

Chapter 311: The Soaring Cloud Student Platoon!

The expression on the faces of everyone on the viewing platforms underwent a series of changes. What Wang Baole had said had been brilliant. What he had done had been just right—without too much exaggeration or too little justification.

He hadn't brought himself to the forefront but instead placed the students in the limelight. His request for a name for the student platoon had achieved a similar effect, accentuating his own value.

What was most important was that with the Martian Governor's conferment, the Dao Mountain Mist Academy would no longer be one of two elites' academies on Mars but... the only one!

The encouragement and inspiration that the students would receive from this christening would be unprecedented. It would elevate their gratitude for and loyalty towards the Governor to an extreme.

This strategy of Wang Baole not only resolved the potential problem of him overshadowing the students' glory due to their fanatic devotion to him, but it also served as a devious way to suck up to the Governor.

Once the platoon was conferred a title, Wang Baole's own reputation would accompany the birth of the name and go down in Martian history. As long as the platoon and its name remained, the mark Wang Baole left on Mars would never be erased.

Such a string of simple words could have been uttered by anyone. However, the meaning and significance hidden within were multilayered... after all, whether one could think of saying something like that, and whether one dared to say something like that in front of such a large audience, and whether one even had the opportunity to say something like that—all these factors culminated in Wang Baole impressing everyone in the stadium!

The Dao Mountain Mist Academy Dean was shaking with excitement and agitation at present. He thought of the glory and honor that he would receive if the Governor did confer the student platoon. It wouldn't rival that of Wang Baole, but as the dean of the academy, his contributions would also not be easily forgotten!

It meant that once he left his current role and returned to Earth, his new position wouldn't be as lowly as the one originally planned for him. The thought moved him, and he felt immense gratitude towards Wang Baole.

To the Fire Spirit Academy, though, Wang Baole's request was a complete nightmare. The faces of the dean and teachers immediately went pale. They looked as if they were on the verge of tears. They were powerless, though. They stared at Li Wuchen with anger, regret, and sorrow.

"Why did you have to offend him!?"

Li Wuchen was equally pale. He felt bitter and couldn't speak a single word. Since the moment the Dao Mountain Mist Academy students' fighting spirit had erupted, he had known that he had lost. It had

been a complete and utter defeat. He had not only lost to Wang Baole in a one-to-one fight, but he couldn't even compete against Wang Baole when it came to grooming students.

He was unwilling to admit defeat, however. He thought of his family background and his future. He thought about many, many things. His body shook violently when he heard Wang Baole asking for a christening of the student platoon. He raised his head and stared at Wang Baole, a myriad of emotions and thoughts stirring inside him. Intense envy, a feeling he had never experienced in his entire life, suddenly surged within him.

There were people who were delighted, people who had mixed feelings, people who were excited, and people who fell into despair. The stadium gradually descended into silence. The Fire Spirit Academy students hung their heads in defeat while the Dao Mountain Mist Academy students' breathing grew uneven from their excitement and anxiety, their eyes shining with anticipation and nervousness. The two teams played out a stark contrast on the public square.

The Martian Governor, dressed in her red robes, looked at the excitement in their eyes, and a smile slowly unfurled on her face. What she had meant by one last step earlier had referred to the admission of defeat. It didn't matter if they had decimated the Fire Spirit Academy team. This might have given them confidence, but it wouldn't have instilled the idea of team honor and glory in their minds. That could only be achieved by driving fear into their enemies' hearts and forcing a complete surrender.

This meant that the Fire Spirit Academy wasn't admitting defeat to a single person... but to the entire team!

After she heard Wang Baole's request, she gave him a deep and meaningful look. Her gaze shifted and swept across the excited students, and she pondered for a while. Then, with encouragement in her eyes, she rose from her seat.

"Those with great ambitions will travel the skies and reach for the stars. Their achievements will soar through the clouds and be sung throughout the lands!"

"I name you—the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon!"

As soon as the Governor spoke, cheers exploded in the entire stadium. Members of the Martian administration who were present were all visibly affected. What the Governor had said meant the world to the students.

The atmosphere in the stadium reached its climax following the Governor's proclamation. Everyone from the Dao Mountain Mist Academy was overwhelmed with excitement and happiness, and the students started cheering uncontrollably. The dean and the teachers from the Fire Spirit Academy, on the other hand, hung their heads in bitter defeat.

Wang Baole witnessed the scene before him and was immeasurably pleased. He extended a deep bow towards the Governor.

"My utmost gratitude to the Governor!"

The Martian Governor gave Wang Baole another deep, meaningful look before turning away, leaving the arena in the company of the giant tree. The Dao Mountain Mist Academy students on the public square

saw the Governor and her people leave and unleashed the full extent of their joy. Their booming cheers rose to the sky as they let loose their youthful joy and excitement without restraint.

Excitement and chaos took over the entire stadium.

The departing Martian Governor heard the deafening ruckus behind her and smiled faintly.

Wang Baole... he's an interesting fellow.

The Soaring Cloud Student Platoon became famous after the friendly match between the two academies. The name spread across the entire Mars, and the Federation's live stream of the match resulted in their rising fame in the Federation as well.

Wang Baole's name once again became a household name in the Federation. He had also firmly established himself on Mars. After the friendly match ended, he gathered all the student contestants and got them to thank their parents for their support. They started chatting happily. Before long, quite a few students from the Fire Spirit Academy submitted their transfer requests to the Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

With Wang Baole's earlier instructions to Lin Tianhao to broadcast his declaration on the rented spirit screens, the overwhelming victory and recognition from the Governor resulted in Wang Baole gaining two new titles. He wasn't only a famed educator, but he was also the founder of the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon.

This was a platoon that he had groomed and trained personally. As the Dao Mountain Mist Academy grew stronger, the platoon would increase in numbers as well. Wang Baole looked forward to that with great anticipation. He knew that with his current status, it would be difficult for the giant tree to stir trouble for him.

In terms of self-defense abilities, I'm already many times stronger than I was before! Wang Baole thought proudly. The danger he had felt due to the giant tree's presence still remained; however, he no longer felt as stressed about it.

If he tried to order me to do something forcibly in the past, I wouldn't have been able to fight against his orders. Now... with my two sparkling halos, I might not be able to fight him head-on yet, but at least I have the power to not do exactly as he orders! Wang Baole was immensely pleased with himself. He felt he had finally established a firm footing on Mars.

With the Fire Spirit Academy's defeat, Wang Baole naturally won the bet with Li Wuchen. From now on, whenever Li Wuchen saw him, he would have to address Wang Baole as his grandpa.

Just as Wang Baole was looking forward eagerly to being addressed as grandpa, he found out that Li Wuchen had gone into seclusion. This made Wang Baole really unhappy.

Is he trying to sneak his way out of a bet? It's just a simple form of address. What's he got to be such a sore loser for? Wang Baole felt that Li Wuchen was really a petty loser. He pulled out his voice transmission ring and sent a transmission to Xu Zhenjing of the Battle-axe Hotel, instructing the latter to build another five hundred battle-axes. They were all to be placed outside the hotel and facing the Fire Spirit Academy.

The five hundred battle-axes with their malicious aura terrified the wits out of the Fire Spirit Academy Dean. He was of the mind to seek Li Wuchen out for a chat and persuade the latter to give in to Wang Baole. That would easily resolve the matter. He knew that they were college mates and could tell that this was merely a petty dispute between two people who happened to dislike one another.

Li Wuchen immediately refused. He was mad with jealousy at the moment, and there was no way he would give in to Wang Baole. He comforted himself by telling himself that one shouldn't be superstitious. They were only five hundred battle-axes. They were nothing to be frightened of!

However... there might really be something to the superstition surrounding the Battle-axe Hotel. News about the Governor's displeasure with the Fire Spirit Academy soon started spreading. She had some comments about their education methodology and especially their performance during the friendly match.

The news made Li Wuchen's heart shudder. He couldn't help but recall the stories relating to the Fire Spirit Academy and the Battle-axe Hotel...

He hadn't yet decided whether to give in to Wang Baole when his transfer orders arrived...

It was the direct orders from the Martian administration. He was to be transferred out from Mars and back to the Federation on Earth.

This had been Li Wuchen's oversight. The defeat during the friendly match had earned the unhappiness and displeasure of more than a hundred parents who wielded power and authority on Mars. Regardless of what kind of family background Li Wuchen came from, he stood no chance against their unified stand.

This was a complete and utter failure where Li Wuchen was concerned, and he quietly left the planet. All of a sudden, Battle-axe Hotel's popularity spiked.

Following Li Wuchen's departure, the next vice dean of the Fire Spirit Academy arrived days later... making an impressive and dramatic appearance on Mars!

Chapter 312: The New Vice Dean of Fire Spirit Academy

A loud explosion thundered inside the Martian Colony City port that day. It came from the skies and resounded across the entire city.

Wild winds howled fiercely in the heavens as a startling and overwhelming presence spread across the sky.

The loud explosion and the overpowering presence sent the sky port's staff reeling back in shock and alarm. They raised their heads skyward as a cruiser—the likes of which they had never before seen in their entire lives—descended gradually from the skies.

Perhaps it could no longer be called a cruiser. It was a ten thousand feet long, with the appearance of a stronghold, and from afar, it dazzled glaringly. Anyone who had their eyes on it would soon find their eyes tearing from the blinding glare.

It was like a small sun!

The eyes of the sky port's staff, the residents of the Martian Colony City, as well as many pedestrians were immediately drawn to the sight of the sun stronghold as soon as it appeared!

"My god... what is that?"

"It looks like a star, but the size seems weird..."

In Zone Twelve, within the Dao Mountain Mist Academy, on the public square, Wang Baole was supervising Jin Duozhi and the other students in their cultivation. He froze as well when he saw the dazzling light in the sky.

"A bomb?" Wang Baole tensed immediately. Jin Duozhi lifted his head hastily. He took a look and seemed uncertain, so he took another, closer look. Then he spoke sullenly.

"Dean, that's not a bomb. The awful jerk Jin Duoming is here. He loves to show off, so he's arrived in his stronghold. Humph!"

"Of course, it's not a bomb!" Wang Baole glared, but he released a sigh of relief secretly. Then, he asked curiously.

"Is Jin Duoming your brother?"

"Dean, do I look that old to you? Jin Duoming's my uncle... we're completely different people. He's an idiot with too much money to spare, while I'm so much smarter than him, never spending my money needlessly." Jin Duozhi sighed, then suddenly seemed so proud of himself.

Wang Baole gave Jin Duozhi a strange look but coughed and remained silent. He was curious about Jin Duoming's arrival. They had crossed paths on the moon when the youth had made an exchange with his Dharmic Armament. He had indirectly been an invaluable help to Wang Baole when they had been in the Mystic Luna Realm.

It's getting crowded on Mars. Since Jin Duoming's here, I should find a chance and pay him a visit, Wang Baole thought. Beside him, Jin Duozhi stared at the stronghold in the distant sky and snorted.

"My uncle has many interests. He's especially obsessed with pretty women. I'm guessing that he has his eye on some girl on Mars, otherwise, with his personality, coming to Mars is like being cast into hell."

Wang Baole heard that, and he remembered Jin Duoming's procession on the moon. He sighed, feeling almost envious. He thought about asking his father when he returned home if they had any relatives they hadn't been keeping in contact with. There might just be a filthy rich relative they hadn't heard of.

His grandfather, especially. Where exactly was he?

He remembered asking that question when he was a young boy. His father had remained silent then...

