh.

In all of Huaxia, how many would dare to make trouble for those people? Even if Lin Mu is truly a Martial Artist, he's still too young. Facing them, he'd have almost no chance of survival.

"Luo Li, I've wronged you," the Old Madam said, her eyes reddening as her voice filled with sorrow.

"Great-grandmother, what are you talking about?" Qin Luoli said. "This is what I must do. I've been searching for them for so many years. Now that I finally have a lead, I can't miss this chance."

"True or not, I have to see for myself!"

The Old Madam nodded. "When are you planning to leave? I'll have someone see you off."

"Tomorrow morning," Qin Luoli replied. "I need to arrange things at the company first."

"Okay."

「That same night.」

「Qin Zhu Courtyard.」

"Madam, are you sure you don't need to tell the Venerable Master about this?" Concern showed on both Cheng Bugui's and Qiao Tianhao's faces.

Before the trip to Suzhou, the Madam had been plagued with worry. After parting with the Venerable Master, she had burst into tears the moment she got into the car.

At first, Cheng Bugui and the others thought the Madam was just having a minor tiff with the Venerable Master. But upon their return to River City, she sought them out multiple times to entrust them with the affairs of the city. Now, the Madam had even called them over for a lengthy discussion.

"Until I return or your Venerable Master does, all matters in River City are to be decided by you two. If you encounter anything you're uncertain about, you may consult Elder Guan," Qin Luoli said, sitting on the sofa like a queen.

Even to weathered men like Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao, the intangible aura she emitted was slightly intimidating.

The Madam is becoming more and more like the Venerable Master. Only those who truly knew Qin Luoli could appreciate the sheer force of presence this stunningly beautiful woman possessed.

"Madam, do you really plan to leave tonight?" Qiao Tianhao hesitated, looking as though he had something difficult to say.

"You don't need to worry." Qin Luoli glanced lightly at Qiao Tianhao. "That woman you have on the side is pregnant with your child. This is good news, of course. I'll have someone help manage the foundation."

Qiao Tianhao was taken aback. He had been extremely secretive about this, yet he was shocked that the Madam knew.

"Again, if there are matters you cannot decide, remember to find Elder Guan. He'll do his best to help," Qin Luoli reminded them. "But even with your Venerable Master far away in Suzhou and me away from River City, if any of you dare to use this as an opportunity to stir up trouble, don't blame me, Qin Luoli, for being ruthless!"

The two men quickly promised they wouldn't dare. They were somewhat aware of the Madam's methods. To say nothing of the god-like Venerable Master, the Madam herself was protected by several experts at all times.

"Of course, if you handle things well, I won't treat you poorly either." Qin Luoli pointed to the documents on the table. "These are some shares I've reallocated. You two have worked hard; it's only right for you to have a bit more."

Both wanted to refuse, but they knew that if they did, the Madam might just find someone to replace them. At that thought, they both bowed. "Thank you, Madam."

"Mm, you may go. Remember, tell everyone to keep their mouths shut. If anyone dares to leak any information about me, I will be merciless!"

After the two had left, Qin Luoli sat on the sofa, her expression placid as she stared at the door.

Late that night, a group of people entered the Qin Zhu Courtyard and took Qin Luoli away. No one knew where they went.

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「Harbor Island.」

"Is that really what he said?!"

Patriarch Huang Zhenhao looked down at Huang Ning on the floor, his eyes glinting coldly.

"Yes, Father."

Huang Ning knelt on the ground, not daring to raise her head. Her body trembled violently as if she had experienced something terrifying. At that moment, Huang Ning bore no resemblance to the haughty young miss she once was. Her heart was filled with nothing but fear and dread.

CRACK!

Huang Zhenhao forcefully smashed a set of Qing dynasty blue-and-white porcelain to pieces.

"Threatening to exterminate my Huang Family? He's simply courting death!" he said coldly. "My daughter will be avenged. So what if he's a Grandmaster? Does he really think the Huang Family can't deal with him?!"

With a cruel smile, Huang Zhenhao added, "And that Feng Chen, did he really say he would cut ties with the Huang Family?"

"Yes!" Huang Ning prostrated herself, terrified of accidentally provoking her father's wrath.

With a cold glint in his eyes, Huang Zhenhao sneered, "Hmph! We call him 'Master' once and he really starts to think he's somebody! With a single word, I, Huang Zhenhao, could prevent Feng Chen from ever seeing tomorrow's sun!"

He glanced indifferently at Huang Ning. "Although the other party was disrespectful, you still offended a Martial Arts Grandmaster. From today onward, hand over all the businesses you manage to your third brother."

A young man sitting to the side was instantly overjoyed.

Huang Ning, however, trembled. "Father, those businesses... you promised they would be mine if I resolved the feng shui issue with the family's ancestral land..."

"Shut up!" Huang Zhenhao said grimly. "If it weren't for that, I would kill you right now for offending a Grandmaster!"

The color drained from Huang Ning's face. Only now did she remember that as the true leader of the Huang Family, her father's methods were nothing short of cruel. Her older brother had been stripped of all his rights and even expelled from the family just for angering their father. If she dared to say another word, her fate would be even worse.

"Regardless, the dignity of the Huang Family must not be challenged," Huang Zhenhao said somberly. "There's news from the Martial Alliance that the instructor from the Divine Machine Camp is preparing to challenge Lin Wudi. Since that's the case, the Huang Family cannot just sit back and do nothing."

A cold, murderous intent flashed across Huang Zhenhao's face.

...

"The Summit of Mount Changbai, three months from now?"

Looking at the two challenge letters in his hand, Lin Mu's lips curled into a cold smirk. This was the dueling ground the Martial Alliance had specially prepared for him.

"It seems the Martial Alliance is really getting impatient."

For them to deliver two challenge letters to him in such a short time, they must have pulled some strings. They were clearly eager to kill him.

But was that even possible?

The smirk on his lips widened. "In that case, I'll play your little game three months from now."

"But as for the Huang Family..."

Picking up another document from the desk, Lin Mu revealed a chilling smile.

"Since the Huang Family is so determined to die, I'll grant your wish first!"

