

War God 771

Chapter 771 Break!

The compass in Zhuge Jing's hand exploded with a BOOM.

White light flickered from within the shattered device, shielding Zhuge Jing's body. He barely steadied himself before spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood, his face turning deathly pale.

"Damn it, what happened..."

Before Zhuge Jing could finish, he was horrified to see that the Minor World Gate had been pierced by three beams of light. The fissure was expanding wildly.

Nangong Xuanyuan from the Zhen Tian Sect, the strongest of the three, attempted to suppress the void with his Heaven and Earth Seal. However, the three beams of light shattered the seal in a single strike. His body trembled as a crack appeared between his brows, leaving him withered and listless.

After just one attack, only Xu Jian remained uninjured. At this moment, Xu Jian was already executing Sword Flight Across the Sky, retreating frantically.

"Someone is forcibly opening the Minor World Gate!" Nangong Xuanyuan found the words unbelievable even as he spoke them.

Forcing open the Minor World Gate... Even the Supreme Elders in our sect might not be capable of such a feat. What kind of monstrous entity has appeared in the secular world?

Could it be...

A single name surfaced in the minds of all three men. They had been tasked with guarding the Minor World Gate for the express purpose of plotting against one person.

If the one forcing the gate open is that person...

"Lin Wudi!" Xu Jian's eyes glinted with a sharp light.

He was an ascendant from the secular world. After entering the Sword Control Sect, one of the Ancient Land Sects, he was scorned at every turn. He had only taken several decades to reach the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation and perform a Genius Realm Foundation Establishment. Despite this, he was still not taken seriously. A fire of resentment burned in his heart, a hatred for his own origins.

If I hadn't come from the secular world, I could have been a Proud Son of Heaven!

He had even gone so far as to seize an opportunity to sever all his worldly ties, ensuring all his relatives in the secular world were buried. Now, a cultivator from that very same world was forcibly tearing open the gate to the Ancient Land Minor World. The shock was unprecedented.

"This is bad! Retreat, now!" Zhuge Jing's expression changed drastically as Bagua symbols flickered in his eyes. The ground beneath his feet exploded as he shot backward.

Too late!

Almost at the very instant Zhuge Jing shouted his warning, the black, white, and red Three-Colored Divine Light erupted, violently tearing apart the gate to the Ancient Land Minor World!

BOOM!

Spatial energy detonated, and invisible fissures in space shot out from the Minor World Gate, spreading with terrifying speed. Nangong Xuanyuan, being the closest, couldn't dodge in time and was pierced by the spatial fissures. His magic artifacts and his Protective Body Technique offered no defense whatsoever.

With a wet tear, an arm detached from his body.

"Save me!" Nangong Xuanyuan's face drained of all color as he screamed for help.

But Xu Jian and Zhuge Jing were too busy trying to save themselves to offer him any aid.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

A dozen more spatial fissures sliced through Nangong Xuanyuan's body. The last sound from his throat was swallowed by the expanding rifts. A Foundation Building Immortal had perished so silently before the gate to the Ancient Land Minor World.

Xu Jian and Zhuge Jing stared ahead, their faces masks of horror.

The air flowed chaotically, and countless black spatial fissures riddled the void, turning the surrounding few miles into a death zone. Hills, rivers, living creatures, even the air itself—everything was shredded to pieces by the spatial fissures. It was as if the apocalypse had arrived.

"How could this be..." Xu Jian's face was ashen, the terror in his eyes impossible to conceal.

Zhuce Jing was even more horrified. Just then, they both noticed figures slowly emerging from within the swirling black, white, and red light.

"Shangguan Shiming!"

Zhuce Jing instantly recognized one of the two figures. It was none other than their Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion's roaming envoy, Shangguan Shiming!

That woman actually survived! Doesn't that mean...

Zhuce Jing turned his gaze to the figure beside Shangguan Shiming, unable to hide his shock.

"Lin Wudi! The one who tore open the Ancient Land Gate... it was really him!"

Zhuce Jing suddenly realized that their Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion was in grave trouble.

"Run! We have to get this information back to the Sect immediately!"

Without a shred of hesitation, Zhuge Jing turned and fled. A Bagua pattern appeared beneath his feet. With a single rotation of the pattern, his figure reappeared hundreds of meters away, his speed akin to Instantaneous Movement.

Just then, he heard a woman's voice.

"Sir, the one in the Bagua Robe is Mirror Immortal of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, a Foundation Building cultivator!"

Zhuge Jing nearly coughed up blood.

That treacherous bitch Shangguan Shiming really did betray us! Isn't she afraid her clan relatives will be implicated?

As the thought crossed his mind, Zhuge Jing felt his body being pulled backward.

"What?"

He was horrified to discover that the black, white, and red light was swirling around him, completely preventing him from controlling his own body.

THUD!

The next moment, Zhuge Jing's knees were broken, forcing him to kneel before Lin Wudi. It was only then that he realized, in utter shock, that Xu Jian was already gone. The genius disciple of the Sword Control Sect had fled even faster than him.

The three-colored light converged, transforming back into three tripod legs before returning to Lin Mu's body. Lin Mu regarded Zhuge Jing with an indifferent gaze.

The instant the light vanished, Zhuge Jing found he could move again.

"Jinghua Shui Yue!"

He immediately activated his innate Dao Art without hesitation. His body flashed with white light as he entered a vast, hazy Mirror World.

Standing within the Mirror World, Zhuge Jing let out a long sigh of relief.

That was close. If Lin Wudi hadn't retracted the Three-Colored Divine Light, I wouldn't have even had a chance to escape! Are those three tripod legs the legendary Nine Tripod's Base? Truly mystical!

The Mirror World was an Another World, a dimension torn open with a Dao Art. Without the corresponding technique, it was impossible to attack someone inside. This confidence gave Zhuge Jing the leisure to ponder Lin Wudi's three tripod legs.

"Sir, that's Zhuge Jing's Mirror World! His real body has already escaped!" A flicker of urgency crossed Shangguan Shiming's eyes. Zhuge Jing's escape was not good news for her.

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "Escape? You overestimate him. That fool is standing right beside you."

Shangguan Shiming froze.

Zhuge Jing shuddered. Impossible. He can't possibly see into the Mirror World...

The thought had barely formed when he saw Lin Mu reach out, his hand grabbing directly toward his position.

CRACK!

The Mirror World shattered.

Lin Mu's hand plunged into the vast, hazy space and seized Zhuge Jing by the neck. Zhuge Jing was so caught off guard that he completely forgot to resist.

Shattering the Mirror World... What kind of divine skill is this!?

"So this was your great opportunity? To destroy the Ancient Land Gate and try to kill me?" Lin Mu asked, looking down at him.

Zhuge Jing finally snapped back to his senses and hastily cried out, "Lin Wudi, I am a Foundation Building Immortal from the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion! You wouldn't dare—"

Before he could finish, Lin Mu snapped his neck with a sharp CRACK.

Shangguan Shiming swallowed hard. That was a Foundation Building Immortal, and he died so pathetically?

"Having lost the Mirror World you relied on for survival, you became distraught and forgot to resist. You didn't even unleash one or two percent of your power. Are all the Foundation Building Immortals from the Ancient Land Sects such fools?"

Lin Mu suddenly realized he might have overestimated the Ancient Land Sects.

If this is their caliber, I might not even need to reach Foundation Establishment. With my Twelfth Level of Qi Cultivation, I could sweep across the entire Ancient Land!

Chapter 772: The Proud Son of Heaven of the Sword Control Sect!

"Master, shall we go to the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion first or the Sword Control Sect?"

Lin Mu's easy execution of Zhuge Jing caused Shangguan Shiming's heart to grow ever more apprehensive. The Red Lotus Sword Immortal and the Seven Swords Daoist both hailed from the Sword Control Sect, but Shangguan Shiming didn't know their true strength. Meanwhile, Ao Guang of the

Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion had been suppressed in the secular world and was unable to display his full power.

Within the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, however, everyone knew of Zhuge Jing. This man had reached the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation—a true genius—before achieving his Foundation Establishment! He had even mastered the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion's most mysterious Dao Arts: Mirror Flower, Water Moon, which allowed him to enter the Mirror World and evade any attack. With such a divine skill, he was virtually invincible. For decades, Zhuge Jing's reputation in the Ancient Land had soared, placing him nearly on par with the Proud Sons of Heaven.

Yet this Foundation Building Immortal, famous for years and nearly unbeatable within his realm, had been crushed to death by Lin Mu with a single hand! If she hadn't seen it with her own eyes, she would never have believed it.

Lin Mu's gaze turned icy as he spat out the name: "The Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion!"

Han Xiu, a secular disciple of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, colluded with the Foundation Building Immortal Ao Guang. The two of them schemed to turn Qin Luoli into a cultivation cauldron, which is what led to the Red Lotus Sword Immortal's intervention in the first place! The Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion... They're the chief culprit, the source of all this disaster!

"As you command!" Shangguan Shiming bowed respectfully. I can only hope the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion is sensible, she thought. Otherwise, they're doomed!

「Sword Control Sect.」

The Sword Control Sect was the second-largest of the Ancient Land Sects, occupying one of the most bountiful Holy Lands in the Ancient Land Minor World. Its grounds were rich with minerals and abundant Spiritual Energy. In its core region, the energy was so dense it almost condensed into a mist. With a history spanning ten thousand years, the Sword Control Sect had produced geniuses generation after generation.

The current Sect Leader was the Jade Sword Elder. He began tempering his body at age eight and started Qi Cultivation at nine. By eighteen, he had reached Qi Cultivation Level Nine. At twenty-seven, he used a Genius Cultivation Method to reach the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation and achieve Foundation Establishment. He broke through to the Foundation Establishment Middle Stage at fifty-eight and the Later Stage at one hundred thirty-two. Five years ago, he reached the Foundation Establishment Peak. Now, he was only a single step away from the supreme Core Formation Realm. It was said he would become the youngest cultivator to reach the Core Formation Realm in the thousand-year history of the Ancient Land Sects.