Wang Baole suddenly found that really peculiar. Something wasn't right. It caused him to grow excited all of a sudden.

Maybe... I do have a mysterious, filthy rich grandfather!

As Wang Baole immersed himself happily in his strange imagination, a commotion stirred amongst a great portion of the Martian Colony City public. Numerous cruisers dashed from the various city zones in

the Martian City towards the sky port. They were all of uniform appearance—silver and with a smooth, fluid form. They looked to be from the same political force, as well as looking very expensive.

Hundreds of such cruisers sped towards the sky port. They seemed to hold certain privileged access that allowed them to disregard the port defenses and array formation. They passed through both without a hitch and landed on the largest public square in the sky port, and then, more than a thousand cultivators alighted.

The cultivators were dressed in the same attire. They immediately spread out and redirected other cruisers out of the area and cleared out a wide parameter, then lined up in neat rows. After that, they lowered their heads and waited.

The sight shocked everyone in the port as they recognized the silver cruisers and the uniforms. They stared at the vast stronghold in the sky, which was making a slow descent into the port, and gasped.

“The Trilunaris Corporation!”

“The guys from the Trilunaris Corporation actually came to receive whoever’s in the stronghold. Whoever’s inside must be... some important figure in the Trilunaris Corporation!”

The sky stronghold gradually approached amidst everyone’s shock. Its appearance became more distinct, and everyone soon saw that it was built out of a custom-made diamond. The diamond was extraordinarily hard, even harder than Mystic Silver. It conducted Spirit Qi extremely well and hence was an essential ingredient in the crafting of Dharmic Armaments.

The novelty of Dharmic Armaments meant that any of its ingredients were also extremely costly. To use such a costly material to build an entire stronghold of such enormous proportions, the cost of its production must be... unimaginable.

It was beyond extravagant!

The stronghold approached as everyone’s breathing grew uneven, dazzling with its blinding light. Everyone had to focus their Spirit Qi in their eyes in order to protect their eyes against the blinding glare of such a massive entity. The outer shell of the stronghold was covered in countless inscriptions. Between the lines of inscriptions were cannons built out of special Spirit Stones.

The stronghold wasn’t only striking and overwhelming in its sheer size and appearance, but its battle capabilities were equally impressive. There was no doubt it would send the earth shaking should it release its full power!

As the crowd stood in awe, a deafening thunder resounded in the air. The enormous stronghold finally landed. The doors to the stronghold opened, and a dozen large men in black walked out. Every one of them possessed impressive cultivation. Behind them followed a dozen beautiful female servants of all races and ethnicities.

At the tail of the long procession was Jin Duoming!

He wasn’t dressed in his floral pants. Jin Duoming had on a pair of black aviator sunglasses and a formal suit, and his near-shoulder-length hair swayed lightly in the breeze as he walked out. He had a lazy smile on his face, and three puppets trailing behind him!

One male puppet, one female puppet, and one monster puppet!

Each puppet was dressed in armor. The waves of spirit energy exuding from the armor were clear proof that the armor was more powerful than the puppets themselves...

“Greetings, Young Master!” As soon as Jin Duoming stepped out from the stronghold, the thousand-odd cultivators lined up in the square cupped their fists and bowed deeply towards him. Their booming voices were like thunder, resonating in the air.

Jin Duoming seemed accustomed to such treatment wherever he went. He didn’t say anything as he stepped onto another cruiser under the escort of the thousand-odd men. The hundreds of cruisers soon lifted into the air and clustered protectively around the cruiser where Jin Duoming sat, speeding towards Zone Twelve.

Everyone who caught sight of the procession of cruisers was stunned by the elaborate scene. It was simply too striking a sight. The cruisers looked like countless Spirit Stones dashing across the sky.

“It’s so nice... to be rich...” Envious mutters could be heard in the crowd that watched the cruisers fly away.

On the way to Zone Twelve, Jin Duoming sat in his cruiser, his head on the laps of two beautiful female cultivators. He nibbled at the fruit slices prepared by another female cultivator while taking his sunglasses off. He looked at the stern, middle-aged man reporting before him.

“Young Master, this year, the Trilunaris Corporation has made a profit of the following in the Martian Colony City...”

“Old Li, just report this to my dad. You know I don’t care about this.” Jin Duoming yawned and interrupted the man’s speech.

The middle-aged man grimaced and shook his head. He lifted his head and looked at Jin Duoming. He realized that the young master’s cultivation was now at the Foundation Establishment realm and his Foundation Establishment core was clearly not formed from fragments but from a fully intact artifact. He eyed the three puppets standing beside Jin Duoming, sighed, and spoke again quietly.

“Young Master, the political situation on Mars is chaotic and somewhat sensitive... perhaps we should keep a low profile?” He was obviously talking about the stronghold.

Jin Duoming laughed when he heard that. He sat up and said softly, “My dad keeps a low enough profile for the both of us. If I do that as well, our Trilunaris Corporation will be in serious trouble... let’s not talk about that. Old Li, I asked you to prepare a dossier on Li Yi, is it ready?”

The man had been deep in thought because of the first half of what Jin Duoming had said, and he smiled wryly when he heard the second half. He pulled out a jade slip with an odd look on his face and handed it to Jin Duoming.

Jin Duoming’s eyes shone. He grabbed the jade slip and started reading, his eyes flashing with excitement after reading. He smacked his thigh.

Li Yi is quite something. That’s the girl that I, Jin Duoming, have my eyes on. She’s actually the assistant to the Deputy Governor. She’s got a bright future ahead of her.

At the thought of Li Yi, the flames of passion became ignited inside Jin Duoming. When he had first seen Li Yi in the Mystic Luna Realm, he had immediately been drawn to her well-endowed figure. He had felt himself falling for her. Even though he had experienced that feeling for more than two hundred times in his life, this didn't lessen his excitement and passion each time.

He had come to Mars in order to court Li Yi, but since he was going to be here, he might as well get an official appointment. Coincidentally, the position of the Fire Spirit Academy vice dean was currently vacant. As a result, he was now... the new vice dean of Fire Spirit Academy.

Chapter 313: Little Missy's Animosity!

Jin Duoming was well aware of the stories surrounding the Battle-axe Hotel and the Fire Spirit Academy. He had been quite proud of them once upon a time. The Battle-axe Hotel might not be a Trilunaris Corporation asset, but it did, to some degree, belong to their family.

Jin Duoming wasn't concerned that the hotel was currently under Wang Baole's ownership. He wasn't someone so easily cowed by rumors. He arrived at the Fire Spirit Academy with his vast fleet and was personally received by the dean and other academy staff. He saw the five hundred battle-axes outside the hotel, just across the road.

Despite his firm belief in his great fortune and that he had nothing to fear about the rumors, the sight of five hundred battle-axes still sent Jin Duoming gasping privately. He deliberated for a while before deciding to resolve the matter himself instead of seeking Wang Baole out.

The first thing he did when he came into office at the Fire Spirit Academy was to instruct someone to build an enormous shield and erect it outside the Fire Spirit Academy to shield against the malicious intent directed from the battle-axes.

The shield was enormous. Its production was swiftly completed, and the news of it quickly spread throughout the city and was known by the public. Wang Baole naturally found out as well.

He might have raised an eyebrow and questioned the move if it had been someone else who had done it, but Jin Duoming was the one who had done it, and Wang Baole liked the guy. He sent a message to Xu Zhenjing at the Battle-axe Hotel and got all the battle-axes removed.

Of course, the original battle-axe, the one that had given the hotel its name, remained. Though, Wang Baole instructed for it to be shifted so that its blade faced another direction.

The competition with the Fire Spirit Academy had, in reality, ended with the friendly match and the Governor's personal conferment of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy student platoon. The Fire Spirit Academy's reputation was dragged down after the entire fiasco, and the Dao Mountain Mist Academy had become the only elites' academy in the entire Martian Colony. The academy basked in their elevated status and fame.

There was no reason for Wang Baole to continue his fight with the other academy. Even with Jin Duoming's new appointment, Wang Baole felt that they could just stay in their own lanes and mind their own business. That was why he had initiated the removal of the battle-axes—as a show of goodwill.

As the entire fiasco with the Fire Spirit Academy came to an end, Wang Baole turned his attention towards his own cultivation. Despite having spent some time cultivating the students and preparing for the friendly match the past three months, Wang Baole hadn't paused his own cultivation.

The Mystic Luna Realm incident had left a lasting impression on Wang Baole. He knew that the foundation on which he established his strength and reputation was built on his cultivation and his battle strength. That was why he had been diligently practicing the Lightning Dao: First Volume.

Even though Wang Baole hadn't made any significant headway in the powerful Dark Corpse Face Art, his diligence practicing the Lightning Dao: First Volume had brought him close to mastering the first tier of the mystic technique.

Once I hit the second level of the Lightning Dao: First Volume, I'll be able to break through to the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm... I'll be able to create the second lightning tattoo and condense a Heavenly Thunder.

It's a pity that the Dark Corpse Face Art... is so difficult to master! Wang Baole was happy and frustrated at the same time. His joy stemmed from his cultivation nearing his peak early-stage cultivation level. His frustration stemmed from his inability to sense the Negative Spirit Body mentioned in the Dark Corpse Face Art. If he couldn't even sense it, how could he form Dark Fire?

He had tried casting aside his sense of shame and making a visit to the hallucination realm. He had consulted Little Missy, but she had a look on her face that clearly expressed her belief in how easy the mystic art was. The look on her face had also expressed her disbelief at his failure to master the mystic art considering how simple it was. It had been a severe blow to Wang Baole's pride.

After he had left the hallucination realm, Wang Baole bit the bullet and attempted countless tries. Every attempt had sent freezing chills and spasms shuddering through his body and left him in extreme agony. He had almost despaired about ever learning the mystic art.

Fortunately, just as he was in the depths of his despair, he reached a breakthrough in his refinement of artifacts which boosted his self-confidence. He had already been crafting fourth-grade Numinous Treasures since he had arrived on Mars, and he felt he would soon be capable of crafting fifth-grade Numinous Treasures.

What's stopping me from succeeding is not my technique but my cultivation... Wang Baole pondered as anticipation flashed across his eyes. He was confident that when his cultivation reached the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm, he would have the capacity to refine fifth-grade Numinous Treasures.

Time passed steadily. Seven days soon flew by. During this period, Wang Baole handed all administrative matters of the academy to Lin Tianhao while he went into seclusion.

He soon reached the peak of the first level of the Lightning Dao: First Volume, stepping into the perfected early-stage Foundation Establishment realm. He was but one step away from his breakthrough.

I'll definitely reach a breakthrough within a month! Wang Baole assessed his current cultivation and concluded. He was satisfied with his current rate of progress. During his cultivation, as the devouring

seed continued inhaling and exhaling Spirit Qi, his green lotus had gained an increasing liveliness. It had strengthened visibly alongside his physical body.

Just as Wang Baole intended to work tirelessly towards the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm without rest, he received a message from Li Yi...

Wang Baole frowned upon reading Li Yi's transmission. He had half a mind to ignore it until Li Yi informed him hurriedly that she had brought along almost every brand and type of snack available on Mars.

Wang Baole gasped when he heard that. He realized Li Yi must want something really important from him very badly. Any other reasonable person would not have done what she had done.

Even though I am an immensely charming man, so attractive that she'd fall head over heels for me, I'm not so charming that she'd go to this extent... Wang Baole frowned. A cold glint flashed in his eyes before he immediately sent a message to Lin Tianhao and got the latter to quickly verify Li Yi's appointment on Mars.