Chapter 605: Dare to Touch My Disciple!

「Southern Sky」

Deep within a mountain range not far from Thunder Mountain, a figure was sprinting desperately. Though it was called sprinting, her pace was just a little quicker than walking. Her clothes had long been torn to shreds, and her exposed skin was smeared with dirt. She looked exactly like a refugee.

Faster, I have to go faster!

Despite her exhaustion, she dared not stop. The people chasing her were not only fast, but they were also Martial Artists far beyond her ability to handle.

Li Linglong didn't know what a "Martial Artist" was, but she had seen enough novels and movies to know that many things in the world couldn't be explained by science—terrifying existences like her Master, who was capable of Sword Flight and killing from a distance. The people behind her might not be on par with her Master, but they were more than enough to kill her.

She didn't know when they had found her, but they had been tracking her ever since. Initially, Li Linglong hadn't noticed. However, having grown up in the mountains, she was extremely sensitive to her surroundings and always felt as if someone was secretly watching her.

And indeed, that morning, just as she entered the territory of Thunder Mountain, they stopped hiding and came straight for her. If it weren't for Li Linglong's cleverness and the survival skills she had learned

in the mountains, which she used to thoroughly confuse her pursuers, she would have been caught long ago.

But Li Linglong felt she couldn't hold out much longer.

RUSTLE!

Just as Li Linglong intended to speed up, a person suddenly emerged ahead, blocking her path. The person was cloaked in black, their face completely obscured. Judging from the exposed chin, they weren't old, yet the aura they emanated was terrifying. Most importantly, one of his hands was actually a sharp, curved hook, stained with a dark brown substance that resembled dried blood.

"Li Qiran?" a hoarse, grating voice echoed from beneath the cloak, making one's eardrums ache.

Startled at hearing her name, Li Qiran still took a deep breath and feigned a look of fear. "You... you've got the wrong person. My name is Lin Xiao Mei, not Li Qiran."

I'll try to stall for time and think of a way to escape.

But her pursuer didn't give her the chance. He pulled out a phone displaying numerous photos of Li Linglong.

"Li Qiran, Huaxia's famous food broadcaster, hailed as a prodigy for the ages and even honored as the cultural ambassador for Huaxia's traditional arts," the cloaked man said, using the hook to lift Li Linglong's chin. He revealed a chilling smile. "Someone as famous as you wasn't hard to find."

"You... I have no grudge against you. Why are you looking for me?"

I know I can't escape, but I'm still full of questions. What do they want with me? And how did they find me?

"No grudges?" The cloaked person laughed. "Don't tell me you don't even know your true identity."

My true identity? Li Linglong grew even more puzzled. I'm just an ordinary person, though I've earned various titles through my own efforts. It's not like I'm some abandoned heiress of a wealthy family or a princess in distress.

"To be held in such high regard by our Heavenly Network, to have us travel thousands of miles just for you, sacrificing dozens of experts and even a Grandmaster in the process, and you still say you're an ordinary person?" The cloaked figure's voice held a hint of excitement. "Regardless, by capturing you, I, Mei Li, will definitely be valued by the higher-ups in the organization. Becoming a Gold Guard is just around the corner!"

Mei Li trembled with excitement, his desire to become a Gold Guard igniting into a fervent obsession.

"Mei Li, we found her together. Are you planning to take all the credit for yourself?"

At that moment, several individuals in black cloaks emerged from the woods, their faces etched with anger. The leader was a Caucasian man, yet he spoke fluent Chinese.

"Mei Li, we are all Silver Guards. If you want to take her alone, you'll have to answer to me first!"

With a wave of the Caucasian man's hand, the men behind him immediately surrounded Mei Li.

"You want to fight me?" A cold, murderous glint flashed in Mei Li's eyes. "Do you have any idea how long I've waited for this day? As long as I get her, I can be promoted to Gold Guard and receive a much more powerful serum. Then, I'll become even stronger!"

"Fuck! Since this Huaxia woman was found by all of us, the credit should be shared equally!" the Caucasian man sneered. "Unless you kill every last one of us!"

"Do you really think I wouldn't dare?" An eerie smile spread across Mei Li's lips as several dark shadows shot out from his sleeve.

"Ahhh!"

With several agonizing screams, a few of the black-robed men clutched their necks and collapsed to the ground.

"Gu poison!" The Caucasian man's expression changed drastically. "You dare use Gu poison on us? If the organization finds out, you'll die a miserable death!"

Mei Li scoffed coldly, "As long as you're all dead, the organization will never know I was the one who killed you."

"You want to kill me?" the Caucasian man laughed, suddenly raising his hand.

SHLICK!

A blade burst from the Caucasian's chest. He turned around in shock, staring at the young Huaxia man behind him, not even having had time to pull the trigger of his gun.

THUD!

Seeing the Caucasian man fall, Mei Li was overjoyed. "Huang Sheng, well done! Don't worry, I'll make sure you get everything I promised!"

The young man nodded slowly and threw back his hood, revealing a terrifying face. His features were crisscrossed by several ferocious scars that seemed to split his face into sections. The scars even writhed with the movement of his facial muscles, making for an even more frightening sight.

The young man nodded again. "I'm only cooperating with you to take back what's mine."

"Rest assured," Mei Li said. "I, Mei Li, am the fairest in my dealings. You were abandoned by your family, just like me. We're in the same boat. Once I take this woman back to the organization and become a Gold Guard, I'll accompany you to Harbor Island and help you take back what is rightfully yours!"

Huang Sheng shook his head. "Before, I could have waited. But now, I can't wait any longer."

"Why?" Mei Li asked, puzzled.

"Because someone intends to annihilate the Huang Family," Huang Sheng said, taking a deep breath.

"Isn't that perfect? It saves us the trouble," Mei Li replied, overjoyed.

"The Huang Family can only be destroyed by my own hands!" A venomous hatred shone in Huang Sheng's eyes. "Back then, he killed my mother, stripped me of everything that was mine, and expelled me from the family. He left this humiliating memory on my face, turning me into something neither human nor ghost. I will make him taste this same agony!"