At that moment, the Jade Sword Elder was frowning as he played a game of chess with a young girl.

"No more, I'm not playing anymore..." With a flick of his sleeve, the Jade Sword Elder attempted to scatter the chess pieces.

The girl seemed to have anticipated this, pointing a finger and freezing the chessboard in place.

"Grandpa Sect Master, you're such a sore loser! You throw a fit every time you're about to lose. If you keep this up, I'm not playing with you anymore!" the girl pouted, looking somewhat displeased.

The Jade Sword Elder looked embarrassed. "Ming'er," he said sheepishly, "you call me Grandpa Sect Master, so you could at least go easy on me. Don't you know how embarrassing it is for me to lose to you by dozens of stones?"

"I offered you a ten-stone handicap, but you refused..." Ming'er said innocently.

"A ten-stone handicap? Is that even proper? My chess skill is the second best in the Ancient Land... *cough*, third best... alright, eighth! At my age, getting a ten-stone handicap from you? If word got out, I'd be too ashamed to show my face!" The high and mighty Jade Sword Elder, in the eyes of outsiders, bickered with the girl like a child.

Ming'er said helplessly, "Grandpa Sect Master, how about we play Gomoku from now on? You only win or lose by a single stone in that game..."

The Jade Sword Elder's eyes lit up. "Why didn't I think of that! Hahaha, what a brilliant idea! From now on, I can also say that in the art of chess, I only ever lost to Huang Ming'er by a single stone!"

Huang Ming'er threw up her hands in exasperation.

"Ming'er, enough of this. How has your cultivation been lately?" As the conversation turned to serious matters, the playful, childlike expression gradually faded from the Jade Sword Elder's face.

Huang Ming'er stuck out her little tongue and cajoled, "Grandpa Sect Master, could you give me a few more months? I've just reached the eleventh of the Twelve-Fold Towers, and it'll be a long time before I can reach Foundation Establishment..."

The Jade Sword Elder sighed and said no more. He too knew that haste makes waste. But Huang Ming'er was only the third person in the Sword Control Sect's ten-thousand-year history who had a chance to break through to the Qi Cultivation Twelfth Floor and reach the state of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm. How could he not be anxious?

"Ming'er, it's not that I'm rushing you, it's just..." The Jade Sword Elder wanted to offer a few words of encouragement to keep the girl from getting complacent.

Suddenly, his expression changed dramatically, and he shot to his feet.

"The Ancient Land Gate has been forced open? Damn it! What's happened? Could the secular world have finally lost its patience and used those legendary nuclear weapons?" The Jade Sword Elder didn't dare to be careless. He took out a Communication Talisman and hastily sent a message.

"Nuclear weapons? Grandpa Sect Master, are you talking about those devilish technology weapons developed in the secular world, the kind that can destroy an entire city?" Huang Ming'er looked genuinely interested.

"Ming'er, don't ask too many questions. The less you know about such things, the better. Getting distracted by trivial matters will affect your..."

Before the Jade Sword Elder could finish his sentence, his expression shifted once more.

"Issue my decree! All Elders of the Sword Control Sect at the Foundation Establishment realm or higher must assemble in the main hall immediately. Violators will be severely punished!" After issuing the decree, the Jade Sword Elder's gaze turned icy cold. "Heh. I've been in seclusion for twenty years, ignoring worldly affairs. It seems some people have forgotten to take me seriously!"

"Grandpa Sect Master, what's happening?" This was the first time Huang Ming'er had ever seen such an expression on his face.

The Jade Sword Elder glanced at Huang Ming'er, pondered for a moment, then nodded. "It's for the best. Cultivating in seclusion all the time isn't necessarily a good thing. I'll take you out to see the world and broaden your horizons."

With that, he rose and left his place of seclusion. Twenty years ago, after discovering Huang Ming'er and her potential as a nascent exiled immortal, he had announced his retreat. In truth, he had been secretly nurturing her. Now, it was time for Huang Ming'er, the future exiled immortal, to make her debut.

Huang Ming'er's eyes immediately lit up, and she nearly jumped for joy. Ever since she could remember, her life had been one of endless cultivation. Aside from training, her only pastimes were having tea or playing chess with the Jade Sword Elder. At most, she got to idly chat with the Proud Sons of Heaven and Sect Masters from other Ancient Land sects via a Communication Talisman. She had long yearned to go out and see the world for herself.

She quickly cast a cleansing art to make herself spotless, then followed behind the Jade Sword Elder, her heart fluttering with excitement and nerves.

"Sect Master!"

"Sect Master!"

Along the way, disciples continuously greeted the Jade Sword Elder, while many others stared curiously at the celestial-looking girl following him. The sect disciples let their imaginations run wild. Could it be

that the Sect Master wasn't preparing for Core Formation in his seclusion, but fathered a daughter instead?

「The Main Hall of the Sword Control Sect.」

Dozens of people sat in dense rows. A gathering of all the Foundation Building Immortals was a momentous event that hadn't occurred in over five hundred years. Some speculated that perhaps the Jade Sword Elder had successfully achieved Core Formation. At this thought, the Immortals of the Sword Control Sect felt a surge of excitement. If the Jade Sword Elder achieves Core Formation, the Sword Control Sect will have nine Golden Core Great Ancestors! Perhaps we can even become the number one sect in the Ancient Land!

"Sect Master!"

"Sect Master!"

When the Jade Sword Elder entered the main hall, all the Foundation Building Immortals stood and paid their respects, though their expressions quickly turned strange. They discovered that the Jade Sword Elder had not made a breakthrough. He was still at the Foundation Establishment Peak!

If that's the case, why summon everyone at Foundation Establishment and above?

Then, some of them noticed Huang Ming'er following behind him.

"She's at the peak of the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation! Just one step away from ascending the Twelve-Fold Towers and reaching the realm of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm!"

Chapter 773: The Ancient Land is Shocked!

The Sword Control Sect, after four thousand years, was about to produce an exiled immortal of the extreme realm?

BOOM!

The atmosphere of the scene immediately exploded!

Everyone grew excited!

The birth of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm was a grand event for all the Ancient Land Sects!

The last exiled immortal of the extreme realm from an Ancient Land Sect had appeared two thousand years ago in what was then the insignificant North Dipper Celestial Pavilion. Ever since that exiled immortal's appearance, the North Dipper Celestial Pavilion had leaped to become the number one Sect in the Ancient Land. It dominated the Ancient Land for fifteen hundred years! The North Dipper Celestial Pavilion's glorious era only ended five hundred years ago when that exiled immortal of the extreme realm fell during his Golden Core Stage.

Even so, riding on the echoes of the last five hundred years, the North Dipper Celestial Pavilion still firmly occupied a position among the Ten Great Sects.

"Sect Master, this Proud Son of Heaven is..."

Even though everyone in the great hall was a Foundation Building Immortal, they couldn't hide their respectful attitude in front of Huang Ming'er, because she was the future of the Sword Control Sect.

"I have gathered you all here today to discuss something else!" The Jade Sword Elder, however, did not elaborate on Huang Ming'er's situation. He asked with a grave expression, "Who is in charge of defending the Ancient Land Gate?"

The crowd was somewhat disoriented, not expecting that the first thing the Jade Sword Elder would ask about after twenty years of seclusion was this.

An old man with white hair and a beard stood up from his seat and said respectfully, "Reporting to the Sect Leader, I am in charge of our Sect's defense of the Ancient Land Gate!"

This was Hundred Swords Daoist, one of the oldest Foundation Building Immortals in the Sword Control Sect. He was already three hundred years old with his lifespan nearing its end, which was why the Sect had assigned him the most leisurely task of defending the Ancient Land Gate as a form of retirement.

"Have there been any unusual activities at the Ancient Land Gate recently?" The Jade Sword Elder's gaze was ice-cold.

Hundred Swords Daoist was somewhat puzzled. He thought back carefully and then said, "Oh, there was one matter. Our Sect's agent in the secular world, Nan Weiwo, reported back to the Sect claiming a modern-day myth had emerged, possibly with the cultivation level of a Proud Son of Heaven. I therefore sent Red Lotus, Seven Swords, Wuwang, and Xu Jian to the secular world. Other than that, there have been no major incidents."

"A Proud Son of Heaven was born in the secular world? How is this possible?"

"Where is Nan Weiwo? Get a clear answer!"

"To be able to become a Proud Son of Heaven in the Spiritual Energy-deficient secular world... such a talent must be recruited into our Sect!"

Many of the Elders showed eager expressions. To be able to cultivate to the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation and reach the realm of a Proud Son of Heaven in the secular world meant that if he were brought into the Ancient Land, he would likely be another exiled immortal. Thinking about the grand spectacle of two exiled immortals of the extreme realm appearing in the Sect at the same time, everyone began to get excited.

The Jade Sword Elder sighed and continued to press, "Is there any news from the four of them?"

"There has been no word yet," Hundred Swords Daoist answered. "Sect Master, what exactly has happened?"

At this point, the other Elders also realized there was no trace of joy on the Jade Sword Elder's face.

"The Ancient Land Gate has been forcibly opened. The Ancient Land is about to face a great upheaval, the likes of which has not been seen in ten thousand years! Right now, I can only hope this matter is unrelated to Red Lotus and the other three. Otherwise..."

With those words from the Jade Sword Elder, all the Foundation Building Immortals present were shocked and shot to their feet.

"What? The Ancient Land Gate was forcibly opened?" another cried. "Even a Golden Core Great Ancestor couldn't do that! Could it be that the secular world really used that dreadful weapon?"

"How dare they! Are those Mortals from the secular world trying to challenge our authority?"

"Sect Master, we request permission to immediately go to the secular world, overthrow the current government, and support a new dynasty that is friendly toward the Ancient Land Sects!"

"Sect Master..."

All of them were filled with righteous indignation, boiling with murderous intent. The fury of dozens of Foundation Building Immortals unleashed an overflowing killing intent that made Huang Ming'er, who was only at the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation, turn pale.