Lin Tianhao dared not keep Wang Baole waiting. He hurriedly sought the help of people he knew and soon got back to Wang Baole. When Wang Baole found out that Li Yi was serving as an assistant to the giant tree, alarm bells started ringing, and his wariness of her spiked.

He narrowed his eyes and considered his options. After a long while, he decided to decline meeting Li Yi. Just as Wang Baole was about to turn Li Yi down, Little Missy's voice rang clearly in her head. There was a hint of hostility in her cool voice as she spoke.

"Let's go meet this vampish woman. I want to find out what exactly she is plotting!"

Wang Baole immediately sensed the clear enmity in Little Missy's words. He blinked, then coughed. He was secretly pleased. After thinking a while longer, he replied Li Yi and agreed to meet her for lunch at the Dao Mountain Mist Academy canteen.

Li Yi was presently sitting in the Deputy Governor's office building, and her eyes flashed when she read Wang Baole's reply. She smirked, pleased.

This horrible fatty looks exactly like a pervert. I don't believe he can resist my charms! Li Yi had full confidence in herself. In reality, she had been both pleased and troubled during this period.

She had been troubled by Trilunaris Corporation's Jin Duoming and his relentless attempts at courtship. She barely felt anything for him, not even dislike. However, his behavior was affecting her practice of the Heartless Willow Art.

This displeased her greatly. On the other hand, she was also pleased. Jin Duoming had been a boost to her self-confidence in her own appeal.

Men are all pigs! Li Yi pulled out her mirror and started gazing at her reflection. She sighed and lamented at how beautiful she was. Then, she made herself even more presentable, rose to her feet, and trotted over to the Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

Li Yi soon arrived at the Dao Mountain Mist Academy canteen, her voluptuous figure once again drawing the attention of all students. Her confidence grew as she felt the scorching stares directed at her.

When she sat down, her back made the perfect silhouette of an exquisite hourglass. Many students dining in the canteen were swallowing their saliva and staring at Wang Baole, who was sitting opposite Li Yi, with envy.

Li Yi smiled demurely and with coyish eyes, pulled out a storage bracelet and placed it before Wang Baole.

“Baole, these are the snacks I bought you...”

Wang Baole stared at the snacks, then at Li Yi, his eyes lingering on her shapely curves. Little Missy snorted coldly in his head, and the sudden ringing almost deafened Wang Baole.

“That’s quite interesting. It hadn’t been so obvious the last time, but it’s a lot stronger this time. This little witch is practicing the Heartless Willow Art, and she intends to use you to master it,” Little Missy’s voice rang out clearly in Wang Baole’s head. Wang Baole froze when he heard what she had said. Little Missy then started to explain what that particular mystic art entailed.

After hearing the requirements for mastering the mystic art, Wang Baole’s eyes widened. He stared at Li Yi with incredulity and disbelief.

Li Yi clearly misunderstood his stare. Her pretty face blushed, and she seemed to recall something and hastily lifted her head. She leaned towards Wang Baole and whispered.

“Baole, besides delivering snacks to you, I also have some news for you...”

“Zhuo Yixian’s been deployed to Mars as well, he’ll be here in a few days. He’s been appointed to the Colony Disciplinary Order. There’s also Kong Dao... do you still remember him? He’s the president’s godson. He’s actually been deployed to the Martian military a while back.

“The two of them are holding actual political power, especially Zhuo Yixian. I know they’re not exactly friendly with you. I was afraid you didn’t know about them and would be trapped in an unfavorable situation. That’s why I’ve come here to inform you.”

Chapter 314: A Ninth-Grade Dharmic Armament?

Wang Baole watched as Li Yi pretended to be concerned as she shared the information with him and felt put off by her pretense. He started sulking as he wondered if he really was a true son of Earth. That was why his luck had taken a turn for the worse ever since he had left Earth.

That had been the case when he had been on the moon, and now that he was on Mars, the same thing was happening again. First had been his unfortunate meeting with a formidable foe, the giant tree, next had been his encounter with Li Wuchen.

After having finally settled down and gotten himself on firm ground, he still hadn’t yet resolved the problem that was the giant tree. To make things worse, Li Yi had started eyeing him and had also brought him news of worse things to come.

Why have all my enemies come to Mars? This is just... Frustration simmered inside Wang Baole. He felt as if all his enemies had suddenly come together while his friends had not. He felt alone in his fight.

Fortunately, I've made an ally out of my former enemy Lin Tianhao, else, things would just be a disaster. There must be some conspiracy going on! Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He stared at Li Yi, then suddenly asked, "Who approved their transfer orders?"

Li Yi gave Wang Baole a deep, meaningful look when she heard his question. She was deep in thought for some time, then she leaned into him further. Wang Baole could smell the perfume wafting from her body. She had sprayed it before she came to the academy as she had heard that it could ignite a man's desires.

"The Deputy Governor..."

Wang Baole smiled as he breathed in the perfume from Li Yi's body and listened to her words. His heart rose to his throat. He finally understood now. The giant tree wasn't able to make life difficult for him too openly, so he had transferred all of Wang Baole's former enemies over to Mars to help him do the deed.

This didn't seem like a simple matter of getting others to gang up on him. The giant tree might be plotting something. However, despite his diligent reading of the high officials' autobiographies, he had no idea what the giant tree was planning.

This is so troublesome. Wang Baole sighed. He threw a glance at Li Yi.

"You must really like me to share this information with me. You bought me so many snacks too. Fine, fine, let's go to my room. You can help me with my bath." Wang Baole got to his feet. He had a look of exasperation on his face when he stared at Li Yi.

Li Yi sucked in a breath. If she weren't so concerned about destroying this mood that she had so carefully built with so much effort, she would flip the table on him right now. She struggled to calm down and forced a smile on her face.

"Baole, it's not a good time for me today... I have to go now," Li Yi said hastily and prepared to leave. Wang Baole's eyes glimmered. He smiled and walked her part of the way out. He watched as Li Yi stepped out from the school gates. Then, he turned, the smile he had on his face vanishing without a trace.

So what if I'm surrounded by enemies? Wang Baole snorted inwardly. If it had only been the giant tree alone, he might have considered leaving Mars. However, he had settled in comfortably and made a name for himself on the planet. Now that so many people he couldn't get along with were all gathered here, he decided against leaving after all.

What do I have to be afraid of? They weren't my match when they were on Earth, and they couldn't beat me when we were on the Moon. Now that we're on Mars, I can still hold my own and overpower them! At that thought, Wang Baole suddenly felt full of aspiration and ambition. He raced towards his residence and went right back into seclusion. He had made up his mind to achieve a breakthrough in cultivation as soon as possible.

After all, cultivation was the foundation for everything. Wang Baole was aware that if he were at the Core Formation realm now, the threat posed by the people he disliked would be superficial at best.

Even Li Yi, who had intended to use him to master her mystic art. So what? He'd make her pay twice the price for her decision. After he was done with her, she would be left with nothing but the shirt on her back.

As Wang Baole returned to his residence and resumed his seclusion, as Li Yi walked out from the Dao Mountain Mist Academy and left in her cruiser, Jin Duoming sat inside Fire Spirit Academy, gnashing his teeth as he watched what was showing on the spirit screen before him.

The spirit screen showed a clear audiovisual recording of Li Yi and Wang Baole in the Dao Mountain Mist Academy canteen. Their heads were lowered as they sat close to and murmured softly to each other.

A smile had blossomed on Li Yi's face in the recording, and she had a coquettish look in her eyes. Wang Baole was smiling as well. His eyes were narrowed as if he was enjoying her presence as well as the perfume wafting off her body.

After Jin Duoming had found out that Li Yi had been headed for the Dao Mountain Mist Academy, he had pulled some strings and paid a student of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy to film the recording.

Since he had arrived on Mars a few days ago, he hadn't gone to the extent of visiting Li Yi every day, but he had sent multiple messages proclaiming his love for her. Li Yi had ignored his attention, which sparked a greater interest in her. To improve his chances, he had arranged for someone to keep tabs on Li Yi. That way, he would know her every move.

That was what had resulted in the current situation...

He hadn't wanted to make a big show of it. There were people who knew, but they weren't many. He had only arrived on Mars just a while ago, after all. But more would find out that he was courting Li Yi after another week or so. The news of his courtship would definitely spread like wildfire then.

Li Yi, Wang Baole! Jin Duoming stared at the two figures on the screen and gnashed his teeth. He was torn inside. He knew about what had happened to Wang Baole in the Mystic Luna Realm, and he thought they could be friends. He didn't wish to make an enemy of him unless it was the last resort.

But it's just not right to go after a friend's love interest. Jin Duoming took a deep breath. He was torn about the entire matter. At the same time, based on what he knew and had found out, he simply could not believe that Wang Baole and Li Yi would become a couple. He turned towards the female cultivator beside him and asked.

"Duo Duo, say a man and a woman are always hostile to each other whenever they meet. They get into fights with each other countless times. Is there a possibility for them to fall in love with each other and become a couple?"

The female cultivator by the name of Duo Duo smiled as she sliced the fruits up. She spoke.

"Young Master, the possibility of such things happening is high. You don't understand women. From how I see it, Li Yi has a strong interest in Wang Baole. This is what we call a bickering couple."

When Jin Duoming heard what Duo Duo called them, he smacked his forehead. Hidden behind his palm, his eyes revealed a deep considering look. When he removed his hand from his eyes, the look

disappeared, replacing it was a look of agitation and fury. He pulled out a purple jade slip and pressed it hard. The enormous stronghold that had been parked in the Martian sky port shuddered immediately.

Under the stunned gazes of everyone in the port, the pilotless stronghold rose into the air and sped at top speed towards Zone Twelve, where the Fire Spirit Academy stood. On its way, it caught the eyes of many people. The stronghold soon reached the Fire Spirit Academy. Jin Duoming entered the stronghold, and it once again roared to life and charged towards the Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

Everything happened within half an hour. Wang Baole was just about to begin his meditation when the stronghold appeared in the skies above the Dao Mountain Mist Academy. Its appearance shocked the academy's teachers and students, and a commotion stirred in the school.

"What the hell is that?"

"My god, look at the inscriptions on that thing!"

"It's too much. Is this the legendary space stronghold?"

As the students and teachers stood stunned, Jin Duoming's voice rang out from inside the stronghold.

"Wang Baole, your friend is here. Won't you join me for a chat?" Jin Duoming's voice rang out. A balcony appeared on the outer shell of the stronghold, and Jin Duoming stood on the balcony and gazed at the Dao Mountain Mist Academy below. His visit didn't mean that he believed that Wang Baole and Li Yi were dating. He simply felt Wang Baole a threat and wanted to impress and intimidate. That was the reason for his particular choice of entrance.

Wang Baole walked out of his residence as Jin Duoming's voice rang out into the air. He raised his head and saw the majestic stronghold before him and gasped. He had only managed to catch a glance of the stronghold from afar a few days ago and hadn't gotten a clear look at it. Now that it was hovering right before his eyes in mid-air, he finally got a close look at it.

It's just too lavish! Wang Baole realized what the stronghold was made of and became even more shocked. He felt the aura of extravagance that belonged only to the filthy rich exploding from the stronghold. It seemed to be able to overwhelm everything. Compared to this, what the senators' children had been showing off during the Ethereal Fruit Feast had been peanuts, what they had then paled in comparison.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes at Jin Duoming's invitation. He considered how Li Yi had just left and here Jin Duoming was, mere steps behind her. He wondered if there was something to it. He was confident in his own abilities, though. Besides, this was his turf. He wasn't going to be cowed by Jin Duoming's impressive entrance.