"If you don't agree to my terms right now, I'll kill this woman!" Huang Sheng pressed the knife against Li Linglong's neck, hissing viciously, "I've waited many years for this day, and I refuse to wait a moment longer!"

"NO!" Mei Li yelled. "Huang Sheng, don't be impulsive! We can talk about this."

"No!" Huang Sheng suddenly became frantic, roaring, "You're lying to me! You've been lying to me all along! You're no better than them!"

His eyes turned blood-red as his arm tensed, ready to kill Li Linglong with a single stroke.

A clear dragon's cry echoed, followed by a streak of light that gently grazed the arm Huang Sheng used to hold the knife.

The arm dropped to the ground.

Then, a serene voice drifted through the air, "You dare lay a hand on my disciple?!"

Chapter 606: The Return of the Scion!

"Who?!" Mei Li's expression changed drastically as he looked at Huang Sheng, who was cradling his severed arm and screaming. He couldn't even detect the attacker's location! And where did that flash of sword light that took Huang Sheng's arm even come from?

But in the next moment, Mei Li's pupils constricted. From the wooded mountains, the crisp sound of bells chimed as a mythical Goddess, one who existed only in legend, slowly emerged from the trees. What terrified him most was that her bare feet floated three inches above the ground, never touching it. The chiming came from the bells tied around her ankles.

"Who... who are you?" Fear filled Mei Li's eyes; he felt as if his body were frozen solid. It was the same for Huang Sheng. Agonizing pain shot up from his severed arm, but he dared not make a sound. The mysterious woman's attire resembled that of the Saintess from the legends of Southern Sky!

This woman was none other than Li Lingqing.

The moment they saw Li Lingqing, it wasn't just Mei Li and Huang Sheng; even Li Linglong was stunned, her mouth agape in utter shock.

"You are the disciple Master has accepted?" Li Lingqing ignored the two men, looking intently at Li Linglong with a slight smile. "Your talent is excellent, and you're brimming with Spiritual Energy. No wonder Master took you as his disciple."

"What, are you doubting my judgment?" A light chuckle sounded as an ancient longsword appeared, floating above everyone's heads. Waves of fierce sword intent emanated from the blade. The voice was coming from the sword itself.

Seeing this, Mei Li and Huang Sheng were too frightened to speak. Encountering a Goddess in the mountains was shocking enough, but a talking sword was even more terrifying. If word of this got out, people would think they were mad. Yet, the scene was unfolding right before their eyes.

Li Linglong was also startled. For her, this completely subverted her perception of reality.

But Li Lingqing was already used to such things. Master's methods were beyond the comprehension of mere mortals.

"Ling Qing greets Master!" Li Lingqing bowed to the Youlong Sword. "Ling Qing would not dare question Master's judgment. I am merely unaccustomed to suddenly having a junior sister."

"You'll get used to it. Not everyone is qualified to be your junior sister," Lin Mu's voice replied from the Youlong Sword. For Lin Mu, a small trick like transmitting his voice through the sword was nothing special.

"From your aura, I can tell you have made progress in your Qi Cultivation. It seems you haven't been slacking off in my absence." Lin Mu's tone carried a hint of satisfaction. Li Lingqing's Cultivation Level had improved by leaps and bounds, becoming increasingly profound. Even her Spiritual Energy had grown purer and more refined.

"Every day, I remember Master's earnest teachings and dare not slack off in the slightest," Li Lingqing responded calmly, without a hint of complacency.

This left the others even more astounded. Just how powerful must a person be to train such a Goddess and speak through a sword?

"Mm," Lin Mu replied indifferently. Naturally, my disciple would not fall behind others.

"Master, you already sent a message for me to wait here for my junior sister. Why did you choose to manifest personally?" Li Lingqing asked, somewhat puzzled. Although she felt her own Cultivation Level was extremely high, she knew a grand spell like long-distance voice transmission was a great drain on one's Mana.

"I must go on a long journey, so I need the Youlong Sword," Lin Mu chuckled. "Of course, I also took the opportunity to check on you and see if you had slackened in your cultivation. But it seems my worries were unfounded."

These words brought a faint smile to Li Lingqing's face. To be on Master's mind was more gratifying than any praise for my progress in cultivation.

"Linglong." The Youlong Sword turned toward Li Linglong.

"Disciple Linglong greets Master!" Li Linglong snapped to her senses and quickly bowed.

"No need for formalities," Lin Mu said. "This is your senior sister, Li Lingqing, the Saintess of the Jiuli Tribe. From now on, you will follow her and cultivate diligently."

"Linglong understands." Although Li Linglong had many questions, she dared not ask since her Master did not elaborate. After witnessing her Master's incredible methods, she now understood there were many things in this world beyond her current comprehension. To truly understand them, I'll have to wait until I officially begin my cultivation.

"You walked all the way from Sichuan-Shu to Southern Sky, which shows your unwavering resolve to follow the path," Lin Mu's ethereal voice emanated from the Youlong Sword. "Combined with your natural Spiritual Energy, which is no weaker than others, you will surely achieve great things one day as long as you cultivate diligently. I hope you will practice conscientiously and not disappoint my earnest efforts."

"Linglong will remember Master's teachings!" Li Linglong felt a surge of excitement in her heart.

"Master, what about these men..." Knowing her Master was about to leave, Li Lingqing quickly asked, "I just heard this man is from the Huang Family of Harbor Island. Do I need to pay them a visit personally?"

Huang Sheng's face paled.

"No need," Lin Mu chuckled. "First, take Linglong into the mountains and get her settled. I will handle this myself."

"As you command, Master!"

A flash of sword light pierced through Mei Li and Huang Sheng, and then the Youlong Sword vanished.

As she watched the sword light fade into the distance, Li Lingqing looked momentarily lost in thought. Li Linglong, however, clenched her fists, a look of intense longing in her eyes.

"Let's go," Li Lingqing sighed softly, turning to leave.

"Yes, Senior Sister!"

「Harbor Island.」

Inside a lavishly decorated building, the Zhongyuan Clubhouse.

BANG!