"Enough!" With a sweep of his robe, the Jade Sword Elder protected Huang Ming'er and suppressed everyone's murderous intent. "You're still thinking of scheming against the secular world's government! How greedy and ignorant!"

The Jade Sword Elder said coldly, "With the Ancient Land Gate wide open, Spiritual Energy will inevitably spread into the secular world. You should be thinking about how to close the Ancient Land Gate as soon as possible. Otherwise, in a few years, the Spiritual Energy of the Ancient Land will completely dissipate!"

Upon hearing the Jade Sword Elder's words, the others finally realized the seriousness of the situation. It was not that they couldn't see the priorities; it was that such a thing had never happened in the Ancient Land's ten-thousand-year history. The opening of the Ancient Land Gate connected the two realms, and the consequences were something none of the Ancient Land Sects could bear.

"Senior Brother Jinjian!" The Jade Sword Elder directly called out a name.

Before the Jade Sword Elder's rise, Jinjian Daoist had been the strongest disciple of the Sword Control Sect. Now, he was the Chief of the Law Enforcement Hall.

"You will lead ten Foundation Building Immortals to the Minor World Gate to investigate!"

Jinjian Daoist bowed to accept the order.

"Senior Brother Hundred Swords! Immediately apprehend Nan Weiwo. I want to know everything about that Proud Son of Heaven from the secular world!" the Jade Sword Elder continued to issue orders.

Shock and self-reproach were evident on the aged face of Hundred Swords Daoist as he bowed.

Just then, an Inner Sect Disciple cautiously approached Jinjian Daoist and reported something. After hearing the report, Jinjian Daoist's expression changed drastically. "Is what you're saying true?"

The Inner Sect Disciple, who was merely at the Seventh or Eighth Level of Qi Cultivation, was so frightened that he trembled and hastily nodded.

"The Sect's Teleportation Array has been activated! Its destination is the largest city near the Ancient Land Gate!"

With that single sentence from Jinjian Daoist, all the Elders in the great hall vanished instantly. The Jade Sword Elder also waved his sleeve.

Huang Ming'er felt a blur before her eyes and found herself at the Sect's large Teleportation Array. This kind of long-distance teleportation was immensely draining and would not normally be activated, as each use required an hour of preparation.

Time ticked by.

An hour later, the Teleportation Array flashed with a white light. Xu Jian appeared within the array, his face deathly pale. Looking up, he saw hundreds of Foundation Building Immortals staring at him, which made him involuntarily take two steps back.

"Deacon Xu! You've come from the Ancient Land Gate; what exactly happened there?"

"Did the secular world really use that legendary nuclear weapon that destroys cities and leaves no grass growing?"

"Xu Jian! Why have you returned alone? Where are Red Lotus and the other two?"

Everyone bombarded him with questions. Even though Xu Jian was also a Foundation Building Immortal, he was unable to lift his head under the pressure from the hundreds of people present.

"Enough! All of you, be silent! Let Xu Jian speak!" the Jade Sword Elder was forced to interject.

The crowd of Foundation Building Immortals finally fell silent, looking somewhat abashed. Xu Jian steadied his breathing before recounting to everyone the events that had transpired at the Ancient Land Gate.

What he said left all the Foundation Building Immortals of the Sword Control Sect utterly dumbfounded.

"You're saying it was that Proud Son of Heaven from the secular world who forcibly broke open the Ancient Land Gate?" one exclaimed. "The Nine Tripod's Base! The Nine Tripod's Base is actually in the hands of that Proud Son of Heaven! Terrifying! To be able to break open the Ancient Land Gate with only the cultivation of the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation! Such a Proud Son of Heaven must be secured by our Sword Control Sect!"

The Foundation Building Immortals of the Sword Control Sect each wore different expressions. There was greed. There was shock. And there was disbelief.

The Jade Sword Elder looked at Xu Jian and felt that this talent, who had entered the Sword Control Sect aiming for the path to immortality, seemed to be holding something back.

"Xu Jian, tell me everything. Otherwise, I will kill you!"

For the Jade Sword Elder, in his dignified position as Sect Master, to make such a naked threat brought a complete silence over the area. Everyone looked toward the Jade Sword Elder, puzzled and confused.

Xu Jian's body trembled, and with a THUMP, he dropped to his knees.

Chapter 774: Sweeping Across Three Thousand Li in the Ancient Land!

Before a great city in the Ancient Land.

"Sir, the Ancient Land is vast and sparsely populated. Even if we travel through the night, it would still take us several days to reach the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion..." Shangguan Shiming explained to Lin Mu. "If we take the Teleportation Array, we can reach our destination in the shortest possible time. This great city before us has a Teleportation Array that leads to a city under the jurisdiction of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion."

Lin Mu gave no definite response and walked towards the city gate with Shangguan Shiming. As soon as they reached the gate, they were stopped by the city guards.

In the Ancient Land, even the soldiers guarding a great city possessed Inner Strength. This alone showed the might of the Ancient Land.

"Due to an urgent situation, all outsiders are forbidden from entering the city. Please turn back!" a soldier said politely, but the sword in his hand was discreetly pointed at Lin Mu and Shangguan Shiming.

Shangguan Shiming produced an All-World Travel Token and said indifferently, "I am an All-World Traveler from the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion. We need to use the city's Teleportation Array."

The soldier glanced at Shangguan Shiming's token, and his wary expression faded, but he still did not step aside.

"Master Shangguan, please allow me to report to my superiors. These are extraordinary times, so I ask for your understanding!"

The soldier gave an eye signal to another man beside him, who then turned and ran into the city. Before long, a neatly dressed young man emerged from within the city walls. Upon seeing Shangguan Shiming, his eyes lit up.

From a distance, he clasped his hands in a bow. "Master Shangguan, I have long admired your great name. I am Lin Jun, the Young Lord of this merchant city. It is an honor to meet you, Master Shangguan!"

Shangguan Shiming nodded coldly and said, "I have urgent business and cannot exchange pleasantries. Please allow us to pass."

Lin Jun, still smiling, replied, "Master Shangguan, please forgive me. At any other time, I would not dare to stop you, but a major change has occurred. All great cities in the Ancient Land have received orders that no one is allowed to use the Teleportation Array unless accompanied by a Foundation Building Immortal!"

Shangguan Shiming couldn't help but glance at the indifferent Lin Mu by her side. Perhaps all of this was caused by him forcefully opening the Ancient Land Gate.

Her face turned cold as she said, "So you're saying my word isn't good enough!"

As she spoke, she unceremoniously unleashed the pressure of her Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation, bearing down on Lin Jun.

Lin Jun's face turned pale as he staggered back seven or eight steps, exclaiming in shock, "Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation, the realm of a genius! Master Shangguan, you actually broke through to such a level in the secular world!"

As the young lord of a great city, Lin Jun had some understanding of the secular world, where Spiritual Energy was scarce and cultivation difficult. For an All-World Traveler like Shangguan Shiming, whose job

was already an arduous task, to break through to the realm of a genius was unprecedented in the history of the Ancient Land Sects.

Such a person, if they returned to their Sect with access to Cultivation Techniques and Elixirs, would certainly become a Proud Son of Heaven! If she were just a titular, hard-working All-World Traveler, offending her would be one thing. But this is a future Proud Son of Heaven. Offending someone like that would probably mean the end for the Lin Family's City Lord!

"Master Shangguan, my apologies! I did not realize you were returning with such accomplishments! Please forgive me. I will open the Teleportation Array right away!" Lin Jun hurriedly made way.

Shangguan Shiming breathed a long sigh of relief. She could tell that the Lin Wudi beside her was becoming rather impatient. If Lin Jun hadn't moved, I fear this tyrant beside me would have stormed into the city and forced his way to the Teleportation Array.

The three of them arrived at the Teleportation Array, with Lin Jun personally overseeing its activation.

"Master Shangguan, I hope you can forgive my transgression and not hold it against me!" Before they entered, Lin Jun handed over a Space Ring.

Shangguan Shiming nodded coldly, accepted the Space Ring, and stepped into the Teleportation Array with Lin Mu.

"Sir..." Shangguan Shiming offered the Space Ring to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu's eyes didn't even flicker. "You keep it. It's just from a minor city in the Ancient Land. What good could it possibly have?"

Shangguan Shiming wiped away a bead of cold sweat. The items in this Space Ring are by no means insignificant. Lin Jun clearly spared no expense to avoid offending a future Proud Son of Heaven. The resources within are probably enough for me to cultivate from the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation to the Eleventh Level of Qi Cultivation! These great city lords are incredibly wealthy! And yet, such resources don't even warrant a glance from Lin Wudi. His ambitions are truly lofty!

With a flash of white light, Shangguan Shiming and Lin Wudi vanished from the Teleportation Array.

Lin Jun wiped away a film of cold sweat. "Shangguan Shiming? Wasn't she said to be from just a collateral branch of the Shangguan Family? To possess such talent! Has the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion gone blind? Wasting such aptitude by sending her to the secular world! If she were in the Ancient Land, she would already be a Proud Son of Heaven by now, wouldn't she?!"

「Nanling City.」

It was one of the seven major cities under the jurisdiction of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion. Compared to other great cities presided over by Qi Cultivation Realm experts, the defenses here were even more rigorous.

The City Lord, Divine Mechanism Immortal Jiang Zongheng, was a Foundation Building Immortal of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion and one of its Outer Sect Elders.

"Strange, why am I feeling so restless?"

Standing atop the City Lord's Observatory, Jiang Zongheng looked down at the great city that was his domain, unable to find peace. At two hundred years old, he was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage but unable to break through to the next realm. He now served as the City Lord only to leave behind more resources for the progeny of the Jiang Family. For a while now, he had been unable to sit still, vaguely feeling that something significant was about to happen.

After a brief contemplation, Jiang Zongheng returned to his desk, took out a Tortoise Shell, and decided to conduct a divination. The Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, named for heavenly secrets, was a sect that excelled at divination. Upon reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm, one could even sense the will of heaven in the workings of the world and use divination to seek good fortune and avoid disaster.