He raced towards the stronghold in the sky and, in an instant, landed on the balcony. He stood before Jin Duoming and turned towards the latter.

"Fellow Daoist Jin, you've made quite a grand entrance. What's the reason for it?"

Jin Duoming stared at Wang Baole. He had always been a straightforward guy and had no intentions to beat around the bush. He said very openly.

“Wang Baole, I’m interested in Li Yi. Can you not compete with me for her affections? We’re good friends, after all. I’ll let you have anything else you want!”

Wang Baole froze. He didn’t expect Jin Duoming to make such a dramatic entrance just for this. His heart rate sped up, and his eyes started shining brightly. Jin Duoming was practically signing him a blank check... he stared at Jin Duoming, blinked and tried his luck.

“A ninth-grade Dharmic Armament?”

Jin Duoming fell silent when he heard what Wang Baole had asked for. A moment longer, he spoke in a weak voice.

“Do you have a ninth-grade Dharmic Armament? How about I give up on Li Yi if you give me one...”

Chapter 315: A Deal

Wang Baole burst out into laughter when he heard what Jin Duoming had said. What he had asked for was an impossible thing. He hadn’t really believed that Jin Duoming would give him an actual ninth-grade Dharmic Armament.

“Can’t you be serious about this, Wang Baole? I’m very serious!” Jin Duoming sighed. He had made a grand entrance with his stronghold and his opening speech. Everything had pointed to his immense wealth. The atmosphere he had created, though, had been partially dispelled with Wang Baole’s simple question.

“Fine, I’ll be more serious. Daoist Jin, how about an eighth-grade Dharmic Armament? I, Wang Baole, swear I’ll give up on Li Yi. No matter how crazily in love Li Yi is with me, I’ll turn her down, without mercy. I’m even willing to go to the extent of beating her up just so that she’ll give up completely on me!” Wang Baole thumped his chest. When he made his proclamation, he also stared at Jin Duoming with anticipation in his eyes. He seemed prepared to offer a whole range of after-sales and value-added services if they sealed the deal.

Jin Duoming could feel a headache coming. He hadn’t expected Wang Baole’s reaction. He sensed that Wang Baole seemed to be very excited at the prospect of negotiating with him. Logically speaking, shouldn’t he first feel pressured at his own forcefulness? This would allow Jin Duoming to soften his stance after and let them come to a compromise in the end.

“Wang Baole, are you interested in continuing this talk at all? Do you really intend to fight me for Li Yi?” Jin Duoming inhaled a deep breath and asked solemnly.

“Daoist Jin, you’re being a miser. Li Yi’s such a great girl. She’s got a great face, great figure. Even if she’s not worth a ninth-grade Dharmic Armament, shouldn’t she at least be worth an eighth-grade Dharmic Armament? Alright, alright. How about a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament? That should be okay, right?” Wang Baole sighed. He looked as if he was on the losing end of a deal.

“Wang Baole, are you taking me for a fool? A seventh-grade Dharmic Armament? If I give her a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament right now, do you not believe that she’ll immediately agree to be my girlfriend?” Jin Duoming raised his eyebrow. He gave Wang Baole a look of displeasure as frustration

simmered inside him. It was true that he was courting Li Yi, but even he didn't believe she was worth a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament.

This was, after all, completely different from when he had been in the Mystic Luna Realm. Then, he had made a bet with someone and had been missing a single fragment. That one step away from his goal and his bet had resulted in the eventual trade. That and his current courtship were two completely different matters.

No one knew how he had established his yardstick. However, it was clear that he simply felt that he was the one on the losing end of the deal if he made an exchange with a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament.

Wang Baole thought for a bit after hearing what Jin Duoming had said. He seemed to agree with him and started feeling slightly bad for even suggesting it in the first place. He sighed.

"What you said makes sense. It's not worth it... how about this? I won't make things difficult for you, but I'd like a promotion. Can you do that for me?"

Jin Duoming released a sigh of relief. If Wang Baole had insisted on a Dharmic Armament, he would have given up on Li Yi himself. He smiled confidently.

"The dean of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy is getting old. He should retire and return to Earth."

"The dean sacrificed the prime of his years for the Dao Mountain Mist Academy. During his appointment, he groomed numerous talents that became the pillars of Mars and of the Federation!" Wang Baole immediately added as a reminder to Jin Duoming.

Jin Duoming stared at Wang Baole, surprised. What he had meant earlier was that he would transfer the Dao Mountain Mist Academy dean through his family's connections. After which, he would get Wang Baole promoted to the position of the school dean. He hadn't considered what would happen to the original dean. After discerning Wang Baole's intentions, though, he pondered for a few moments, then nodded.

"The old dean is still physically fit and mentally nimble in his old age, and he contributed greatly to the school. After he's been transferred back to Earth, there will definitely be another important office waiting for him to take over!"

Wang Baole was pleased. Jin Duoming was pleased as well. They stared at each other and smiled, the tension between them vanishing. They even chatted leisurely for a while. Jin Duoming instructed someone to bring them wine, and both of them sat down and started conversing like old friends. Before Wang Baole left, he thumped his chest.

"Old Jin, don't worry. I, Wang Baole, am so good looking. Why would I settle for Li Yi and make you unhappy? Am I that sort of guy?"

"I admit, Li Yi is interested in me, but for my friend, I'm willing to sacrifice anything. You have nothing to worry about!"

"All right, I'll send her a message right now!" Wang Baole thumped his chest and pulled out his voice transmission ring. He sent Li Yi a message right in front of Jin Duoming.

“Li Yi, things won’t work out between us. I hope you will treasure the person who’s been by your side all along. Let us both find our happiness elsewhere!”

Wang Baole ended the transmission without waiting for Li Yi’s reply. He lifted his eyes from the transmission ring and looked at Jin Duoming. Jin Duoming was overcome with emotion. The more he looked at Wang Baole, the more he realized what a true friend Wang Baole was!

“Baole, I’ve been too rash. If you really like her, I’ll give up on her!”

“Old Jin, don’t say that! I, Wang Baole, will do anything for a friend!” Wang Baole had a fright. He thought about how he had just managed to push Li Yi away and gotten some positive returns out of it with great difficulty. If Jin Duoming decided not to go ahead with it after all, wouldn’t he have gone to all that trouble for nothing? He smacked his chest again righteously, then turned and left.

Jin Duoming stood on the stronghold and watched Wang Baole leave. He looked clearly moved and overcome with emotion. He sighed.

“That’s what I call a good friend!” he said, then steered the stronghold away from the Dao Mountain Mist Academy and towards the Fire Spirit Academy. As soon as he walked back into the stronghold, the emotions on his face vanished. They were instead replaced by a look of contemplation.

This Wang Baole is extremely sly. He’s the sort who seems all smiles and friendliness, but will immediately stab you in the face without mercy once he decides you’re an enemy instead of a friend.

He’s a dangerous character. Why would the old man ask me to befriend him if he’s so dangerous? Why would he instruct me to help him where I can? Could it be that... this is related to the reason I’ve come to Mars? Jin Duoming fell into deep thought. It might seem that he had come to Mars for the sole reason of courting Li Yi, but in reality... there was something even more important that he had to do.

At the same moment, after Jin Duoming’s departure, Wang Baole stepped into his residences. The smile on his face had long vanished, and he narrowed his eyes and started thinking.

This Jin Duoming’s put on quite an act. He’s not an idiot... I don’t believe he didn’t see through the entire lie... but he still made it seem like he bought the whole thing. In the end, I got myself a promotion... Wang Baole thought for a bit then laughed. He set the matter aside and was about to continue his seclusion, but then, he recalled Jin Duoming’s stronghold.

Since Wang Baole’s arrival on Mars, Jin Duoming’s stronghold was the thing that had impressed him the most. It wasn’t only lavish in appearance but equipped with powerful battle capabilities.

He hadn’t truly gone into the stronghold earlier, but he could still sense its powerful aura. It likely was capable of displaying battle capabilities rivaling a Core Formation realm cultivator. The stronghold was effectively an enhanced version of a Dharma artifact.

If I have something like that, I won’t be as helpless as I am now when I face the giant tree. I’ll at least stand a fighting chance! Wang Baole’s eyes flashed. He thought about how he was from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. He had been refining artifacts since he had entered the Ethereal Dao College. With a bit more thought and effort, building a stronghold shouldn’t be an impossible feat for him.

It's just that it would require too many resources... Wang Baole sighed. When he had been at the Lower Academy Island, outsiders had always said that Dharmic Armament cultivators were all walking Spirit Stones, that they were all rich.

Now that he had reached the Foundation Establishment realm and was able to refine fourth-grade and fifth-grade Dharmic Armaments, he was keenly aware of what it meant to be poor. The resources required for refining artifacts were too much. Despite how fast he was able to refine Spirit Stones, he still couldn't keep pace with the rate he was using up materials.

Even though it's not possible to build a stronghold any time soon, I should still start my preparations now. That way, once I have enough resources, I can immediately start production! Wang Baole thought. He had made up his mind. He would create a stronghold that was invincible and impenetrable. He even thought up a name for it.

We'll call it the Eternal Fortress! Wang Baole's eyes shone brightly. After some assessment, he realized that even if he had the blueprint and materials ready, it would still not be possible for him to build such a stronghold single-handedly. He was troubled for a moment before he remembered his puppets.

If I lack manpower, then I should first study how to create puppets that can serve as construction workers. They should be able to provide some basic support and carry out simple construction work! Wang Baole thought. During his seclusion, besides practicing the Lightning Dao: First Volume and edging closer towards a breakthrough in cultivation, Wang Baole also spent time studying how to refine construction puppets and running through the blueprints for his stronghold.

Time crept by. Soon, more than a month had passed!

Come noon one day, Wang Baole was sitting in meditation when his eyes suddenly opened. A rumbling roar erupted within his body, and bolts of lightning erupted from his right leg. They snaked around him in the air, thundering. The entire chamber was flooded with electricity in that instant. It appeared to transform into a pool of lightning!

Sitting cross-legged within the pool was Wang Baole. The cultivation within his body erupted at that moment, breaking through the early-stage and stepping right into... the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm!

Chapter 316: The Colony Disciplinary Order Arrives!

After Wang Baole attained his breakthrough in cultivation, he seemed to experience a sudden turn in fortune on Mars. Within three days of his breakthrough, the dean of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy received his transfer orders from the Federation.

The dean would be returning to Earth. He would be promoted from Secondary Rank Four Noble to Primary Rank Four Noble. Besides the promotion, he would also be stationed in his hometown. It was not only a comfortable retirement but also an establishment of his authority in his hometown.

The arrangement showed the Trilunaris Corporation's generous treatment towards their own people as well as Jin Duoming's capabilities. He had managed to achieve his end of the deal within two weeks after

reaching an agreement with Wang Baole. Orders for Wang Baole's new appointment also reached Mars around the same time.

The Martian Colony City had the right to overwrite such direct orders from the Federation. It was, after all, to a certain degree, an autonomous city. However, Mars wouldn't easily use its powers, especially when the order was a promotion for Wang Baole, from a Primary Rank Five Noble to a Secondary Rank Four Noble.

As a result, Wang Baole received his promotion to Secondary Rank Four Noble without a hitch. He became the dean of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy. The fact that everything went smoothly spoke greatly of the authority and political clout the Trilunaris Corporation wielded. It also said something... about Wang Baole's own achievements!