The main door was thrown open, causing the faces of the people inside to change. Someone dared to storm the Zhongyuan Clubhouse? The audacity!

But when the crowd saw who had entered, they gasped in shock. Many of the women screamed in terror. The man's face was covered with countless hideous scars.

"Huang Sheng?!" Suddenly, a surprised voice rang out. A young man stepped forward, staring at Huang Sheng in disbelief.

"Huang Yuan, long time no see!" Huang Sheng sneered, his eyes filled with deep-seated hatred as he glared at Huang Yuan.

"It really is you!" Huang Yuan gasped, then sneered. "But you're just a failure who was cast out of the family. How dare you come back?"

Hearing their exchange, the others were stunned. Someone suddenly remembered him: this was Huang Sheng, the one expelled by the Patriarch of the Huang Family several years ago. A wave of murmurs and head-shaking passed through the crowd.

That incident was a great disgrace for the Huang Family, a thorn in the side of Huang Zhenhao. Huang Sheng was originally the heir apparent, but because of what happened, his mother died of a sudden

illness, and he was stripped of his status and expelled from the family. Seeing the scars on Huang Sheng's face now, they were all reminded of just how ruthless Huang Zhenhao could be.

"Why can't I come back?" Hate burned in Huang Sheng's eyes. "If you have the guts, try and kill me again."

Panic flashed in Huang Yuan's eyes before he retorted haughtily, "Hmph! Even if you do come back, you're still a failure. I am the heir to the Huang Family now!"

"A pity you won't be for much longer." A cruel smile curled Huang Sheng's lips as he flexed his arm and walked slowly toward Huang Yuan.

"Huang Sheng, what do you think you're doing?" Huang Yuan was taken aback, but quickly regained his arrogance and scoffed, "What? You think you can touch me? Let me tell you something. So what if you're back? Your mother is still dead, and you were still expelled from the Huang Family!"

"What can I do?" Huang Sheng smirked eerily. "I've come for revenge, of course!"

The words had barely left his mouth when he opened his palm. A streak of sword light shot out, crisscrossing Huang Yuan's face with countless deep gashes.

"AAAH!" Huang Yuan clutched his bleeding face and screamed, his voice laced with terror.

"Go back and tell Huang Zhenhao to get over here and see me," Huang Sheng snarled, his face a mask of murderous intent. "Otherwise, I will annihilate the Huang Family and avenge my mother!"

Chapter 607: Women are Weak, but Mothers are Strong!

"What did you say?"

When Huang Zhenhao learned that Huang Sheng had disfigured Huang Yuan, he felt as if he had been struck by lightning, nearly losing his footing.

"Father!"

"Family Head!"

Huang Ning and the other family elders' expressions changed as they rushed to support Huang Zhenhao.

"That wretched son! What a wretched son!"

Huang Zhenhao raised a hand to stop them and shakily sat down. A hint of regret surfaced on his grim face. "If I had known, I would have killed that defiant son back then!"

One was a discarded heir, cast out of the family; the other was the successor in whom they had placed all their hopes. The difference between them was stark. Yet now, that discarded son had just destroyed the creation he considered his proudest achievement.

And this defiant son was now demanding that Huang Zhenhao himself come to see him? Or else he would destroy the Huang Family?

"That little beast, his wings have certainly hardened!"

Huang Zhenhao took a deep breath. "Have you investigated thoroughly? Did that little beast really come back alone?"

Huang Yuan's bodyguard replied, "That's right, it was... it was Huang Sheng who returned by himself."

The bodyguard, who had nearly misspoken, quickly added, "But, Family Head, he seems to be very powerful now."

"Powerful?" Huang Zhenhao said grimly. "No matter how powerful he is, Harbor Island is still my territory!"

"Since he didn't cherish the life I spared him all those years ago, this time, I'll kill him with my own two hands!"

To Huang Zhenhao, his personal reputation was far more important than any son. Sons could be replaced, but this incident from the past was a deep humiliation that had cost him all his face. Huang Sheng's return now only intensified that shame, making him feel as though he were being mocked by thousands.

"Go and get Yan Yu. Tell him the Huang Family will make him the next Feng Chen!" Huang Zhenhao said coldly. "Since Feng Chen doesn't know what's good for him, I'll just elevate his chief disciple to be the next Master Feng.

"Opposing my Huang Family? He's simply courting death!"

「Zhongyuan Clubhouse.」

Lin Mu sat in a chair.

Huang Sheng, who had been so arrogant before, was now kneeling on the floor like a dog, his expression respectful and his heart fraught with anxiety.

He had seen this man transmit his voice by sword.

He had seen that a woman as divine as a Goddess was also his disciple.

He had even seen him, with a mere wave of his hand, reduce Mei Li of the Dark Web's Silver Guard to a transparent specter.

All of it happened in the palm of this man's hand.

Gazing at the faint soul in his palm, Lin Mu asked indifferently, "Any movement from the Huang Family?"

"Not yet, Elder," Huang Sheng replied, worried he might anger Lin Mu. He quickly added, "But rest assured, Elder. Huang Yuan is his most beloved youngest son. Given Huang Zhenhao's personality, he'll never be able to swallow this insult. He's probably gathering experts to come and kill me right now."

"And you're not afraid?"

Lin Mu was slightly surprised. When it came to the Huang Family, this Huang Sheng seemed to harbor even more hatred than he did. It was a loathing that radiated from his very bones, raw and unconcealed.

"Afraid?" Huang Sheng said through gritted teeth. "If I were afraid, I would have hidden myself far away all these years. I never would have returned to Harbor Island."

Thinking Lin Mu wanted to know the story, Huang Sheng began, "Years ago, the Huang Family was facing a crisis. It was my mother who went to her family and begged them for help. Huang Zhenhao even promised to treat my mother well for the rest of his life, and he named me the family's successor.

"However, once the crisis was averted, Huang Zhenhao revealed his true colors. He not only frequently beat my mother but often abused me as well."

As he recalled the past, the hatred in Huang Sheng's eyes grew more intense. His entire face began to twist, his eyes turning bloodshot as his emotions spiraled.

Lin Mu raised an eyebrow. Such a heavy grudge. Such intense hatred!