After rattling the Tortoise Shell, Jiang Zongheng set it down.

Death, death, death, misfortune, misfortune, misfortune!

The hexagram revealed by the six copper coins made him suck in a sharp breath.

"Three misfortunes, three deaths... this is the hexagram of near-certain doom! Why? Could it be related to the order from above to close the Teleportation Array?"

Even as an Immortal at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, Jiang Zongheng felt a chill shoot from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

"Pass my order! Immediately shut down the Teleportation Array! Even Foundation Building Immortals are not permitted..."

Before Jiang Zongheng could finish his order, he saw the copper coins within the Tortoise Shell flip over. SNAP! SNAP!

Death, death, death, death, death, misfortune!

Five deaths and one misfortune... an almost certain indicator of death! Why is this happening? Could it be because of the order I just gave?

With a jolt of anxiety, Jiang Zongheng hurriedly shouted, "Notify everyone, no one is to hinder anyone from using the Teleportation Array! As long as they are from my Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, they shall have passage!"

The messenger outside was puzzled by his City Lord issuing two completely contradictory orders in such a short time. Peeking inside, he saw his City Lord staring blankly at the Tortoise Shell. The messenger didn't dare to delay and quickly ran off to deliver the new order.

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!

The moment the messenger left, all six copper coins flipped and danced, forming a new hexagram.

Auspicious, auspicious, auspicious, auspicious, auspicious, auspicious!

It was an astonishing six auspices.

Jiang Zongheng swallowed hard. In half a lifetime of divination, he had never seen such precise hexagrams. If his divinations could always be this exact, he wouldn't be stuck at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, unable to advance.

"Who in the world needs to use the Teleportation Array, to be able to influence the heavens themselves?! Terrifying... far too terrifying!"

Jiang Zongheng slumped to the ground, soaked in a cold sweat.

Chapter 775: Shock in Heavenly Origin City!

"Are the guards here so lax? They didn't even check my token. We just stated our identity, and they let us pass."

Shangguan Shiming looked around at the Nanling City guards with some confusion.

Lin Mu gazed toward the City Lord's Observatory in the distance. "Just now, someone was spying on me using a Divination Method!"

Shangguan Shiming was startled, then realized. "Jiang Zongheng! The City Lord of Nanling City, Jiang Zongheng, is a master of the art of divination!"

As the two conversed, the Teleportation Array activated.

The moment it did, Lin Mu had a sudden inspiration. His Divine Sense flared, and he pointed a finger at the array!

WHOOSH!

A flash of white light, and the two vanished from the Teleportation Array.

「Heavenly Origin City」

One of the seven great cities of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion.

Outside the Teleportation Array, eight Foundation Establishment Immortals stood in wait, their Flying Swords suspended in the air, exuding a palpable killing intent.

After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, the Teleportation Array remained silent.

"What's going on?" one of the Foundation Establishment Immortals asked. "Weren't we told that the secular Proud Son of Heaven would appear here?"

The leading Foundation Establishment Immortal took out a Communication Talisman, his expression immediately changing. "That Lin Wudi used some method to cloud the heavenly secrets. The Mud Bodhisattva can no longer track his movements."

Everyone was shocked.

The Mud Bodhisattva was the strongest diviner in the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, someone who could precisely calculate a person's entire destiny. It was he who had deduced Lin Mu and Shangguan Shiming's travel route, allowing them to set up this ambush. But now, their targets had vanished.

"What about Shangguan Shiming?" someone inquired. "Lin Wudi is a Proud Son of Heaven, capable of clouding heavenly secrets, but Shangguan Shiming is merely at the Eighth Level of Qi Cultivation. Surely she can't escape divination!"

A strange expression appeared on the leader's face. He said hesitantly, "Shangguan Shiming has advanced to the Tenth Level of Qi Cultivation. She has reached the realm of a genius."

The other Foundation Establishment Immortals exchanged glances. Normally, they wouldn't pay any mind to a disciple with the qualifications to wander the world. But for Shangguan Shiming to advance from the Eighth to the Tenth Level of Qi Cultivation in just a few days... the implications were profound.

"When the Seven Swords Daoist left, he had a Sky-Breaking Pill in his Space Ring!"

"One Sky-Breaking Pill isn't enough for her to break through two realms, unless..."

"She's a Proud Son of Heaven!"

"No, not even a Proud Son of Heaven could utilize a Sky-Breaking Pill with that level of efficiency!"

"An exiled immortal of the extreme realm! Only an exiled immortal of the extreme realm could use a single Sky-Breaking Pill to break through two entire realms!"

A heavy silence fell over the group.

After a long moment, a cold voice spoke up. "Go to the Sword Control Sect and demand justice! That Nan Weiwo must die! If it weren't for him, our Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion wouldn't have lost an exiled immortal of the extreme realm!"

Every Foundation Establishment Immortal present felt a sharp pang in their hearts. An exiled immortal of the extreme realm could have changed their Sect's destiny, allowing the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion to dominate the Ancient Land for another fifteen hundred years. Yet, she had been pushed to the opposing side, all because of a minor traveling disciple from the Sword Control Sect. It made them want to kill.

"Have Shangguan Xue contact Shangguan Shiming. Tell her our Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion is willing to pay any price to make peace with Lin Wudi, as long as Shangguan Shiming agrees to return to the Sect!"

As of now, Shangguan Shiming's value alone surpassed that of ninety-nine percent of the people in the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion. Forget Lin Wudi killing the worthless Ao Guang, who was only at the ninth level of Foundation Establishment. Even if he had slaughtered half of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion's Foundation Establishment Immortals, the Sect would still choose to make peace. As long as Shangguan Shiming, the future exiled immortal of the extreme realm, agreed to return, everything was negotiable.

「In a desolate forest」

Shangguan Shiming looked at the scene before her, bewildered. "Sir, where are we...?"

She was confused. They were supposed to take a Teleportation Array to Heavenly Origin City, so why had they appeared in this deserted place?

"As I just said, someone was spying on me with divination," Lin Mu replied, his gaze icy.

"Spying with divination?" Shangguan Shiming was still puzzled. Didn't Jiang Zongheng divine your abilities and then open the Teleportation Array for us? Wait...

"Sir, are you saying that someone divined our destination as Heavenly Origin City and set an ambush there in advance?" Shangguan Shiming's face instantly turned deathly pale. An ambush for Lin Wudi would require at least three Foundation Establishment Immortals. If a battle broke out, a cultivator like her, at the mere Tenth Level of Qi Cultivation, would undoubtedly be killed.

She couldn't help but shiver. To think I just walked along the edge of death.

"Sir, where are we?" Shangguan Shiming couldn't help but ask.

"Fifty li outside Heavenly Origin City."

After saying this, Lin Mu paid her no more mind and began walking forward.

Shangguan Shiming gasped. Long-distance Teleportation Arrays were inscribed with matching sets of formation runes, connecting two major cities. If they were off by even a hair's breadth, the array wouldn't activate. Yet, Lin Wudi had not only interfered with the array's operation but had also managed to teleport them precisely fifty li outside of Heavenly Origin City! Such a feat was simply divine craftsmanship.

She desperately wanted to ask how he had done it. If the Ancient Land Sects possessed such an ability, they could easily launch surprise attacks on other sects, using superior numbers to crush their enemies.

She caught up to Lin Mu. Lin Wudi, who on earth are you? The more she saw of this peerless figure from the secular world, the more mysterious he became.

WHOOSH!

Just as they were a few hundred meters from the city gates, a figure shot out from the moat, brandishing a sword and slashing directly at Shangguan Shiming! The attack wasn't aimed at Lin Mu, but at her.

CLANG!

With a clear sword cry, Shangguan Shiming moved like a graceful Rainbow Dress Fairy, easily dodging the fatal blow before striking out with her palm.

BANG!

The assailant was sent flying by the force of the blow.

Elated, Shangguan Shiming pressed her advantage. Her body moved with the beauty of a celestial dance, and she was instantly in front of the attacker.

"You are indeed—"

Before the man could finish his sentence, Shangguan Shiming stomped on his throat, crushing it.

After killing him, she felt refreshed and invigorated.

"Thank you, Sir, for imparting your techniques to me!"

The attacker had been a young expert at the peak of the Ninth Level of Qi Cultivation. Just a few days ago, Shangguan Shiming would have been no match for him. Now, with her strength at the Tenth Level of Qi Cultivation and the Rainbow Feather Dress Technique, she had killed him in just two moves. It was effortless, as if he couldn't withstand a single blow. It feels like I've been completely reborn!

Lin Mu looked toward the city, a playful smile touching his lips. "Shangguan Shiming, do you wish to return to the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion?"

Shangguan Shiming looked at Lin Mu in astonishment, sensing a hidden meaning in his words.

However, she didn't hesitate. She knelt on one knee before him and declared, "I owe everything I am today to you, Sir. This junior is willing to follow you and serve you faithfully, with no thought of betrayal!"

At this moment, Shangguan Shiming could no longer see Lin Mu as merely a secular Proud Son of Heaven. Not even the Foundation Establishment Immortals of the Ancient Land Sects possessed his level of power. When she called herself his junior, she meant it from the bottom of her heart.

"Oh? In that case, it seems I'll have to make sure you don't die," Lin Mu said, his words puzzling her.

But in the next moment, she understood exactly what he meant.

BOOM!

Heavenly Origin City—one of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion's seven main cities and a major stronghold in the Sect's territory—began to shake violently. An entire half of the city was caught in the tremor.

The city's protective formations groaned and crackled, as if on the verge of shattering under an unbearable load.

Lights of all colors flared and surged through the city

Chapter 776: The Exiled Immortal of the Extreme Realm, So Terrifying!

"A city siege? A siege on one of the seven major cities of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion?! What in the world is going on? Have all the people from the Ancient Land Sect gone mad?" Shangguan Shiming's eyes widened in disbelief.

Although ceaseless slaughter occurred between the various factions of the Ancient Land Sect, it was usually confined to cultivators. A siege of this nature had not erupted for many years. At least, in Shangguan Shiming's memory, there had never been a war on this scale, let alone one taking place in one of the seven major cities of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion.