The match between the two elitists' academies not only secured Wang Baole's fame as an educator, but it also gifted him with a wider social network. The reputation of the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon served as an amulet for him as well. That was why his new appointment had gone so smoothly, without any obstacle.

Despite not being the youngest person ever to become a Secondary Rank Four Noble, he was still a rare sight in the Federation. He had surpassed most of his peers. His promotion to his latest Noble also signaled the step he had taken from the lower ranks of the Federation administration to its mid-ranks!

This step might not seem like much, but to many people, it was a step that might take them ten years, twenty years, or even a lifetime to take.

Wang Baole was keenly aware of what the promotion meant. That was why he was overjoyed when he received the orders. He happily accepted the congratulatory messages from the teachers and students of the academy, and he didn't forget to reward the hard work of the deserving. He immediately submitted a request to the Martian administration to appoint Lin Tianhao as the vice dean.

Wang Baole had informed Lin Tianhao of his request prior to its submission. Lin Tianhao was naturally overcome with excitement and happiness. He had only been on Mars for less than six months before receiving a promotion in both office and ranking. He was beyond excited. Concerned that someone might stir trouble for him, he hurriedly contacted his father.

Lin You was constantly keeping himself abreast of the situation on Mars. As soon as he heard from Lin Tianhao, his eyes brightened. He made preparations immediately, and Lin Tianhao's appointment was finalized. From his current Secondary Rank Five, he was promoted to a Primary Rank Five Noble. He also became the vice dean of the Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

Lin Tianhao was extremely grateful towards Wang Baole for his efforts in promoting him and helping him rise up the ranks. He realized how wrong and immature he had been during his Ethereal Dao College days. He became keenly aware of how right his father had been. He had already acknowledged Wang Baole's abilities earlier, and now, he had absolutely nothing to complain about him.

"This is nothing, Tianhao. Keep tagging along, and you may soon see me become a Secondary Rank Four Noble within half a year. Then, I'll get you a Secondary Rank Four Noble as well." Wang Baole laughed. He patted Lin Tianhao's shoulder and looked at Lin Tianhao, pleased. The latter had just poured him a cup of tea and had only sat half-perched on the sofa.

Wang Baole conversed a while more with Lin Tianhao and instructed the latter to focus on the educational aspect of the academy. He left Lin Tianhao with most of his work while he made full use of whatever time he had to familiarize himself with the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm. He also poured a great deal of his energy into studying the stronghold as well as construction puppets.

Time passed. Two months after Wang Baole's and Lin Tianhao's new appointments, winter descended upon Mars. Snow appeared as the temperatures plunged. The lands outside the city became deserted and barren. The Combat cultivators and Hunting cultivators who were regularly deployed outside the city returned in batches. The temperature within the city fell as well. Even though there was still air circulating, one would see puffs of white clouds when they breathed.

Nothing major happened in those two months.

Where the academy was concerned, Lin Tianhao revealed his talents at administration and supervision. He had watched his father growing up, after all. After he had become the vice dean, backed with Wang Baole's approval and support, Lin Tianhao was able to carry out the plans Wang Baole had wanted to make fearlessly.

The entire academy began learning the Baole Heaven Devouring Skill as a core skill. A great deal of effort was also spent on developing the students' fighting capabilities. The numbers of the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon grew, and their reputation stabilized with frequent and regular exposure. There was no longer a danger of them being forgotten by the public after the end of the friendly match.

As Lin Tianhao busied himself with the school, Wang Baole kept himself occupied as well. His work on the stronghold blueprints and his research into construction puppets progressed swiftly. As his ideas gained clarity, he tried to craft his first batch of construction puppets. He was now at the stage of testing them out.

Wang Baole knew that he was still a long way from success. There were still many problems with the construction puppets and his stronghold blueprints. He still had a long way to go before they could be fully functional and ready for use. He still needed to continue to make improvements before the final product was ready and could be mass produced.

Wang Baole wasn't anxious about the time required. As he continued his research, Lin Tianhao's regular reports and the private reports from other teachers ensured that he maintained a full grasp of everything happening within the academy.

Wang Baole had brought glory and renewal to the school. In the past few months, students who had heard of the school's reputation had requested transfer to the academy. Their student population spiked, and his presence had become irreplaceable. He had become a mental and spiritual pillar supporting the academy.

However, as the number of students grew, the existing teaching staff was no longer sufficient to support the growing student population. They recruited many new teachers. Wang Baole's office alone had three department heads. Besides the young married woman with coyish eyes, there were now two more beautiful staff members.

Wang Baole was extremely satisfied. He thought the two new staff members also looked at him with hooks in their eyes as if trying to reel him in.

At present, inside Wang Baole's office, the two new staff members brought Wang Baole tea and smiled at him. Wang Baole coughed. Just as he was about to ask them to take a seat and inquire about how they had been coping with work, Lin Tianhao arrived.

"Dean, our current state won't do. We don't have enough teachers... we need more teachers!"

"I'm thinking of arranging a friendly match for the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon with the four Dao Colleges' Lower Academies in the Federation. This is the only way to maintain the platoon's current popularity and reputation..." Lin Tianhao immediately started reporting on his current work as soon as he arrived. Wang Baole was immensely pleased with Lin Tianhao's enthusiasm and passion for his work. He agreed to the friendly match and also began thinking about recruiting more teachers.

They had too many students and not enough teachers. The newly recruited teachers had to go through a round of background checks to verify their background and identity. This was an elites' academy, after all. It wouldn't do for there to be any security-related incidents.

As the two discussed the matter, the shrill sounds of alarm suddenly rang outside. It was deafening. Through the windows, they could see a dozen black cruisers in the distant sky, headed for the Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

The appearance of the cruisers immediately sent all Spirit Stone-related devices in the Dao Mountain Mist Academy into a temporary malfunction. They ceased working suddenly as energy suddenly erupted from the cruisers, creating a translucent shield that enveloped a teachers' residential pavilion in the academy!

"The Colony Disciplinary Order!" Alarm flashed across Lin Tianhao's face. He rose to his feet hurriedly. Wang Baole frowned and stood as well, going over to his window and watching as the dozen specially crafted Colony Disciplinary Order cruisers sped towards them and sealed the teachers' residential pavilion. A dozen or so people dressed in black uniform rushed out from the cruisers and dashed into the pavilion.

Behind the black uniforms walked out two people—a man and a woman. The woman was clearly the higher ranked of the two. Her cultivation was at the perfected Foundation Establishment realm, and she exuded the aura of a volcano on the verge of an eruption as she stood in the open. Her presence was overpowering. She wore a uniform, but her voluptuous figure made the uniform appear a few sizes smaller than it actually was.

She had a well-endowed body, a head of long, flowing red hair, and pale, icy blue eyes. They resulted in her striking, mature appeal.

She was like a fully-ripe peach. She drove the hearts of men racing. Such a stirring figure was paired with cold features devoid of emotion. Even the look in her eyes was frosty, cold like a glacier.

The mix of fire and ice was what made this woman so deathly attractive.

Wang Baole had seen his fair share of beauties. Regardless, he was still momentarily stunned by this woman's beauty.

Behind her was clearly her subordinate. Wang Baole recognized him. It was a familiar face. The man was... Zhuo Yixian!

The entire process took but the duration of a dozen breaths. As Wang Baole's gaze landed on Zhuo Yixian, the black uniformed men who had barged into the teachers' residence earlier dragged a middle-aged teacher out. They brought him before Zhuo Yixian. Zhuo Yixian sensed Wang Baole's eyes on him, and he raised his head and flung a frosty glance at Wang Baole. Then, he stared at the pale-faced middle-aged man who had been arrested and spoke.

"Take him away!"

Wang Baole watched as the other disregarded his presence and arrested one of his own without even a prior warning. The expression on his face darkened. Even though the other party was the Colony Disciplinary Order, what they had done had completely disregarded his own presence and authority.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He smirked, then pushed his windows open, flying out in the next instant. Lin Tianhao had wanted to say something, but he had been too late. He hurriedly followed, but by then, Wang Baole's voice had sounded throughout the entire campus.

"Is there no one left alive in this Dao Mountain Mist Academy of mine? All my teachers, all my students, I want you to give a display of your cultivation. Let others know our academy isn't a place where anyone can simply trespass and intrude upon!"

Chapter 317: Domineering

As Wang Baole's words reverberated throughout the entire college, he managed to make the thousands of teachers standing around look furiously at the staff from the Colony Disciplinary Order through his authoritative manner. Their cultivation was also instantly activated.

The weakest of this group of more than a thousand teachers were at least a Pulse Enrichment cultivator of Ancient Martial Arts. Many of them were in the early-stage of True Breath, with tens of them in the mid-stage. There were at least thirty of them in Dao Mountain Mist Academy who were in the True Breath late-stage.

Even though there were only two Foundation Establishment cultivators excluding Wang Baole, with the cultivation of thousands of people being unleashed, it was frightening. It shocked the tens of people from the Colony Disciplinary Order.

That wasn't the end to everything. Under Wang Baole's command, everyone, not just the teachers, but also the tens of thousands of students from Dao Mountain Mist Academy—with Jin Duozhi and Zhou Mei leading the pack—all roared angrily. Instantly, a concentrated force of Blood Qi erupted astonishingly from their bodies.

That was especially so as the Heaven Devouring Skill had become so widespread that most of the students of Dao Mountain Mist Academy, regardless of whether they were male or female, were seen as little fatties at one glance. They were fat, yet their Blood Qi also significantly exceeded that of others. One could feel that their physical strength was indeed impressive.

As a result, the eruption of Blood Qi in all directions from the bodies of these tens of thousands of students and teachers, who were of a similar level as them, surrounded everyone from the Colony Disciplinary Order from all corners.

Such an imposing manner at such a scale immediately made the tens of men in black from the Colony Disciplinary Order frightened, and they turned pale with shock. They were severely alarmed, and even though the woman with the fiery hot figure appeared calm throughout the period, Zhuo Yixian, who was beside her, didn't have the same calmness. Looking at the thousands of teachers and the tens of thousands of students, and sensing the Blood Qi erupting from their bodies, his breathing uncontrollably quickened.

If someone else, and not Wang Baole, were the dean, he wouldn't have cared. However, knowing that Wang Baole had a bad temper and would go into battle once something didn't go his way, he was worried that if Wang Baole were angered, he would command everyone to attack. Death would then be a reality that could be imagined.

Therefore, as he grew increasingly nervous and anxious, Zhuo Yixian suddenly looked at Wang Baole and exclaimed loudly.

"Wang Baole, are you trying to revolt? All of you, are you trying to revolt as well?" Zhuo Yixian was a witty person. With his words, not only was he trying to land Wang Baole in a sticky situation by poisoning the well, but he was also stressing the others around him. The meaning was clear; if anyone were to attack, it would be considered an attempt to revolt!

Indeed, what he said had some effect. Some teachers were frightened, and their imposing manner was weakened. Wang Baole, who was standing on the veranda, was initially very pleased with how domineering his college appeared, but when he noticed that some of them backed down after hearing Zhuo Yixian's words, he sneered. He looked at those who had become cowardly, before looking back at Zhuo Yixian, and was about to speak.

Just at this moment, Jin Duozhi, who was paying attention to Wang Baole and had been instinctively judging the situation, felt his eyes light up. He seemed to have found an opportunity to suck up to Wang Baole, and was filled with agitation and excitement instantly. He felt that the heavens were on his side, treating him extremely well by always granting him the opportunity to showcase his loyalty to the dean. He was delighted as he rushed out and roared loudly.