Lin Mu felt that if hatred alone hadn't sustained Huang Sheng, he would have surely descended into madness long ago. It was a miracle he was still alive. This piqued Lin Mu's interest.

Huang Sheng clenched his jaw so tightly that blood trickled from his lips, but he seemed not to notice. His voice was chilling as he continued, "Not only that, the beast already had another woman and children on the side!"

"Huang Ning and Huang Yuan?" Lin Mu raised an eyebrow.

"Correct." Huang Sheng suddenly let out a laugh. "My mother had long known about his disgusting affairs but pretended she didn't. After all, airing such dirty laundry would be humiliating.

"But Huang Zhenhao took her silence as an opportunity to become even worse. He frequently brought those two bastards into our home and would even parade his mistress in front of my mother to flaunt her."

Huang Sheng's eyes grew redder, and he seemed to be losing control, but his words remained clear. "My mother's health was already poor, and she couldn't take the torment. She wanted a divorce, but Huang Zhenhao refused."

"And... and..." Huang Sheng's body began to tremble violently, and he grew extremely agitated. He spoke with vicious hatred, "He had several men... humiliate my mother. He even filmed it to blackmail her, telling her if she wanted a divorce, she would have to leave with nothing!"

"My mother couldn't bear it and committed suicide! The shock caused my maternal grandfather to fall gravely ill, and he soon passed away. Huang Zhenhao then seized all of my mother's family assets!"

Swaying, Huang Sheng staggered to his feet, the murderous intent in his eyes almost tangible.

"He thought he had committed the perfect crime, but I saw everything. I saw it all from inside the closet!"

Huang Sheng looked at Lin Mu, a twisted expression that was somewhere between a laugh and a sob on his face. "Huang Zhenhao, how could you be so heartless? That was your wife, the woman you swore to stand by! How could you be so cruel? Give me back my mother's life!"

As he spoke, Huang Sheng charged toward Lin Mu, like a feral beast that had lost all reason.

Lin Mu's eyebrows twitched slightly before he flicked a finger and tapped Huang Sheng's forehead.

"Ah..."

Huang Sheng's body shuddered to a halt, and he slowly collapsed to the floor.

Looking at the deeply sleeping Huang Sheng, Lin Mu shook his head slightly. Even he had to admit that the man's fate was truly pitiable.

His mother died a tragic death, his father is a heartless monster, and he's now possessed by a remnant soul. How truly pitiful.

After another glance at Huang Sheng, Lin Mu grinned. "Since that's the case, I suppose I can help you out."

He opened his palm, and a powerful suction force erupted, lifting Huang Sheng into the air. He uttered a profound, single syllable, and a ray of divine light instantly shot into Huang Sheng's forehead.

The next moment, Huang Sheng's body trembled. A spectral figure floated out from him.

It was the ghost of a beautiful woman who appeared to be in her thirties. She carried the unique temperament of a well-bred lady—graceful, gentle, and still possessing a mature charm.

"Senior, please don't harm my son. He is innocent." As soon as the woman's spirit appeared, she bowed to Lin Mu. Her posture was dignified and humble, but her fierce maternal instinct was deeply moving.

"So that's it," Lin Mu said. "The boy chose to let your soul possess him to bear the weight of all your resentment." He paused. "But do you realize that a remnant soul possessing a living person harms not only you but him as well?"

Hearing this, the woman dropped to her knees. "I am aware that a remnant soul inhabiting a living body is an act condemned by the heavens, and I will be barred from reincarnation."

She began to weep. "Senior, I beg your mercy. If I can just kill that faithless man, I will bear any and all consequences. I cannot let my son carry the burden of this monumental sin alone."

Lin Mu was suddenly reminded of how his own mother had been willing to bear everything for him. He let out a long sigh. A woman may be weak, but a mother is strong.

Chapter 608: Disciple of Master Feng!

"Alright, you can get up," Lin Mu said, moved by compassion. "I called you out, so naturally, I don't intend to kill you."

"Ah?"

The woman was startled, her expression one of utter disbelief.

Not kill her?

In her experience, everyone presented themselves as righteous champions, crusading against evil for the good of the people. A remnant spirit like her, having survived for so long, was something the Heavenly Dao itself could not tolerate. Killing or suppressing her would grant one countless merits.

Yet, this young man actually said he wouldn't kill her?

"To utterly destroy an innocent remnant spirit just for a few paltry merits? I, Lin Mu, would never stoop so low," Lin Mu said with a smile. "Besides, who made the rule that remnant spirits must only harm the living and are incapable of good?"

Hearing this, the woman dropped to her knees, crying inconsolably. "This humble woman, Cui Yingying, thanks you for your words, Senior. Even if I were to truly die by your hand, I would not hold the slightest grudge."

Cui Yingying? It seems that those with this name never have a good ending. Fortunately for her, she ran into me.

Lin Mu was at a loss. "Alright, get up," he said. "Not only will I not kill you, but I will also help you get your revenge. I can even cure your son's illness."

"Ah?"

Cui Yingying was stunned once more. "But, Senior... that kind of illness is very difficult to cure."

Huang Sheng's illness was a hereditary condition from her family. It was incurable. There was no hope when she was alive, and even after she was lucky enough to become a remnant spirit, Cui Yingying was still unable to cure it. She could only barely control him when he lost his sanity. This was the only reason Huang Sheng had survived all these years, even though he was blinded by hatred and had lost his mind.

"What's so difficult about it?" Lin Mu laughed heartily and extended a finger. A dazzling divine light emerged, transforming into a Silver Needle that pierced directly into Huang Sheng's forehead, chest, and abdomen.

After just a few minutes, Lin Mu retracted his finger and said, "It's done."

Cui Yingying's face was a picture of shock.

It's done already?

Still in disbelief, Cui Yingying carefully examined Huang Sheng. The result was a fact so incredible it brought tears of joy to her eyes.

Huang Sheng's illness was gone.

Not only that, but Lin Mu had also taken the opportunity to heal the scars on Huang Sheng's face. Although some marks remained, compared to before, he looked much better.