For such a battle to occur in one of the seven major cities usually meant the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion was on the brink of annihilation. Even five hundred years ago, when that exiled immortal of the extreme realm who had dominated for fifteen hundred years finally fell, the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion hadn't been pushed into such a wretched state! To Shangguan Shiming, this was simply unimaginable.

Lin Mu said flatly, "It's not a siege."

"Not a siege? Then..." The ferocity of the battle in Heavenly Origin City clearly involved more than a dozen Foundation Building Immortals attacking one another. If such fierce attacks didn't constitute a siege, what could they be for? Surely not a dispute over mining resources?

Lin Mu glanced at Shangguan Shiming, a strange look in his eyes. "It's because of you."

"Me?" Shangguan Shiming pointed to her own nose, thinking she must be hearing things.

If these people were fighting over Lin Mu, she could understand. But to say it was all for her... For more than a dozen Foundation Building Immortals to engage in a life-or-death battle over her, a Worldly Walker assigned to thankless errands, was the most ridiculous joke in the world. Yet, since Lin Mu was the one who had said it, she didn't dare to laugh.

"They're here," Lin Mu said, looking ahead.

Just then, more than thirty cultivators in blue robes sped toward them, riding various flying Magic Artifacts.

The Four Seas Gate? Could the Foundation Building Immortals fighting in the city be from the Four Seas Gate? Shangguan Shiming was visibly startled upon seeing their attire.

The Four Seas Gate, one of the Ten Great Sects of the Ancient Land, was an old rival of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion. Five hundred years ago, when the Pavilion's exiled immortal fell, the Four Seas Gate had launched a frenzied attack. If not for the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion's profound heritage, the sect would have been annihilated. The enmity between the two sects could be traced back seven or eight thousand years. However, for the last two to three hundred years, things had been relatively calm despite constant minor skirmishes. Why have they started fighting again today? And to think the Four Seas Gate has attacked all the way to Heavenly Origin City.

"Senior Brother Qi! Shangguan Shiming killed Senior Brother Qi!"

"Shangguan Shiming is here! Kill her!"

"Kill her!"

Ignoring Lin Mu as if he were invisible, the Four Seas Gate cultivators rushed madly toward Shangguan Shiming.

Could it really be because of me? As the thought crossed her mind, she saw Lin Mu casually walk to the side, showing no intention of helping.

BOOM!

A beam of sword light exploded nearby, forcing Shangguan Shiming to focus.

"Four Seas Gate, are you all insane?! Daring to attack one of the seven major cities? You're seeking death!"

Shangguan Shiming summoned her sword and engaged the members of the Four Seas Gate. The Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion was already known for its profound and esoteric techniques, and now she had also cultivated the Rainbow Feather Dress Technique that Lin Mu had bestowed upon her. Shangguan Shiming's combat prowess had practically multiplied.

She moved like a butterfly flitting among flowers; each flutter of her form claimed a life. Her movements were as graceful as Chang'e soaring to the moon, as light as Zhao Feiyan dancing on a palm. The Rainbow Feather Dress Technique showcased a woman's beauty to its fullest. It looked less like Shangguan Shiming was fighting and more like she was dancing.

A dance to topple cities; another to claim lives!

"The Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation! Shangguan Shiming is truly a prodigy!"

"We cannot allow the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion to produce another exiled immortal! Kill her!"

The eyes of the Four Seas Gate cultivators turned bloodshot. Fearless of death, they charged crazily at Shangguan Shiming! Most of them were at the eighth or ninth layer of Qi Cultivation, with only two or three at the Tenth Layer. These geniuses of the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation fought like madmen, trying desperately to kill Shangguan Shiming, but they couldn't even touch the hem of her clothes.

A few breaths later, only two geniuses of the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation remained alive. The rest were all dead.

Shangguan Shiming stared at her hands, scarcely believing they were her own. I fought dozens of people all by myself! In a single day, my strength has changed so drastically!

The two remaining Four Seas Gate cultivators trembled as they gazed at Shangguan Shiming. Though her robes were stained with blood, her elegance was undiminished. Just moments ago, they had thought the news from the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion was absurd. How could a mere Worldly Walker become a Banished Immortal Seed?

But now, they believed. She had only advanced a few days ago, yet she could slay dozens of people. Even a Proud Son of Heaven could not match such strength!

The two exchanged a look, a flicker of grim resolve in their eyes.

"Kill!"

These two talented cultivators of the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation, both with bright futures, simultaneously activated Forbidden Techniques. With the determination to perish together, they charged at Shangguan Shiming!

A breath later, both fell to the ground. Shangguan Shiming had only suffered a shallow gash on her shoulder.

An exiled immortal of the extreme realm truly is this terrifying... The two great geniuses of the Four Seas Gate breathed their last in despair.

An exiled immortal of the extreme realm? Why do they think I'm one? Having heard them shout it several times, Shangguan Shiming was sure she hadn't misheard. I'm only at the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation. Why would they think I'm a Banished Immortal Seed?

"Teacher..." Shangguan Shiming felt Lin Mu must know the answer. When she looked at him, she saw a faint smile on his lips.

BOOM! RUMBLE!

The defensive formation of Heavenly Origin City finally gave way under the relentless bombardment of more than ten Foundation Building Immortals and shattered completely. At the same time, the fighting within the city also seemed to cease.

SWOOSH! SWOOSH!

Two streaks of light cut through the air as a pair of Foundation Building Immortals landed before Shangguan Shiming.

"She really is at the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation!"

"And the scent of a Sky-Breaking Pill!"

"This means the rumors were true!"

"A single Sky-Breaking Pill to break through two major realms... she truly is a Banished Immortal Seed!"

"She single-handedly slew dozens in the Qi Cultivation Realm, including three experts of her own level! If that's not a Banished Immortal Seed, what is?!"

In just a few sentences, the two Foundation Building Immortals had confirmed Shangguan Shiming's status.

"Young woman Shangguan," said one of the Foundation Building Immortals, the one wielding a Watersplit Thorn. "I am the Soaring Dragon Immortal of the Four Seas Gate. I offer you an opportunity. If you willingly join our Four Seas Gate, I can make the decision to name you the Sect Heir. The day you reach Foundation Establishment will be the day you take command as the Sect Leader of the Four Seas Gate. What do you say?"

Shangguan Shiming pointed to her own nose. "You're asking me, a disciple of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion, to become the Sect Leader of your Four Seas Gate?"

Even after surviving a life-or-death battle, Shangguan Shiming still found the scene before her surreal.

The Soaring Dragon Immortal laughed heartily. "From what I know, the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion branded you a traitor three days ago. Even your ancestor, Shangguan Xue, has been imprisoned! You are no longer a member of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion!"

Shangguan Shiming clenched her fists tightly. A moment later, however, her breathing returned to normal.

"Apologies. I already belong to another sect and cannot join the Four Seas Gate."

Chapter 777: A Finger Tap to Kill!

Coming from an Ancient Land Sect, Shangguan Shiming knew that the Soaring Dragon Immortal was not making an empty threat.

If I agreed to join the Four Seas Gate, they really would make me the Sect Leader! The temptation of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm is just too great. Any Sect that has one can effectively dominate the Ancient Land for a thousand years! Unfortunately, I know my own situation best. This so-called Banished Immortal Seed of mine is a complete fake! Without Lin Mu's help, I never could have fully absorbed the Sky-Breaking Pill's power, and this whole misunderstanding wouldn't have happened. If I really joined the Four Seas Gate, I'd be exposed in a matter of days. Besides, I belong to Lin Mu now. I don't dare, nor do I want, to pledge myself to anyone else. In my eyes, the position of Sect Leader of the Four Seas Gate is far less appealing than being a maidservant by Lin Mu's side!

Shangguan Shiming's refusal was because she could not betray Lin Mu. The Soaring Dragon Immortal, however, was unaware of the truth and simply assumed she was unwilling to betray the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion.

"Hah! To think the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion has such effective brainwashing techniques! They treat you like this, and you still refuse to betray them!"

"However, since you refuse to join our Four Seas Gate, you are an enemy. So, die!"

With that, the Soaring Dragon Immortal reached out to grab Shangguan Shiming's head. A Banished Immortal Seed was, after all, just a seed. At this moment, Shangguan Shiming was merely a junior at the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation.

WHOOSH!

Shangguan Shiming's figure moved with enchanting grace, and she actually dodged the Foundation Building Immortal's strike.

"Hmph? This movement technique... Worthy of a Banished Immortal Seed! Now try this move!"

The Soaring Dragon Immortal struck again, this time with no carelessness. He unleashed a killing blow, his Watersplit Thorn shooting forth. A beam of blue light transformed into a ferocious beast from the depths of the sea and tore towards Shangguan Shiming.

RIP!

The sleeve of Shangguan Shiming's left robe was shredded, and a piece of flesh was ripped from her arm. Yet, she had once again evaded the Foundation Building Immortal's full-powered strike! Having dodged two consecutive attacks, Shangguan Shiming's confidence soared. She activated the Rainbow Feather Dress Technique and, instead of defending, launched a counterattack against the Foundation Building Immortal!

"Impudent!" The Soaring Dragon Immortal's anger turned into a sneering laugh. "Teng Hai, go kill that boy over there. I'll handle this Banished Immortal Seed!"

Since Teng Hai's Cultivation Level was a step weaker than the Soaring Dragon Immortal's, he couldn't compete for the glory of killing a Banished Immortal Seed. Thus, he vented his fury on Lin Mu.

"Junior! You reek of the mortal world. Are you from the secular world? You can only blame your own rotten luck for following the wrong person. You never should have gotten close to a Banished Immortal Seed like Shangguan Shiming!"

As Teng Hai attacked, his water-blue True Qi solidified into a crystal sword that slashed toward Lin Mu! In his eyes, this junior from the secular world was an insect he could crush with a single slap. Using a Dao Art for this was, in his mind, simply a case of a lion using its full strength to hunt a rabbit.