"The Colony Disciplinary Order is a bully, oppressing the weak because they have greater power!" Jin Duozhi was loud. As he roared loudly, he raised his hand and slammed his own chest forcefully.

He punched hard, and large volumes of blood spewed from his mouth. He staggered backwards with blood in his mouth, his voice carrying a pitiful tone.

"How dare you hit me? I will seek justice from my grandfather!"

Zhou Mei's eyes lit up, and she immediately punched herself. Soon, all the students seemed to have realized what was going on and were instantly agitated. As if without any fear of the consequences, they all punched themselves several times, resulting in them either vomiting blood or simply bleeding from the corner of their mouths. With more than half of the tens of thousands of students acting this way, it was a bewildering scene, especially when they completed the act by staggering backwards, screaming and shouting painfully.

"People from the Colony Disciplinary Order have attacked me! I will look for my mother to seek revenge for this!"

“How dare you attack me? My father is Zhou Yuntao!”

“No one has dared to hit me since I was young. You people have the guts to hit me... My grandfather will not let this pass!”

As the screams reverberated, the surrounding teachers were dumbfounded. Lin Tianhao was flabbergasted, and even Wang Baole was surprised. That was even more so for the people from the Colony Disciplinary Order, who were entirely overcome with shock. As they listened to the angry screams from the students, they trembled and were on the brink of going crazy from all that was happening.

It was obvious that none of them attacked the students. The threat from the students was a clear situation of them accusing the Colony Disciplinary Order. They felt extremely helpless and upset. Zhuo Yixian felt suffocated with shock and grew increasingly anxious. It wouldn't have mattered much if it was just a handful of students acting that way, but with so many of them, their backing was just too strong, such that even the Five Generation Sky Clan would have to look at the situation seriously.

What the heck is this college trying to do? Why do I feel like I've just entered an acting school? Zhuo Yixian was frightened and indignant. Those students were just too unprofessional in their acting.

However, regardless of whether they were professional or not, the blood that they vomited was real. As a result, he felt extremely frustrated and troubled, as he was the one who had pushed for the visit to Dao Mountain Mist Academy. According to standard procedures, he should have met and greeted the school committee first. However, as he didn't have a good relationship with Wang Baole, he didn't bother with the formalities.

He had originally thought that Wang Baole wouldn't do anything no matter how unhappy he was. However, he had never imagined that Wang Baole could generate such a strong reaction in the Dao Mountain Mist Academy with just a simple sentence.

While he grew increasingly troubled, Wang Baole blinked his eyes, staring speechlessly at Jin Duozhi and the others. He knew well that those rascals were physically impressive, and the act of vomiting blood was as easy to spitting saliva for them. They appeared to be injured, but in reality, they could all recover fully by meditating for five minutes.

However, Wang Baole was still satisfied with their performance. No matter the situation, he felt that his college shouldn't weaken on its imposing front. As for the teacher who was taken away, Wang Baole wasn't particularly familiar with him as he had only recently been hired. Furthermore, that teacher was still under internal probation in the college and wasn't assigned to teach yet. Arrangements for him to teach would only occur after the probation and investigations had been completed.

He wasn't overly concerned that the Colony Disciplinary Order had sent people to apprehend the teachers. However, the Colony Disciplinary Order had shown up forcefully, unannounced, throwing him into a situation that he didn't understand. He was definitely not agreeable to such a manner of handling things. After all, Wang Baole could be considered a Secondary Rank Four Noble. Therefore, after looking at Zhuo Yixian and company, he raised his right hand.

“Silence!”

With that sentence, the teachers and students standing around instantly fell silent. Jin Duozhi and company all stood at attention, looking at Wang Baole.

Such an imposing and authoritative manner immediately made the people from the Colony Disciplinary Order look at Wang Baole with respect and fear. Only Zhuo Yixian was indignant as he continued to stare at Wang Baole angrily.

Wang Baole completely disregarded Zhuo Yixian, as he spoke calmly while looking at the lady with the hot figure beside Zhuo Yixian, who had remained calm since the start.

“Dear Fellow Daoist, I need a way to explain everything if you are to bring people away from my territory!”

“Wang Baole, don’t be overboard. The Colony Disciplinary Order is carrying out its due diligence, and there is no need to give you an explanation. You...” Zhuo Yixian heard Wang Baole’s words and immediately laughed condescendingly. However, even before he could complete his sentence, Wang Baole suddenly turned his head around and roared with a deep voice.

“Shut up! I’m speaking to your superior. How dare you interject, you rude rascal? You’re asking me about what basis I have? I, Wang Baole, am worthy, based on my status the dean of Dao Mountain Mist Academy, an educator of Mars, the founder of the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon personally chosen by the Governor, a Secondary Rank Four Noble, and my contributions to the Federation all these years!

“Is that enough?”

“And you, Zhuo Yixian, the revolt that you mentioned previously has been said too easily. Because of that, I will notify all the parents of my students that you, Zhuo Yixian of the Colony Disciplinary Order, is suspecting their children of carrying out a revolt, and more specifically, that the Soaring Cloud Student Platoon personally chosen by the Governor is organizing a revolt!”

Zhuo Yixian felt as if he was being punched continuously by Wang Baole’s words. That last sentence especially frightened him. He was about to speak when the cold and distant lady with the provocative figure frowned and calmly spoke to Zhuo Yixian.

“Silence!”

She was initially very satisfied with this subordinate of hers, but now, there was some dissatisfaction. Zhuo Yixian trembled internally as he quickly obeyed and didn’t dare to speak any further. He was extremely frustrated, but he understood very well that this woman was someone he couldn’t afford to offend, whether it was based on her family background, her position, her cultivation, or simply the news that had been spreading about her.

Having stopped Zhuo Yixian from saying anything further, the lady looked at Wang Baole with a chill in her eyes that she didn’t bother to hide. She waved her right hand and threw a jade slip directly at Wang Baole.

“The Colony Disciplinary Order apprehends people based on the evidence they have collected. You can read about it yourself.” When she was done speaking, she no longer bothered about Wang Baole, and she sent out a command to her subordinates from the Colony Disciplinary Order.

“Bring this heretic cultivator away!”

Chapter 318: Dean Wang, Please Cooperate!

Just as Wang Baole grabbed hold of the jade slip, the teacher who was apprehended suddenly began to struggle after the lady passed her command. He seemed to want to say something, but even before he could say something, the lady with the chilly look but provocative figure shot him a cold gaze. She walked towards him and slapped him hard with her right hand directly.

When she raised her hand, a force belonging to someone who had perfected the Foundation Establishment stage and was approaching breakthrough into Core Formation instantly erupted from her body. It sent shock waves in all directions, and when the slap landed on the chest of that Dao Mountain Mist Academy teacher, the teacher vomited blood immediately. His chest turned into a mesh of flesh and blood, and his ribs were exposed.

However, he didn't die!

“An easy option like death won't be available to you!” The lady carried her usual facial expression as she reached into the bloody mess created in the teacher's chest and broke three of his ribs. The pain caused the teacher to scream pitifully. The lady then wiped her bloody palm carelessly on the teacher's shirt before turning and looking coldly at the teachers and students who were standing around.

All the teachers held their breaths, and even the students grew nervous. Jin Duozhi looked closely at the lady and seemed to have realized who she was. He hurriedly stood at attention, trying to appear as if he was perfectly healthy and good, and that whatever that had happened previously was just a fluke.

After frightening everyone, the lady didn't even bother to look at Wang Baole. She directly entered the cruiser, and Zhuo Yixian, who stood behind her, heaved a visible sigh of relief. He made use of the authoritative manner of the lady to look at Wang Baole viciously, as he apprehended the teacher from Dao Mountain Mist Academy who had lost consciousness and brought him into the cruiser along with the other people from the Colony Disciplinary Order. Soon, all the cruisers from the Colony Disciplinary Order rose into the sky and disappeared into the distance.

With their departure, all the equipment in the area that was powered by the Spirit Stones began operating again.

Wang Baole frowned. He couldn't stop what just happened as the incident recorded in the jade slip had shocked him.

Using live people as an offering to practice a forbidden cultivation technique. Brutally killing seven people at the Ancient Martial Arts realm, and eleven commoners.... There were few words in the jade slip, but those few sentences had managed to outline the offenses committed by that teacher.

After reading about the crimes listed on the jade slip, Wang Baole then looked towards the cruisers from Colony Disciplinary Order in the distant sky. He remained silent, and Lin Tianhao, who was beside him, took a deep breath and began to speak in all seriousness.

“Dean, don't provoke this female lunatic... she is simply crazy...”

“You know her? Who is she?” A glow flashed across Wang Baole’s eyes. He had noticed that Lin Tianhao wanted to say something previously but had stopped himself. It was clear that it was because of the presence of the lady that Lin Tianhao didn’t dare to say anything. In addition, he also noticed the swift transformation and adrift look in Jin Duozhi’s eyes after he noticed her. It was apparent that he recognized who the woman was and didn’t want to provoke her.

Lin Tianhao hurriedly replied after hearing Wang Baole’s question. He knew that he was slightly cowardly just now, but with the crazy woman standing there, even he didn’t dare make a sound. Now, he began to speak softly, as if trying to rectify his blunder.

“Dean, do you remember Li Xiu? He is the senator’s son, and this female lunatic is his sister... His blood sister!”

Lin Tianhao’s reply caused Wang Baole to widen his eyes in disbelief.

“Li Xiu’s sister?” Wang Baole’s facial expressions changed instantly. He thought of the serious look Li Xiu had when he said he would introduce him to his sister when he was in the Mystic Luna Realm.

“Yes, her name is Li Wan’er. Though her name sounds dainty, she is actually this woman with a frozen face! Just by looking at what a disaster Li Xiu is, you will know what kind of person his sister is!

“Even though this Li Wan’er is an extremely gifted natural talent, having perfected Foundation Establishment and was nearing the Core Formation stage despite being just a few years older than us, she has an icy nature and is extremely imposing. She is like an ice mountain that wouldn’t melt even in a million years. She is an infamous spinster, known for her ruthlessness and eccentric personality. She looks pretty, which was why many people tried to pursue her many years back. However, every single one of them was almost beaten to death by her...”

“You know Jin Duoming, right? He also once tried to pursue her. He merely flirted with her with words, yet this Li Wan’er went after him so viciously that she almost had him castrated. Therefore, she is a female devil... It’s been said that Li Xiu has been beaten by her since he was young. Every single time, he would swear to us that he would find his sister an ugly, perverted, shameless, and vicious person to marry in order to take revenge.” As Lin Tianhao rattled on, he grew more excited, not noticing that Wang Baole was beginning to look awkward.

In the end, when Lin Tianhao noticed Wang Baole’s awkward facial expressions, he immediately stopped speaking. Even though he didn’t know why Wang Baole looked that way, he felt that it would be dangerous for him to continue staying where he was. Therefore, he found a reason and hurriedly left, even sending orders to disperse the crowd.

When the people from Dao Mountain Mist Academy left, Wang Baole then turned to leave for his office with a stiff facial expression while gritting his teeth.

Li Xiu, make sure you don’t appear in front of me again. Darn it... So, in your eyes, I’m someone who is perverted, ugly, shameless, and vicious? I’m so handsome, yet he can’t see it. He must be blind! Wang Baole was most offended at Li Xiu thinking that he was ugly. Therefore, he became determined to teach Li Xiu what beauty truly was if he ever had the chance to see him again.