"Thank you, Senior! Thank you!" Cui Yingying kowtowed, her face a mask of sincere gratitude that could not be faked.

Seeing her like this, Lin Mu felt utterly helpless and could only jest, "Alright, you should go back now. Otherwise, when he wakes up and sees you, he'll faint from fright, if he doesn't die from it first."

"You jest, Senior." With her son cured, Cui Yingying was in high spirits. She was intelligent enough to know Lin Mu was deliberately teasing her.

At that moment, Huang Sheng slowly woke up. As soon as he opened his eyes, he saw a gentle woman beside him. Though her appearance was faint, the memory etched deep in his bones made his eyes well up instantly.

"Mom, I'm dreaming of you again." A smile touched Huang Sheng's lips as tears welled in his eyes. He thought he was dreaming.

"Little Sheng, you... you're awake?" Cui Yingying, unable to contain her emotions, blurted out.

"AH!" Huang Sheng yelped. His eyes flew wide open, and he promptly fainted.

Cui Yingying: "..."

「Half an hour later.」

The doors of the Zhongyuan Clubhouse were smashed open.

Huang Ning and a man in his early thirties strode into the clubhouse. Behind them followed an entourage of over a hundred men armed with weapons. They instantly filled the entire hall.

As soon as she entered the hall, Huang Ning's expression changed. "Huang Sheng, it really is you!"

In the center of the hall, Huang Sheng sat on a chair, looking at them with an indifferent expression.

Seeing that Huang Zhenhao wasn't present, Huang Sheng scoffed mockingly. "Where's Huang Zhenhao? Did that cowardly, despicable man not dare to come?"

"Huang Sheng, he is your father! Show some respect when you speak!" Huang Ning immediately scolded.

"Father?" Huang Sheng sneered. "The moment he murdered my mother, I severed all ties with him. He doesn't deserve to be my father!"

"Nothing you say can change the fact that Huang Family blood runs in your veins!" Huang Ning scoffed. "And since you've disowned the Huang Family, why are you back? For money? Name your price. As long as it isn't something exorbitant, I, Huang Ning, will give it to you."

She added, "Consider it your retirement fund!"

The contempt in Huang Ning's eyes deepened. She figured Huang Sheng had only come back to ask for money because he couldn't make it on his own.

"Money?" Huang Sheng laughed as if he'd heard the greatest joke in the world. "Huang Ning, you illegitimate child, you have the nerve to talk about money with me? I'll tell you the truth. I came back this time not only to kill Huang Zhenhao, but to slaughter you and that piece of trash Huang Yuan as well!"

"Huang Sheng, you really don't know what's good for you!" Huang Ning pointed at him. "Do you think you're still the Eldest Young Master of the Huang Family? You're nothing but a stray dog, a disgrace to the family! Everyone on Harbor Island knows what your mother did. You have the nerve to criticize me?"

"How dare you speak of my mother?" A crazed look flashed in Huang Sheng's eyes. Unable to contain himself any longer, he stood and strode toward Huang Ning.

Seeing Huang Sheng's murderous expression, Huang Ning was startled and quickly hid behind the young man. "What do you think you're doing? I brought over a hundred men with me, and there are more outside! If you dare to make a move, I'll have you hacked to pieces!"

"A hundred men?" Huang Sheng's lip curled in disdain. "Frankly, they aren't even worthy of my attention."

The moment his voice fell, Huang Sheng moved like a blur, and screams erupted. In the blink of an eye, dozens of men in the hall collapsed. Some had their throats slit, others had their chests pierced through. Every single person who fell was dead.

"Killing without blinking" was a phrase that perfectly described Huang Sheng!

"Do you still want to try?" Huang Sheng asked, exuding a murderous aura as he stared at Huang Ning with cold eyes.

Huang Ning was terrified.

How did this castaway become so formidable?

"So what if you can fight? You're still going to die!" Huang Ning snorted coldly. "The moment Brother Yan makes his move, you're dead for sure!"

Her tone carried an inherent arrogance. On Harbor Island, she truly was a privileged daughter of heaven. Beautiful and from a prominent family, Huang Ning had numerous suitors. The man beside her, Yan Yu, was one of them—and the most distinguished at that.

Because he was the senior disciple of Master Feng Chen.

His family background was extraordinary, a perfect match for the Huang Family's. Moreover, his own power was unfathomable. If the Huang Family hadn't already found a top expert to kill Lin Mu, Huang Ning would have personally taken Yan Yu to Suzhou to seek revenge herself.

Tugging on Yan Yu's arm, Huang Ning spoke in a pitiable voice. "That man is too hateful. He always bullied me, and now he wants to kill me. I'm so scared."

Yan Yu squeezed her hand. "Sister Ning, don't be afraid. I'll break his arms and legs right now and let you vent your anger to your heart's content!"

Chapter 609: If You Don't Seek Death, You Won't Die!

Yan Yu was a disciple of Master Feng and a member of the Yan Family from Harbor Island. He had an illustrious reputation and was acclaimed as one of the island's finest young talents. Some even likened him and Huang Ning of the Huang Family to a perfect match.

Moreover, the two held a good impression of each other, and both the Yan and Huang families were happy to see them together. Marriage between powerful families was common, and since they already had feelings for each other, their union was only a matter of time. Now that Huang Yuan had been disfigured, Huang Ning felt humiliated and naturally wanted Yan Yu to help her get revenge.

Yan Yu was brimming with confidence. "I'll count to three. If you don't kneel and apologize to Ning, I'll kill you."

On Harbor Island, he feared no one. This was not only because he was Master Feng's disciple but, more importantly, because his own strength was considerable. Given enough time, it wasn't impossible for him to even surpass Master Feng. With the Huang Family also preparing to elevate him into a figure of Master Feng's stature, Yan Yu felt obligated to make this Huang Sheng pay the price.

"Three!" Yan Yu's voice was chilling.

Behind him, Huang Ning merely sneered, her gaze fixed on Huang Sheng as if he were already a dead man.

Huang Sheng remained unmoved, even licking his lips as a murderous glint appeared in his eyes.

"Two!"