Lin Mu's figure vanished, reappearing an instant later directly in front of Teng Hai.

"Twelve Forms of Slaying Gods, Slaying Demons, and Punishing Immortals—First Form!"

"Godslayer Finger!"

Lin Mu tapped his finger on Teng Hai's forehead.

PFFT!

Teng Hai's head was pierced through, his very Divine Soul obliterated by that single touch!

A Foundation Building Immortal had died just like that. There wasn't even the brilliant clash of techniques typical of a battle between Foundation Establishment Stage experts. A single move had slain an Immortal!

Lin Mu was thoroughly uninterested, not even bothering to kill the Soaring Dragon Immortal himself. These Foundation Establishment cultivators from the Ancient Land Sects are too foolish. They're not even on par with Red Lotus or Seven Swords, and a far cry from Ao Guang. Perhaps living in the Ancient Land has made their vigilance so low, their guard so lax. Red Lotus and the others could at least exchange a few moves with me. But Zhuge Jing and this Teng Hai... they didn't even get to display a tenth, or even a hundredth, of their true strength before being killed.

"Who are you?!" The Soaring Dragon Immortal forced Shangguan Shiming back with his sword, his gaze fixed on Lin Mu in horror. "Killing Teng Hai in a single move... You—you're an exiled immortal of the extreme realm!"

The aura of the Qi Cultivation Realm is completely different from that of the Foundation Establishment Stage. Therefore, the Soaring Dragon Immortal instantly determined that Lin Mu was not a Foundation Building Immortal but was in the Qi Cultivation Realm! To kill a Foundation Establishment expert in one move while still in the Qi Cultivation Realm... only an exiled immortal of the extreme realm could do that!

"What is going on?!" The Soaring Dragon Immortal was glaring so intensely it seemed his eyes would split with rage. Shangguan Shiming was a Banished Immortal Seed, and now this secular boy by her side was an actual exiled immortal of the extreme realm! What in the world was happening? Since when did exiled immortals of the extreme realm become so common? The thought that both of them were disciples of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion made the Soaring Dragon Immortal shudder with dread. Two thousand years ago, a single exiled immortal of the extreme realm from the North Dipper Celestial Pavilion had oppressed the Ancient Land for fifteen hundred years. Now, with two of them, wouldn't they annihilate all the Ancient Land Sects?!

"I must get this news out! Otherwise, the Four Seas Gate is doomed!"

With his mind made up, the Soaring Dragon Immortal abandoned his attack. He threw up a protective shield and took out a Communication Talisman.

"Sir, stop him! If you don't, he'll summon an endless horde of Foundation Building Immortals!"
Shangguan Shiming, now realizing the gravity of the situation, hurriedly warned Lin Mu. To her surprise, she found Lin Mu standing perfectly still, just quietly watching the Soaring Dragon Immortal.

"Sir..."

"Rather than us hunting for them everywhere, letting them come to our doorstep is also a fine option,"
Lin Mu said lightly, as if the Foundation Building Immortals of the Ancient Land Sects were beneath his notice.

The Soaring Dragon Immortal's hand trembled as he activated the talisman; he had a sinking feeling that summoning reinforcements was a terrible mistake.

Shangguan Shiming grew frantic. "Sir, none of the Ancient Land Sects want to see an exiled immortal of the extreme realm rise! We have no Sect protecting us now. I'm afraid we'll be besieged by all of them!"

Lin Mu said, "Besieged? Then we'll just kill them all!"

A cold shiver ran down Shangguan Shiming's spine, a chill seeping into her bones. The Soaring Dragon Immortal doesn't know Lin Mu, but I do. Back in the secular world, he used an iron fist to wipe out organizations like the Dark Church, the Prison of Divine Might, Hongmen, and the Dark Web. This time... by entering the Ancient Land, is he planning to sweep it all up in one go?

"Sir, besides the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion and the Sword Control Sect, the other Sects have done you no wrong. Please, grant the other Sects a chance to live..."

Shangguan Shiming was, after all, born and raised in the Ancient Land. She didn't want to see it slaughtered by Lin Mu.

"Hahaha..." the Soaring Dragon Immortal roared with laughter. "And here I was, worried that two exiled immortals of the extreme realm would one day sweep through all the Sects of the Ancient Land. Turns out, you're just a pair of madmen! An exiled immortal of the extreme realm is only equivalent to the mid-to-late Foundation Establishment Stage. Anyone at the Foundation Establishment Peak could easily crush you! Such arrogance! You're both dead men!" The Soaring Dragon Immortal's eyes burned with venom.

"Noisy." Lin Mu pointed his finger.

BOOM!

The protective shield shattered violently. The Magic Artifact disintegrated, causing the Soaring Dragon Immortal to spit up a mouthful of blood. In the next instant, Lin Mu's finger arrived.

PFFT!

The Soaring Dragon Immortal's head was pierced. Dead.

Two fingers, two Immortals killed.

Shangguan Shiming stared, her gaze slightly vacant. It feels like Lin Mu is killing Foundation Building Immortals more and more effortlessly now. When he killed Ao Guang, the very heavens had changed color, and their battle had lasted for several exchanges. But now, he kills them with a single touch of his finger! Are these Foundation Building Immortals just too weak, or has Lin Wudi become even stronger?

Lin Mu stood with his hands behind his back, gazing toward Heavenly Origin City. He said indifferently, "You yourself once said that five people were involved in trapping me in the Heavenly Lake Minor World. Therefore, that implicates the five great Sects. Besides, of all those who have come to besiege us today, not a single one is innocent."

Chapter 778: You Must Die Today!

Heavenly Origin City.

This ancient city, with a history of ten thousand years, now appeared somewhat dilapidated. After a great battle, half of it had been reduced to ruins. In that battle, ten Foundation Establishment cultivators from the Four Seas Gate had ambushed eight from the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion. After the bloody conflict, only two Foundation Establishment cultivators from Four Seas Gate survived, and even they were slain by Lin Mu after they left the city.

Currently, the defenses of Heavenly Origin City were at their most vulnerable.

In a tavern, Lin Mu sat by a window, observing the citizens of the Ancient Land as they struggled to emerge from the rubble-strewn streets. The sects were the cause of their success, and also their failure. Thanks to the Spiritual Energy of the Ancient Land, those from the Ancient Land Sects had much longer lifespans than people in the secular world. In the outside world, a centenarian was exceedingly rare, less than one in ten thousand. In the Ancient Land, however, it was common to see elders over the age of one hundred and twenty.

But in return, they were also more susceptible to being caught in the crossfire because of the cultivators' presence. Just like this time, more than half of Heavenly Origin City's ten million citizens had perished in the chaotic battle between the eighteen Foundation Establishment cultivators. Now, they didn't even dare to remain in the city. The deaths of eighteen Foundation Establishment cultivators was a clear sign that this affair was far from over.

The great battle would continue.

Fortunately, the Teleportation Array was still functional. The city's inhabitants left in droves via the array, heading for other cities. Many also departed Tian Yuan on foot, venturing into the wilderness.

"Sir, what are your thoughts on this scene?" Shangguan Shiming, acting as a maiden servant, poured tea for Lin Mu. The tavern owner had already fled, leaving just the two of them.

"The cycle of the Heavenly Dao," Lin Mu uttered just four words.

Shangguan Shiming opened her mouth, unsure how to respond.

Does the Heavenly Dao truly have a retributive cycle? On reflection, perhaps it did. Eighteen Foundation Building Immortals had battled in the city, killing countless people, and in the end, they were all killed too. Was this their retribution? And what about her? She was the one who had triggered this great battle. Would she be plagued by sin in the future and suffer a violent end?

Seeing Shangguan Shiming still looked puzzled, Lin Mu said indifferently, "Do cultivators die of old age?"

His words struck her like a thunderclap.

Do cultivators die of old age? Shangguan Shiming swallowed hard as she pondered the question. Perhaps some did, but surely not many. Even the exiled immortal of the extreme realm from Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion was besieged and killed by his enemies in his old age, his lifespan nearly exhausted and his cultivation level greatly diminished! So, does that mean cultivators are destined not to have a peaceful end?

Just as Shangguan Shiming felt she was beginning to grasp some essence of cultivation, she heard Lin Mu speak again.

"You're always looking over your shoulder, your heart filled with fear. What kind of Dao are you even cultivating?"

Shangguan Shiming was stunned once more.

The cycle of the Heavenly Dao! Do cultivators die of old age? These two statements seemed to imply that the Heavenly Dao had a retributive cycle, that karma was inescapable. But Lin Mu's last statement seemed to refute the very idea of retribution! What on earth did he mean? Shangguan Shiming found that the more Lin Mu spoke, the more confused she became.

"Pour the tea. This is the last cup."

She wasn't sure if it was her imagination, but Shangguan Shiming sensed a tinge of melancholy in Lin Mu's words. She wasn't wrong. Lin Mu was indeed reminiscing, recalling his past life in the Immortal Realm. The sects of the Ancient Land were so much like it. The strong were revered, the weak were prey for the strong, and human life was treated as worthless as weeds.

TAP, TAP, TAP!

Footsteps echoed from the stairwell. A young master dressed in white robes, remarkably similar to Lin Mu's, ascended to their floor and walked straight to their table.

"I didn't expect to find someone drinking tea at this hour. Do you mind if I join you?"

Despite asking if he was intruding, he sat down of his own accord before Lin Mu or Shangguan Shiming could reply. He even grabbed a teacup for himself and gestured for Shangguan Shiming to pour, acting as if he belonged there.

Shangguan Shiming glanced at the man; his most striking feature was his pair of Peach Blossom Eyes. "May I ask for your distinguished name, sir?"

Instead of pouring tea, Shangguan Shiming made a hand gesture indicating she was from an Ancient Land Sect.

The man with Peach Blossom Eyes smiled and waved a dismissive hand. "Stating one's identity is so dull. If you knew who I was, you might not treat me the same way. So, it's better to just use an alias." He tapped the bird pattern on his teacup and said, "Just call me Qing Que."