With that thought, he suppressed the unhappiness in his heart and took another look at the jade slip before setting it aside. This matter actually had nothing to do with him. He only felt uncomfortable with how the Colony Disciplinary Order handled the matter. Now, he had calmed down, and continued to draw the blueprint for his stronghold and construction puppets.

Just like that, a day passed. The next afternoon, Wang Baole stepped out of his residence and into the Dean's Office, thinking that the incident with the Colony Disciplinary Order had already concluded the day before. Even though he was unhappy with the way they handled it, he had managed to save his reputation somehow. However, he had never imagined that not long after arriving in the office, cruisers from the Colony Disciplinary Order landed once again.

This time, there was only one cruiser. Even though it did not barge into Dao Mountain Mist Academy and was instead parked outside, the person who emerged seemed like someone who was used to handling things head on and boisterously. He was in Wang Baole's office but was still stern and direct in his words.

"Dean Wang, our Minister needs you to go over to assist in the investigation."

Wang Baole looked coldly at the expressionless middle-aged man dressed in a black robe standing before him, as he narrowed his eyes.

"What's the investigation?"

"Dean Wang, this is something that I don't know. This is an order by the Colony Disciplinary Order and is within the authority of the Colony Disciplinary Order bestowed by the Martian Colony. Everyone below the rank Secondary Rank Three has to cooperate. Dean Wang, after you, please!"

Wang Baole frowned. He was unhappy, but as he didn't do anything wrong, and as the Colony Disciplinary Order had sought cooperation, people would speak behind his back if he didn't cooperate. Therefore, after thinking about it, he took out his jade slip and contacted the Sect Lord of Ethereal Dao College.

After informing the Sect Lord about the matter, the Sect Lord assured Wang Baole that he would keep tabs on it and that he should cooperate.

With that, Wang Baole stood up. He didn't enter the Colony Disciplinary Order's cruiser. Instead, he stepped into his own cruiser, expressionlessly following the middle-aged man to the Colony Disciplinary Order in the Zone Nineteen!

He soon arrived on the grounds of the Colony Disciplinary Order, which was filled with buildings that were painted black, giving off a suppressive force that felt extremely cold and distant. Everyone there was dressed in a black robe, looking extremely stern.

The office of the Colony Disciplinary Order's Minister was located on the top floor of a high rise building in the middle of all the buildings. When Wang Baole arrived and pushed open the door, he saw Li Wan'er, Li Xiu's sister, sitting there, staring coldly at him. Her perfect level of Foundation Establishment cultivation was transformed into a suppressive force, enveloping Wang Baole.

It was worth mentioning that even though Li Wan'er was expressionless and extremely cold, Wang Baole felt her looks could be compared to Zhao Yameng. To a certain extent, her hot figure put her higher in the ranks in terms of looks.

"Dean Wang, there are a few matters that we need your cooperation with, which is why we invited you here. Please answer truthfully!" Li Wan'er didn't mince her words, instead, speaking her mind directly. The questions mostly revolved around the apprehended teacher, such as when he was employed and who he interacted with most on a day to day basis.

Though Wang Baole was unhappy, he had no need to withhold information regarding these questions. Therefore, he answered everything truthfully. In the end, Li Wan'er judged the situation silently in her mind before lowering her head and checking the documents, not even looking at Wang Baole, before speaking coldly again.

"You can leave now. According to regulations, whatever is mentioned here shouldn't be made known to anyone. Otherwise, you will bear the consequences."

Wang Baole looked at Li Wan'er, who remained cold and distant. As he turned towards the door, he turned his head, looking coldly at Li Wan'er, who was reading the documents, before speaking calmly.

"Minister Li, I am not a newbie to the Federation. When I first entered Ethereal Dao College, my job was in investigative matters. When I became Deputy Pavilion Head on the Upper Academy Island, investigative matters were also under my purview. I am clear about matters like these.

"Guilty or not, it's all based on your words. Are you sure that you have the right evidence, and didn't malign the teacher under my watch?

"Furthermore, don't try to suppress me with your perfect Foundation Establishment cultivation. Even though I have never killed a perfected Foundation Establishment cultivator, I have killed many who were in the early-stage and mid-stage of Foundation Establishment when I was in Foundation Establishment myself. I can even kill those in the late-stage Foundation Establishment with a lift of my finger. You, a perfected Foundation Establishment cultivator, are no threat to me!"

Wang Baole's words made Li Wan'er frown, and she raised her head to look at Wang Baole with even more chilliness in her eyes. Wang Baole didn't seem to back down as he looked back at her, and this staring contest went on for a significant length of time.

Chapter 319: Mars's Unusual Transformation

"Since I began my cultivation, no one in the same realm as me has dared to speak to me in such a manner. Needless to say, it has never happened before with someone like you who is merely a mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator!" The chill in Li Wan'er's eyes intensified, and a dangerous aura spread from her body, making all the items in the entire office vibrate ever so slightly.

In the face of Li Wan'er's suppressive force, Wang Baole raised his brows and laughed.

“What a coincidence! Every single person who said such a thing to me has been killed by me. Shall we compare to see who has killed more Foundation Establishment cultivators?” Wang Baole narrowed his eyes and spoke calmly, and a frightening aura emerged from his body as well as he prepared to fight.

If he were still in the early-stage of Foundation Establishment like previously, he would perhaps not have the guts to do what he was doing now. However, as he advanced to the mid-stage of Foundation Establishment, riding on the Heavenly Thunder, possessing the Dharmic Armament, and coupled with his immense physical strength, Wang Baole’s unhappiness towards the Colony Disciplinary Order that arose previously now showed signs of erupting.

Seeing that they were clashing with each other and that their hostile auras were growing stronger, Li Wan’er suddenly stood up. She didn’t make an attack and instead pushed open the windows with her hands and stepped out. Instantly, a cruiser appeared, landing at her feet.

“Aren’t you asking me if I made any judgment errors? Come on board, I’ll show you what real proof and evidence is!” Li Wan’er spoke indifferently.

Wang Baole took a look at Li Wan’er and weighed the consequences before stepping into Li Wan’er’s cruiser. Immediately, the cruiser picked up speed and went into the distance, so fast that perhaps the other people from the Colony Disciplinary Order might not have realized what had happened.

The high traveling speed of the cruiser, coupled with the fact that it was made specifically for the Colony Disciplinary Order, bestowed it with such authority that it was able to disregard the outermost layer of array formation protection surrounding the Mars Colonial City, and before long, it had emerged out of the Colonial City!

It was now winter on Mars. The winds froze one to the bone, with temperatures at an extreme low. As the cruiser charged at high speed, its temperature increased, which led to the inevitable formation of frost layers.

A glow flashed across Wang Baole’s eyes. When he first emerged from Mars City, he contacted Ethereal Dao College’s Sect Lord with his jade slip to inform him about what was going on. He then kept the jade slip, looking coldly at Li Wan’er as he tried to judge if she had connections to the giant tree.

However, if they were indeed connected, the voice transmissions he sent out would definitely be blocked. Since he could still send out voice transmissions, as usual, it pointed towards Li Wan’er not sharing a relationship with the giant tree.

Noticing that Wang Baole was sending a voice transmission, a look of disdain appeared in Li Wan’er’s eyes. She didn’t say anything, simply continuing the journey in the cruiser as it traveled further away from Mars Colonial City until it reached a barren plain.

The plain was all white, entirely covered with snow. There were some small, scattered areas which the snow didn’t cover, revealing the deep red-colored ground.

The cruiser slowly landed. Li Wan’er leaped and alighted from the cruiser, landing on the snow. Wang Baole frowned, narrowing his eyes as he followed suit. It was then that Li Wan’er took out a jade slip, which she pressed while aiming it on the ground.

When she pressed the jade slip, a purple glow emerged from it, which immediately spread in all directions, causing Wang Baole's pupils to constrict. He saw that the entire area began to be warped, turning blurry. Soon, like a broken mirror, the hundreds of feet of snow surrounding them disappeared, and an underground cave appeared!

It appeared as though the cave had been there since the beginning. The array formation left by people covered it, making it impossible for outsiders to explore it.

Wang Baole's breathing grew rapid when he saw the underground cave. When he looked towards Li Wan'er, she had already taken the lead and entered the cave. Soon, her voice emerged from underground.

"What's the matter? You're afraid to come down here? Didn't you want real evidence?"

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes and raised his hands. Instantly, the seventh-grade Dharmic Armament appeared in his hands. He turned and charged into the underground cave. The temperature inside the cave was significantly higher than that outside. Looking into the distance, there was a passageway. Wang Baole walked along it to the end, where he saw Li Wan'er and a scene that made him extremely shocked!

In the depths of the underground cave was a secret chamber weakly lit by Spirit Stones. However, as a Foundation Establishment cultivator, he could see everything clearly despite the low visibility.

Right now, the door to the secret chamber was already open, and he could see that there were receptacles placed everywhere inside it. Taking a closer look at the contents of these receptacles, he realized that human organs were being stored in them!

Some of them even contained the corpses of babies!

A significant number of them contained unrecognizable pieces of bloody flesh. Wang Baole was unable to identify every single one of them, but it was clear to him that the existence of the secret chamber was sinister.

That alone caused Wang Baole to breathe heavily. There were limits to humanity that shouldn't be breached. What Wang Baole saw before him severely violated the principles of being human!

"See all of this?" Li Wan'er remained expressionless as she took out a jade slip with a wave of her right hand. After grabbing hold of it, a scene immediately played out through the glow that emerged from the jade slip.

The scenario depicted the secret chamber. The only difference was that instead of Wang Baole and Li Wan'er, there was a middle-aged man. With just a single glance, Wang Baole immediately recognized that the man was the teacher that had been apprehended by the Colony Disciplinary Order.

In the image, the man was meditating with his legs crossed. His facial expressions were frightening, and he appeared to be going through cultivation. There were receptacles containing the human organs placed around him, and he seemed to be in the process of absorbing a mysterious force!

This scene made Wang Baole solemn as he took a deep breath. He knew deep in his heart that the Colony Disciplinary Order was properly handling the matter. He wanted to say something, but Li Wan'er didn't give him a chance to, as she immediately kept the jade slip and began speaking coldly.

"The reason why this area is preserved is to lure his accomplice. Bringing you here can be considered an exception. You aren't to question future matters of the Colony Disciplinary Order!"

With that, Li Wan'er turned and walked towards the passageway with a cold expression on her face. Wang Baole was somewhat embarrassed. If it was in a different setting and someone were to speak to him this way, he would have flipped. However, he wasn't the least bit angry now. In his embarrassment, he quickly followed behind Li Wan'er. Looking at her shockingly attractive figure accentuated by her tight-fitting uniform, Wang Baole uncontrollably thought of the incident where Li Xiu wanted him as a brother-in-law.

However, just as the thought circled around Wang Baole's mind, an unusual transformation suddenly occurred outside the cave!

A loud boom emerged and spread from outside the underground cave. It sounded as if a large number of people were crying pitifully, their cries spreading in all directions. Li Wan'er and Wang Baole grew solemn as they noticed that blood-colored winds were blowing towards them from the wilderness a distance away from the plains!

This blood-colored wind could perhaps be better described not as wind, but as fog. It was as if the tides swept towards them from all directions from a distance, covering a large area and at such a high speed that if one were to observe from above, one would see that it was boundless. It was like a red-colored sea, churning from a distance.