Huang Sheng's nonchalant reaction felt like a humiliation to Yan Yu, and the killing intent in his eyes grew more pronounced.

"Huang Sheng, what are you waiting for?" seeing that he still hadn't kneeled, Huang Ning roared furiously. "I'm telling you, hesitate any longer and you'll lose your life!"

"How could I possibly die before I've wiped out the Huang family?" Huang Sheng sneered, a strange light glinting in his eyes.

"One!"

As the final word fell, Yan Yu shot forward.

"Die!"

A powerful aura erupted from Yan Yu as he threw a punch at Huang Sheng, holding nothing back.

"It won't be that easy to kill me!" Huang Sheng roared, raising his remaining left hand to meet the blow with a punch of his own.

Yan Yu's killing intent intensified. "You dare to trade blows with me? You're courting death!"

BANG!

Their fists collided. Huang Sheng spat a mouthful of blood and staggered back several steps.

COUGH! COUGH!

A horrified, pale expression appeared on Huang Sheng's face. This Yan Yu is truly powerful.

"I told you that you would die," Yan Yu said, shaking his head with mocking eyes. "Why wouldn't you listen?"

"Huang Sheng, I gave you a chance, but you refused to listen!" Huang Ning stepped forward, a triumphant smile spreading across her face. "After all these years, you're still just as foolish."

"If we siblings could drive you out of the Huang Family back then, killing you now is a piece of cake!" A crazed look flashed in Huang Ning's eyes. "You could have scraped by and lived out your days, but you insisted on coming back here to die! As long as I cripple you and hand you over to Father, my previous minor mistakes will all be forgiven!"

Huang Ning burst into laughter. "Then, I'll still be the favored daughter of the Huang Family! As for that Huang Yuan, her dream of competing with me for the position of Family Head is just that—a dream."

Yan Yu also smiled faintly. As long as I have Huang Ning under my control, everything she has will be mine, he thought. This foolish woman probably still has no idea she's being used.

"Alright, if you have any last words, say them now," Huang Ning said, picking up a steel blade from the ground and walking toward Huang Sheng. "Father will be so pleased when I kill you, won't he?"

"And once I become Family Head, I'll hire a true expert to chop that damned couple who humiliated me into mincemeat!"

Seeing Huang Sheng remain silent, Huang Ning raised the blade and swung it down at him.

PFFT!

With a dull thud, a severed arm fell to the ground.

"AH!"

Huang Ning let out a sharp, agonizing scream. She stared at the severed arm on the floor, wailing in pain. "My hand! My hand!" she shrieked, her face contorted in agony. "My hand is cut off! I'm disabled! I'm finished..."

Beside her, Yan Yu stared at Huang Ning's severed limb, momentarily stunned. The entire incident had unfolded so quickly that even he hadn't had time to react. A hint of wariness flickered in his eyes before his expression turned grim. "Who is it?" he shouted. "Get out here!"

"Come out! Come out, damn you!" Huang Ning screamed, her face twisted in rage. "You coward who doesn't dare show your face! You son of a bitch, you cut off my hand! Get out here! I'm going to kill you! Not just you, but your family and friends too! I'll find every single one of them and torture them to death!"

Losing her arm had driven Huang Ning mad with rage. All she wanted now was to kill the one responsible. To kill their entire family.

"Is that so?" a soft voice suddenly asked.

Amidst Yan Yu and Huang Ning's terrified gazes, a handsome young man mysteriously appeared in the hall. He slowly sat down in a chair, a faint smile on his face as he looked at Huang Ning.

"What's this? It's only been a few days, and you've already reverted to being that arrogant, overbearing young miss?"

That familiar, indifferent tone made Huang Ning shudder as if her soul had just been jolted back into her body, and she collapsed to the ground.

"No... no, how did you get here? This is impossible!" Deep, profound fear filled Huang Ning's eyes, and her trembling voice was laced with despair.

"Ning, what's wrong?" Seeing her so utterly terrified and distraught, Yan Yu's pupils shrank. All of this was because of the young man who had just appeared.

"Who are you?" Yan Yu glared at Lin Mu. "Are you planning to meddle in the affairs of the Huang Family?"

"If you don't want to die, scram," Lin Mu shot back, his tone cold and blunt.

"You..." Yan Yu was furious. Since he was young, he had been respected everywhere he went. Especially after he took Feng Chen as his master, even powerful figures from the older generation had to treat him with courtesy. Who would dare tell him to scram in public? And in front of his woman, no less!

"Kid, do you know who I am? How dare you use that tone with me!" Yan Yu's voice was dripping with arrogance and ice.

"Senior, he is a disciple of Master Feng. I'm no match for him," Huang Sheng said. Although he was reluctant to admit it, he had heard of Master Feng since he was a young boy. The man was a true master, an honored guest among the countless powerful families on Harbor Island.

"Did you hear that, kid?" Yan Yu sneered. "You cut off Ning's hand, so you'll pay for it with both of your hands and feet!" He said this with a proud expression, as if this were the most natural thing in the world.

"You're really courting death," Lin Mu said, shaking his head. "Even Feng Chen wouldn't dare to speak to me in that tone. What makes you think you can?"

Chapter 610: With just one word from me, he will kill you!

"You dare insult my master?"

Hearing Lin Mu's disrespect for Feng Chen, Yan Yu burst out laughing in fury. "You've got one thing right. In front of my master, what are you?"

"If he were to show up, you'd be so scared you'd be kneeling on the ground like a dog, wagging your tail and begging for mercy."

Lin Mu just kept shaking his head.

"To be as foolish as you are... you're truly a lost cause."

He pointed at Huang Ning on the ground. "Ask this foolish woman if she dares to say such things. And would Feng Chen dare?"

Huang Ning shuddered, biting her lip without a word.

Yan Yu suddenly realized something was wrong. Ever since Lin Mu appeared, Huang Ning's reactions had been abnormal. It was as if she'd had a massive fright; she kept trembling nonstop, and Yan Yu could even smell a foul odor coming from her. This proud woman, who always considered herself the jewel of Harbor Island, had actually been frightened to the point of wetting herself.

This was simply horrifying.