Shangguan Shiming didn't reply, instead releasing the aura of the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation.

"Whoa, Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation. A sect genius, not bad, not bad at all." The man nodded, then shook his head. "A pity you used a Sky-Breaking Pill to break through. It will affect your future advancement to the Foundation Establishment realm."

Shangguan Shiming was taken aback. Besides Lin Mu, this was the only other person to point out the elixir's drawback. Even the great ancestor of the Shangguan Family, Shangguan Xue, had never mentioned it.

"However, I'm guessing you won't have much trouble with your Foundation Establishment, because the master you serve is no ordinary man." The man with Peach Blossom Eyes narrowed his gaze, looking at Lin Mu.

From the very beginning, even as the man came upstairs and spoke, Lin Mu had paid him no mind. He simply continued to gaze out the window at the city's residents leaving together.

"Friend, our meeting here is fate. How about we drink a cup of tea in place of wine?" The man raised his teacup and offered it to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu finally looked at him directly and uttered a single sentence, "I never drink with the dead."

Shangguan Shiming's gaze sharpened, her eyes now holding a dangerous glint as she looked at the man.

"Oh? You know who I am?" the man with Peach Blossom Eyes asked, his eyes still narrowed in a smile.

"I don't know who you are," Lin Mu said indifferently. "I only know that today, you will die."

The man laughed. "For over a hundred years, countless people have wanted me dead, yet I've lived freely to this day. You say I'm bound to die today? Then let's make a bet. I bet I won't die today. How about it?"

Lin Mu swallowed the last of his tea. The nostalgic look in his eyes slowly faded, replaced by an intense fighting spirit.

"I never thought the Ancient Land Sects would still have a cultivator of the Twelve-Fold Towers."

The first sentence Lin Mu spoke after setting down his cup nearly made Shangguan Shiming drop the teapot she was holding.

An exiled immortal of the extreme realm from the Ancient Land Sects? How could she not have known? If the Ancient Land Sects still had such an exiled immortal, why hadn't this supreme being led them to

dominate the Ancient Land!? She couldn't understand. And to think this listless man with the Peach Blossom Eyes was an exiled immortal of the extreme realm?

"I also never expected an exiled immortal of the extreme realm could be born outside the Ancient Land, in the secular world. From that perspective, you are stronger than I am," the man with Peach Blossom Eyes said, smiling as he sipped his tea. He then chuckled. "Oh, but you're wrong about one thing. I am an exiled immortal of the extreme realm from the Ancient Land, not from an Ancient Land Sect. I don't belong to any sect."

His statement was earth-shattering, startling Shangguan Shiming immensely.

An exiled immortal of the extreme realm not affiliated with any sect? That was something she couldn't even imagine. If it weren't for Lin Mu, she, the counterfeit exiled immortal, would have nearly become the Sect Leader of the Four Seas Gate! Was this Qing Que a fool?

"If you don't belong to any sect, why are you here to stop us?!" Shangguan Shiming blurted out, unable to contain her confusion.

The man with Peach Blossom Eyes finished the last of his tea and spoke faintly, "Me? I'm just a lazy sort. I don't want to be a Sect Master, nor do I have any interest in the messy affairs of the Ancient Land Sects. The vast Ancient Land is my home. Cultivating to become an immortal... isn't it better to be free and unrestrained?"

"It's just a shame someone broke through the Ancient Land Gate, and now the Spiritual Energy is bleeding out. My home has been ruined. Tell me, shouldn't I seek vengeance for its destruction?"

Chapter 779: I Blossom and Kill All Flowers!

Desecration!

Shangguan Shiming never thought that this exiled immortal of the extreme realm, hidden within the Ancient Land, would seek out Lin Mu for such a reason!

She subconsciously looked toward Lin Mu, hoping he would provide an explanation. After all, the outcome of a battle between two exiled immortals of the extreme realm was unpredictable. Not to mention, Lin Mu would soon have to face an unknown number of Foundation Building Immortals.

Lin Mu showed no intention of explaining, his gaze as calm as still water.

Shangguan Shiming gritted her teeth and, for the first time, dared to speak on Lin Mu's behalf. "Mr. Qing Que, it was not my Master's intention to destroy the Ancient Land Gate. Someone was trying to use the gate's Formation to kill me, your humble servant. That is why my Master struck out in anger!"

Shangguan Shiming's words were cleverly phrased. She implied that Lin Mu had destroyed the Ancient Land Gate in a fit of rage because someone was trying to kill her.

Fury sparked for the sake of a fair lady. This Mr. Qing Que, with his seductive but troublesome peach blossom eyes, clearly roamed the mortal realm for pleasure. He must be an amorous sort who could understand, right? Shangguan Shiming thought.

The man with the Peach Blossom Eyes suddenly smiled. "You say you're his servant girl?"

Shangguan Shiming blinked.

Peach Blossom Eyes laughed. "If I'm not mistaken, you must be the captive who led the way for him, correct? If you were his servant girl, and he was willing to fly into a rage and break the gate to a minor world for you, why would he have you consume a Sky-Breaking Pill? That would only harm your future Foundation Establishment!"

Shangguan Shiming froze. She realized this man with the Peach Blossom Eyes was as slick as a ghost and not easily fooled. He had guessed her identity in an instant. The Foundation Building Immortals from the Four Seas Gate hadn't noticed a thing.

"Are you finished?" Lin Mu asked, looking at Shangguan Shiming with a blank expression.

Shangguan Shiming shivered instinctively. "Master, I was wrong, I shouldn't have..."

She wanted to say more, but she saw Lin Mu wave his hand. Her vision blurred, and when the scene cleared again, she found herself outside the city.

"A minor punishment to teach a major lesson. Remember your place from now on!" Lin Mu's voice suddenly echoed in her ears.

The next moment, a sharp pain shot through her, feeling as if a steel needle had been plunged into her brain. The agony was so intense she thought she might die from it. It took her more than a dozen breaths to recover. By then, her clothes were completely soaked with sweat.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The first thing she heard upon regaining her senses was the sound of violent collisions from nearby. Looking up, she saw a giant palm scattering a sky full of peach blossoms.

"Hahaha, exhilarating! In my near-century of roaming the Ancient Land, this is the first time I've met an opponent who can match me. Take another of my attacks!"

Peach Blossom Eyes' voice boomed with bravado. He pointed a finger, and countless crimson peach blossoms danced across the sky, descending upon the world.

The peach blossoms fell!

BANG! With a deafening explosion, a gash over ten meters long, carved by a sword, split the ground open. Each and every one of those peach blossom petals had been formed from Sword Qi.

Shangguan Shiming's face paled, and she scrambled backward.

PFFT!

A single petal grazed her body, drawing a spray of blood.

The difference between the Tenth and Twelfth Layers of Qi Cultivation is only two levels, yet the disparity in strength is this vast?

Having advanced to the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation, she could contend with a Foundation Establishment expert. Shangguan Shiming had believed her strength was now considerable even among the Ancient Land Sects. She never expected that before Lin Mu and Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que, she wouldn't even be qualified to watch the battle, let alone participate.

"If this is all you have, then you can die!"

After a few exchanges, Lin Mu had already gauged the approximate strength of the so-called exiled immortals of the extreme realm from the Ancient Land Sects. Though they were both at the Twelve-Fold Towers realm, Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que's foundation was far less solid than his own. In comparison, Qing Que possessed only seventy to eighty percent of his combat power. And that was just the difference in the quantity of their True Qi.

If Dao Methods and Divine Skills are factored in, then the exiled immortals of the extreme realm from the Ancient Land are merely slightly stronger paper tigers. This realization left Lin Mu feeling rather disappointed. Exiled immortals of the extreme realm... The Ancient Land Sects' boasts reach the heavens, but their strength is pathetic.

Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que squinted, killing intent slowly radiating from him. "Oh? Two exiled immortals of the extreme realm appearing in the same era? This is an unprecedented event in the Ancient Land! I wanted to spar with you a little longer, but since you're in such a hurry to die, I will oblige you! I will show you what the extreme realm truly is, and what it means to be an exiled immortal!"

Qing Que's eyes flashed with a crimson light, merging with the glow of the Peach Blossom Sword Qi. The next moment, the aura of the Sword Qi changed drastically, transforming from enchanting to grimly murderous.

When my blossoms bloom, all other flowers will die!

The peach blossoms now exuded an aura of peerless, absolute dominance.

BOOM!

Outside Heavenly Origin City, half a small mountain was engulfed by the peach blossoms and turned to dust.

Tens of miles away, four Foundation Building Immortals stood on their Flying Swords, gazing toward the battle between Lin Mu and Qing Que.

"Extreme Realm Consciousness! That's the Extreme Realm Consciousness that has been lost to the Ancient Land Sects for five hundred years!"

"With Extreme Realm Consciousness, one can kill those of higher cultivation levels! As long as a target's Divine Sense isn't as strong as the exiled immortal's, death is certain!"

"The unique Divine Skill of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm... it's hard to say whether the memory is nostalgic or terrifying!"

"The one using the Peach Blossom Sword Technique is actually an exiled immortal of the extreme realm!"

"Why... why have we never heard of this person?"

All four of them wore expressions of pure shock. In the Ancient Land Sects, was there any exiled immortal of the extreme realm who wasn't a shining figure, peerless from the moment they appeared? Yet this wielder of the Peach Blossom Sword Technique was completely unknown.

"And his opponent is the rumored Proud Son of Heaven from the secular world? How ridiculous! That's no Proud Son of Heaven, he's clearly another exiled immortal of the extreme realm!"

"Two great exiled immortals appearing at the same time... is this a blessing for the Ancient Land, or a disaster?"

"Two? Perhaps you've forgotten that Shangguan Shiming of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion is also a Banished Immortal Seed!"

"Three of them... This..."

The four men fell silent. They had no idea what the simultaneous appearance of three such figures meant for the Ancient Land.

"Who do we help?" one of the Foundation Building Immortals managed to ask.

The leader's gaze swept between Lin Mu and Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que.

"Help Lin Wudi! Kill Peach Blossom!"

Although Lin Wudi was an enemy of the Ancient Land Sects, he was ultimately just a man from the secular world. He had no sect, no faction, and no backing. A few Foundation Building Immortals could eventually overwhelm and kill him.

But the Peach Blossom exiled immortal was different. He bore no worldly air, clearly a native of the Ancient Land. Regardless of which sect he belonged to, his existence was not good for their All Wonders Immortal Sect. They did not want to see another sect rise to the prominence of the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion two thousand years ago.

The four exchanged a look, then steered their Flying Swords and charged toward Peach Blossom Eyes.

Growing impatient, Lin Mu decided to use a killing blow. He prepared to unleash the eleventh form of the Twelve Forms of Slaying Gods and Demons and Punishing Immortals: the Immortal Slaying Sword.

Since he calls himself an exiled immortal, I will kill him with the Immortal Slaying Sword!

But just before he could strike, three turbulent auras rushed in from the distance. The frigid killing intent was completely undisguised.

BOOM! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

Three factions, totaling thirteen Foundation Building Immortals, all acted with a single mind, launching their attacks at Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que.

Lin Mu retracted his attack, a strange expression appearing on his face.

"Hey! Are you people mistaken? I'm not your enemy! That guy from the secular world is! He's the one who broke the Ancient Land Gate!" Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que yelled.

Unfortunately, the three factions paid him no heed.

Flying Swords, Flying Daggers, a Heaven-Flipping Seal, an Overlord Hammer...

Thirteen different Magic Artifacts, carrying a soul-shaking might, descended upon Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que.

Chapter 780 Ambush from All Sides!

In the distance, Shangguan Shiming was utterly dumbfounded by the scene before her. The Foundation Establishment Immortals from the Ancient Land Sects weren't attacking their enemy, Lin Mu, but had instead targeted Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que.

To Shangguan Shiming, this was quite inconceivable, but she quickly realized the reason. They don't want another exiled immortal of the extreme realm to emerge from the Ancient Land Sects!

Even so, her expression remained odd. If these people knew that Qing Que didn't belong to any sect and had no desire to participate in their conflicts, what would they think?

Lin Mu landed gently beside Shangguan Shiming. "Do you have a qin?" he asked indifferently.

Shangguan Shiming was momentarily startled, then hurriedly replied, "Yes!" Without waiting for his instruction, she took an ancient qin from her Space Ring, along with a table, and set everything up properly.

"What piece would you like to hear, sir?" Shangguan Shiming asked with a smile, feeling a profound sense of security at his side. To still have the mood for music in a situation like this... He is truly worthy of the name Lin Wudi.

"A worldly piece. 'Ambush from Ten Sides.'"

'Ambush from Ten Sides' was an extremely famous piece, and Shangguan Shiming, a woman who had traveled the world, was proficient in it. She adjusted her sleeves, putting the thirteen Foundation Establishment Immortals besieging an exiled immortal of the extreme realm from her mind. Forgetting the enemies yet to arrive, she immersed herself completely in the music. At the Tenth Layer of Qi Cultivation, she used the True Qi from her Cultivation Technique to project the sound of the qin far and wide. The melody soared, seeming to originate from beyond the nine heavens.

PFFT!

Upon hearing the music, Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que faltered. A Foundation Establishment Immortal's Flying Sword grazed his shoulder, nearly severing his arm.

"Lin Wudi, you're shameless! I am your opponent! If you have any guts, come and fight me!"

Qing Que managed only that one shout before the relentless assault of the thirteen Foundation Establishment Immortals overwhelmed him, leaving him no breath to speak further. No matter how strong an exiled immortal of the extreme realm in the Qi Cultivation Realm was, he could not withstand the combined attack of thirteen Foundation Establishment Immortals. Qing Que struggled to defend himself, his life hanging by a thread.

At that moment, Lin Mu raised a hand and pointed toward an empty patch of the void.

PFFT!

Blood sprayed as a figure materialized from thin air, its head already pierced through.

"Kill!"

Six Foundation Establishment Immortals appeared out of thin air and charged Lin Mu. More had arrived from the Ancient Land Sects! These six, hailing from two different sects, had joined forces to assassinate Lin Wudi!

"One Step, Rivers Shatter!"

Lin Mu took a single step forward. With a deafening roar, a terrifying shockwave emanated from the tip of his foot. The ground collapsed and Spiritual Energy surged violently. The residual shockwaves vibrated through the air like blasts of fire, striking the six approaching Foundation Establishment Immortals head-on and causing their bodies to stagger.

Before they could recover, Lin Mu took his second step. "Terrify Ghosts and Gods with the Second Step!"

Ghostly howls filled the air as tremors shook heaven and earth. The six Foundation Establishment Immortals heard what sounded like the agonizing wails of ghosts right beside their ears. The terrifying sound was like a festering sore, clinging to them, impossible to evade. The weakest of the immortals felt his Divine Sense begin to scatter. An instant later, a dark fluid began to leak from his seven orifices. The sound had shattered his skull, and his brain matter was oozing out.

His third step. "Third Step: Heaven and Earth Change!"

The world itself seemed to change. The colors of heaven and earth inverted, the sun and moon appeared to switch places, Spiritual Energy descended into chaos, and space itself fractured. For a moment, the area within several hundred meters transformed into a hellish, otherworldly dimension. The remaining five Foundation Establishment Immortals completely lost control of their Spiritual Energy. With just three steps, Lin Mu had left one of them dead and the other five gravely injured.

"The Third of the Twelve Forms of Slaying Gods and Demons and Punishing Immortals! Deicide Palm!"

A Sky-supporting Giant Palm materialized from the void, shrouding the heavens and the earth in darkness as the massive palm print descended from the sky. It felt as if an entire world were crashing down, making escape impossible.

The five Foundation Establishment Immortals tried to resist, but they were still affected by the Third Step: Heaven and Earth Change and were incapable of unleashing their full power.

"No!" one of them wailed, blood streaming from his seven orifices as he activated a Forbidden Technique. He transformed into a streak of blood light, attempting to escape the Deicide Palm's range.

The two profound, ancient characters forming the name of the technique—Godslaying—seemed to possess a divine power of their own. Suppression. Absolute suppression! The blood light should have been blindingly fast, but under the power of 'Godslaying', its speed became agonizingly slow. After a full second, it had moved only a few meters.

BOOM!

The Deicide Palm struck.

CRACK!

The Magic Artifacts of the Foundation Establishment Immortals shattered and their protective shields collapsed. In the next instant, their bones broke and their flesh dissolved. With a single palm strike, all five were obliterated, including the one who had activated a Forbidden Technique and turned into blood light. In less than two breaths, with three steps and one palm, Lin Mu had slain six Foundation Establishment Immortals.

The terrifying combat power Lin Mu displayed shocked everyone. The thirteen Foundation Establishment Immortals who were still besieging Qing Que felt a chill run down their spines, a cold dread telling them they had made a terrible mistake.

Even Peach Blossom Sword Qing Que stared in confusion. Four moves to kill six Immortals... No, including the one who was hiding in the void, it was five moves to kill seven Immortals! The strength of this secular exiled immortal... it's terrifying!

"The secular world! So this is the secular world!" Qing Que laughed loudly as a crimson light shot from his eyes once again.

"Watch out! Extreme Realm Consciousness! Dodge!"

The Foundation Establishment Immortals tried to evade, but it was too late. The crimson light, tinged with a hint of Peach Blossom Sword Qi, pierced into one of them. The man's gaze immediately went vacant, and he fell from the sky like a wooden post.

WHOOSH!

The crimson light exited the corpse and shot toward another victim. The target panicked, desperately raising his Magic Artifacts, talismans, and protective shields. But the Extreme Realm Consciousness was like an ethereal force, passing through the shields with ease. Magic Artifacts and talismans proved equally useless. After a flash of red in his eyes, his corpse also fell silently from the sky. In the blink of an eye, two more were slain. This was the lethal power of an exiled immortal of the extreme realm.

BANG!

The third target finally managed to block the crimson light with a Magic Artifact.

"Hmph!" Peach Blossom Eyed Qing Que grunted, somewhat dissatisfied that a single use of his Extreme Realm Consciousness had only killed two people.

"Kill!"

The ten remaining Foundation Establishment Immortals fought with renewed frenzy, activating their own Forbidden Techniques. They were willing to destroy their own cultivation foundations if it meant killing Qing Que.

In the wilderness, Shangguan Shiming's qin music suddenly faltered. A piercing flute melody arose from the void, a sound that seemed to traverse space itself to enter everyone's minds.

"The Palace of Heavenly Sound! Third among the Ten Great Sects!" Shangguan Shiming gritted her teeth, fresh blood trickling from her ears as she struggled against the sound. The Palace of Heavenly Sound was the most peculiar of all the Ancient Land Sects. Throughout its history, the sect had never

produced an exiled immortal of the extreme realm, yet it had firmly secured its third-place ranking by relying on bizarre sonic attacks. Even the great Foundation Establishment exiled immortal from the Celestial Northern Dipper Pavilion two thousand years ago had been wary of them. Compared to the True Qi attacks of other sects, the sonic attacks from the Palace of Heavenly Sound were untraceable and impossible to guard against. Even protective shields were useless against them. They worked on a similar principle to Extreme Realm Consciousness, though they lacked its terrifying instant-kill ability.

Shangguan Shiming had never expected that the Palace of Heavenly Sound, which usually abstained from the conflicts of the Ancient Land, would move against Lin Mu so swiftly.

When the sonic waves reached Lin Mu's ears, his expression soured. "Spoiling the mood."

He snorted coldly. That single snort unleashed a sonic wave of its own, one that roared like a golden Gigantic Dragon. It tore through the void and swept toward the source of the flute music, baring its claws and fangs as it charged forward.

CLANG!

From the void above, the sound of a pipa resonated, harmonizing with the flute. Together, they transformed into waves of bizarre sonic energy, rushing like bone-scraping steel blades to meet Lin Mu's draconic roar.