Yan Yu wasn't stupid. At first, he hadn't thought much of Lin Mu's age, but Huang Ning's reaction made him realize he might have provoked someone he shouldn't have.

"Your Excellency, I don't care who you are, but could you give me some face today? This is a Huang Family affair." Yan Yu stood with his hands behind his back and said, "Since you know my master, you must understand what he represents on Harbor Island."

He selectively ignored certain implications in Lin Mu's words.

"Like master, like disciple. Feng Chen is foolish, and his disciple is even more so!" Lin Mu said bluntly. "Go ask Feng Chen if he would dare to ask *me*—Lin Mu—for face."

Yan Yu's expression turned ugly. "Are you really determined to make an enemy of me?"

"I already gave you a chance. Since you didn't cherish it, you have only yourself to blame." Lin Mu couldn't be bothered to waste any more words on him. "Call Feng Chen. Tell him to be here in front of me within twenty minutes, or else I'll kill him along with you!"

"You..."

Hearing Lin Mu's forceful tone, Yan Yu sneered. "Fine, just you wait! Let's see how my master deals with you when he arrives!"

With that, Yan Yu immediately dialed the number.

"Brother Yan..." Huang Ning suddenly called out in a whisper.

"Ning, don't be afraid. With me here, no one dares to touch you!" Yan Yu thought Huang Ning was moved, so he comforted her, "I will make that kid pay a heavy price!"

"I..." Huang Ning opened her mouth but found she couldn't say a thing.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu turned to her. "Call your family. Tell them to bring more people—the more, the better."

"If you don't do it, I'll kill you first!"

Lin Mu's voice, brimming with chilling murderous intent, made Huang Ning shudder violently. She hurriedly took out her phone and called Huang Zhenhao.

On the other end, Yan Yu was already on the phone with Feng Chen.

"Yan Yu, what made you think of calling me?" Feng Chen's voice came through the phone, sounding unenthusiastic.

Yan Yu knew why, but he still spoke cautiously. "Master, I just ran into some kid. He was disrespectful toward you, saying he wouldn't even give you face. He even claimed that in his presence, you're no better than a dog. I couldn't stand it and argued with him. Now, he's demanding to see you."

Yan Yu spoke very quickly, twisting the facts even as he told the truth.

"Causing trouble again?"

Feng Chen was old and shrewd, and he knew Yan Yu's character all too well. His eldest disciple loved to show off and often stirred up trouble; it was nothing new. In the past, Feng Chen wouldn't have cared much. After all, he was his disciple, and a very filial one at that.

But recently, a sense of lonely melancholy had settled in his heart. When he first met Mr. Lin on Tiger's Lair Mountain, he had only thought the man was a bit stronger. However, after the trip to Suzhou, he suddenly realized just how narrow his own perspective had been. It was like witnessing a god with his own eyes.

After returning to Harbor Island, Feng Chen had no desire to continue serving as the Huang Family's Emissary and wanted to sever ties with them completely. But the Huang Family was nauseating. They had instead started fawning over his disciple, revealing their true colors as merchants who chase fame and fortune. Therefore, Yan Yu's call didn't pique his interest.

Let them fawn. At least it's my own disciple. As his master, should I oppose it?

Feng Chen felt a trace of bitterness, then said, "Alright, I'll make the trip."

Since he was the master, making one last stand for his disciple wasn't a problem. But this would be the last time.

"Master, the other party gave you a twenty-minute deadline to arrive, or he'll kill you," Yan Yu added hesitantly.

"Hmph?" Feng Chen's tone darkened. "Did he really say that?" he asked faintly.

"Yes."

Feng Chen snorted. "Tell him I'll be there shortly. But if he dares lay a finger on you before I arrive, I will tear him to pieces!"

「...」

After hanging up, Yan Yu's face lit up with ecstasy.

With his master agreeing to come, that kid was as good as dead.

"All done?" Lin Mu asked, looking at Yan Yu with a meaningful smile.

Yan Yu said proudly, "Kid, once my master gets here, you're dead for sure!"

However, Lin Mu suggested, "How about we make a bet?"

"Bet on what?" Yan Yu was startled.

"I bet that when Feng Chen sees me, not only will he not dare to lay a hand on me, but he will also expel you." Lin Mu smiled faintly. "Do you believe me?"

Hearing this, Yan Yu burst into laughter as if he'd heard the funniest joke in the world, tears streaming from his eyes.

"Do you even know what you're saying?" Holding back his laughter, Yan Yu said, "You must be insane. When you see my master, you'll realize how foolish your words are."

"Expel me? I'm the disciple he's most proud of, seen as his true heir and destined to surpass him one day!" Yan Yu scoffed. "And he'll expel me? Why don't you just say he'll kill me with a single word from you?"

Lin Mu actually nodded. "That's an excellent idea. I'll consider it then."

"Enough!" Hearing Lin Mu become more and more outrageous, Yan Yu shouted, "You've repeatedly disrespected my master. When he arrives, you better kneel and apologize profusely! Otherwise, no matter how important you think you are, you'll die a horrible death!"

"Then let's wait and see." Lin Mu chuckled, a sharp killing intent flashing at the corners of his mouth.

About ten minutes later, Feng Chen arrived.

"Master, you've finally come!" Seeing Feng Chen, Yan Yu was overjoyed. He immediately pointed at Lin Mu and said, "That's the blind mutt who was disrespectful to you. He even made a bet that you wouldn't dare kill him but would expel me instead! He even claimed that at your word, you would kill me!"

Yan Yu burst out laughing again. "Master, don't you think this mutt got his head caught in a door? To say something so nonsensical... he's utterly foolish!"

"Master, what's wrong?" Seeing Feng Chen trembling all over, Yan Yu pressed on. "Master, you can't stand it either, can you? Just slaughter this brat and show him how formidable you are!"

"Shut your mouth!"

Feng Chen roared, slapping Yan Yu so hard across the face that he went flying.

Then, under Yan Yu's incredulous gaze, he strode quickly toward Lin Mu and dropped to his knees with a THUD.

"Feng Chen pays his respects to Master Lin!"