They didn't have time to rush out. Almost immediately, the blood-colored wind enveloped Wang Baole and Li Wan'er in the zone where the underground cave was.

The cries grew even more pitiful as if innumerable wandering spirits were crying out all their sufferings within the blood-colored fog. Hearing it, one could feel chills down their spine as if they had come into contact with spirits. Instinctively, fear and shock arose in their hearts. At the same time, there were sounds of grinding teeth reverberating from within the fog.

All of it was harrowing, and as Wang Baole and Li Wan'er were frozen with surprise at the cave being enveloped, the cries reverberated. The entire area was covered with the blood-colored fog, which decreased the visibility. At the same time, the Spirit Qi within their bodies lost vitality right at that moment!

As if being restricted, they could no longer feel their Spirit Qi; it was as if it had completely disappeared. Li Wan'er's breathing quickened as she shrieked.

"Spirit Restriction!"

"What's going on!"

A torrent of thoughts crashed in Wang Baole's mind. Similarly, he couldn't feel the existence of his Spirit Qi. Even the green lotus seemed to have broken off all ties with him. Wang Baole could only vaguely feel the devouring seed, even though it was also being affected.

This weak sense required time before it could be completely detected. Within this time, his Spirit Qi disappeared, unable to be activated. In that moment, a cultivator was turned into a commoner!

The voice transmission ring, the storage bracelet... They all lost their function. Everything that was related to Spirit Qi was being forbidden!

Thankfully, the foundation of life formed through one's cultivation was unaffected. Therefore, one's breathing wasn't affected as quickly. However, there was no time to lose, as one would endanger their lives if they were out of the City for a prolonged period of time.

Everything happened too quickly. The vanishing of one's cultivation and the Spirit Restriction, coupled with the extinguishing of the light from the Spirit Stones, rapidly decreased their visibility. At the same time, the pitch-black surroundings became even more prominent. Luckily, Wang Baole still held a weak connection with the devouring seed, which allowed him to maintain his field of vision slightly. He vaguely saw that the red fog had already spread into the underground cave's passageway, and signs of the mud rotting appeared wherever the fog passed.

At the same time, Wang Baole instinctively sensed an extreme level of danger. If he were to come into contact with the red fog, there was no doubt that he would die. Therefore, he grabbed hold of Li Wan'er, who had lost all her spirit energy, and he charged towards the secret chamber.

Li Wan'er wanted to struggle but also seemed to have felt the danger from the fast approaching fog. Therefore, without needing Wang Baole to pull her along, she quickly charged towards the secret chamber.

However, it was still too late for both of them. The blood-colored fog churned, and it only spread through half the passageway without advancing further. However, when the duo entered the secret chamber and shut the secret chamber door behind them, a small portion of the fog seemed to have sensed Wang Baole and chased after them like a living creature. It followed the door as it was closing, wriggling into Wang Baole through his nose and mouth!

Wang Baole was shocked and instantly felt an indescribable pain in his body as if his life and spirit were dissolving. Thankfully, it was only a tiny portion of the red fog, and Wang Baole's body could disintegrate it. Therefore, the pain was only temporary, disappearing as quickly as it appeared. However, he already burst out in a sweat, and a sense of weakness instantly appeared.

In that pitch-black environment, the duo waited for a moment while still on high alert. Realizing that the red fog only seemed to have spread through half the length of the passageway without advancing further into the secret chamber, they finally heaved a sigh of relief.

What they didn't know was that this red fog didn't only appear where they were; instead, it had emerged simultaneously in many locations on Mars!

Chapter 320: Bizarre Village!

At the same instant, blood-colored winds appeared on almost thirty percent of Mars. It was an extremely bizarre scene as the winds blew in all directions. A thing like this had never happened before, either after the establishment of the Martian Colony City or ever before in history.

If one were to look at Mars from outer space, they could see that the red-colored fog was like the tides, spreading at high speed and covering an increasingly large area.

This event was instantly detected by the array formation on Mars, which led to a warning signal being sent out. This immediately caught the attention of the Martian Colony City, and people like the Governor and Deputy Governor personally made the trip down to the core of the array formation to find out what was going on.

The core of the array formation was located in the military base of Mars. It was extremely large, covering over sixty percent of Mars. At the same time, even though it was meant for military use, the one with the most authority over it was the Governor.

Right now, on the enormous spirit screen located within the military base, an illusory model of Mars could be seen. Thirty percent of the region of the model was covered with churning red fog. It was extremely harrowing to watch, and in the crowd which densely covered the area, the military elites, the Governor, as well as other personnel looked solemn.

"There weren't any signs. Suddenly, this blood-colored fog appeared."

"Based on the investigations carried out by the sentry guards stationed outside, the blood fog was found to be corrosive and has the capability to restrict spirits. Furthermore, an unknown creature seems to exist within the fog..." The person in command of the military was a burly middle-aged man. Right now, he was standing behind the Governor as he spoke with all seriousness.

"Therefore, other than reporting the information to you, we sincerely request for the Governor to use your authority to increase the power of the Mars array formation in order to better investigate the situation so that we can get a clear understanding of what is going on inside the fog!"

The Governor, dressed in a bright red long robe, frowned as she stared at the spirit screen. After a brief moment of silence, she suddenly raised her right hand, activating her hand seals as she pressed the enormous spirit screen in front of her through the air.

As the spirit screen was pressed, it instantly vibrated, and the image on it began to blur immediately. However, very quickly, the image reappeared much clearer than before, as if it could permeate the screen. The unclear figure formed by the blood-colored fog seemed to have been filtered, such that everyone could vaguely see what was within the blood-colored fog!

What was bizarre was that within the blood-colored fog, the ground and the rocks appeared normal. However, both the common and unique vegetation that the Federation had been trying to cultivate following the appearance of Spirit Qi on Mars had withered and died.

At the same time, there seemed to be several things flowing within the fog. The things that were flowing all looked different, seemingly translucent as they blended with the fog. They could be seen through the array formation but were completely invisible to the naked eye.

This made everyone even more solemn. At the same time, the Martian Colony Governor suddenly looked towards a small area on the northwestern area of the Mars model.

"Hmm?" The pupils of the Mars Governor constricted, and with her finger pointing at it, the area was instantly magnified. Immediately, the entire spirit screen turned blood red, and after layers of filtering,

everyone finally managed to see the true appearance of the area beneath the blood-colored fog. They all gasped in disbelief!

There it was... a village!

"Impossible!" The burly middle-aged man from the military let out a voiceless scream. At the same time, gasps of shock and disbelief, as well as sounds of heavy breathing, emerged from the people around him.

"How could there be a village on Mars?"

"I know that place. I'm very sure that it was just a basin in that location previously. There was no village!"

As the crowd was gripped in shock, the giant tree also took a few steps forward to take a closer look. He then waved his hand suddenly, minimizing the area on the screen before pointing at several other regions of Mars. Soon, images of the various areas appeared on the screen, each having identical, bizarre looking villages within them!

There were a total of seven such areas!

The atmosphere grew more solemn. As people grew more surprised, the detection by the array formation showed that there wasn't a high level of danger in those seven villages. At the same time, it detected that within the seven villages, there was the existence of broken array formations and damaged Dharmic treasures.

This made the seven villages even more mysterious.

"Interesting..." The Mars Governor narrowed her eyes, revealing a glint of danger in them. After a brief moment of silence, she gave a command.

"According to the detection done by the array formation, the seven areas aren't considered very dangerous. However, we shouldn't belittle them. This matter shall be placed under your charge, General Li. Send out seven troops to investigate each of these seven areas at the same time. Furthermore, be alert and make sure that a Core Formation cultivator leads each team.

"At the same time, gather all the Array Runes cultivators as well as Dharmic Armament cultivators in the Martian City and bring them along. If the objects within the seven areas can't be brought out, then they are to research them on the spot!"

General Li from the military immediately obeyed the command. He then turned around, efficiently making plans to carry out the command. With that, the entire Mars military was activated, and as commands were passed down, the identities and residential addresses of Array Runes and Dharmic Armament cultivators within Martian Colony City were retrieved.

Wang Baole and Lin Tianhao's name were among the data reviewed.

As the command was sent out, numerous cruisers rushed out from the military base. With the fastest speed, they ferried the Array Runes and Dharmic Armament cultivators to accompany the seven branch teams.

At the same time, in order to prevent widespread panic, the entire mission was conducted in secrecy.

One of the cruisers headed directly to Dao Mountain Mist Academy at high speed. After it arrived in Dao Mountain Mist Academy, it immediately sent a voice transmission to Wang Baole. However, it was futile as there was no reply received. That made the military personnel who were looking for Wang Baole troubled. Instead, they located Lin Tianhao.

The arrival of the military surprised Lin Tianhao, and he immediately sent a voice transmission to Wang Baole. However, he was unable to contact him as well. In the end, with the military running out of time, they looked at Lin Tianhao and announced.

“Lin Tianhao, you have been drafted!”

Lin Tianhao didn’t know how to nor was he able to reject being drafted by the military. After a few silent breaths, he immediately nodded his head and stepped into the military cruiser, leaving Dao Mountain Mist Academy.

Before long, the seven unique cruisers that could withstand a brief moment of Spirit Restriction emerged from Martian City, heading at high speed in seven different directions.

At the same time, outside the Colonial City in the wilderness, on the plains within the blood-colored fog, it was completely dark in the underground cave where the evil cultivator previously resided. In the darkness, Wang Baole sat down after guiding himself using the wall. He gasped as he thought about the sudden appearance and disappeared of extreme pain despite his body disintegrating the blood-colored fog that entered him.

“Quiet!” Li Wan’er ordered softly the moment Wang Baole gasped.

Wang Baole stared at her. However, when he thought about the misunderstanding he had towards her previously, he sneered under his breath and unwillingly followed suit without paying further attention. He shut his eyes and tried to connect with the devouring seed, so as to regain his cultivation as soon as possible.

At the same time, he was also feeling troubled. Being trapped where he was without doing anything felt too passive. However, he understood clearly that the blood-colored fog outside would probably not last long. Furthermore, the longer he and Li Wan’er remained uncontactable, the more likely the Martian Colonial City would realize. Then, following the clues, they should be able to locate them.

Thankfully, I contacted the Sect Lord previously. If I don’t reply to his messages for an extended period of time, he will probably know that trouble occurred!

With that thought, Wang Baole heaved a sigh of relief. Simultaneously, he continued to strengthen his connection with the devouring seed. Li Wan’er also tried all ways to regain her cultivation.

The problem was that the Spirit Restriction happened so suddenly and was on a large scale. It appeared that neither of their cultivations couldn’t be regained within a short time. As for the underground cave, it wouldn’t have mattered if it was merely shrouded in darkness. What made it worse was that it was now winter on Mars, and temperatures were already low. On normal days, the array formation provided some form of protection in the Colonial City. Even if they were to go outdoors, their cultivation could protect them, allowing them to withstand Mars’ temperatures.

However, right now, due to the Spirit Restriction, Wang Baole and Li Wan'er seemed to have immediately become commoners. Not only was their cultivation restricted, they gradually grew incapable of withstanding the cold.

After half an hour, the duo, who had kept silent since the start, began to feel an increasingly stronger sense of cold in the underground cave. Wang Baole, despite being fat and thick-skinned, began to feel weaker and colder as his body was somewhat exhausted when it tried to disintegrate the red fog.

As for Li Wan'er, even though her cultivation exceeded that of Wang Baole's, she wasn't as strong physically. Therefore, very quickly, Wang Baole heard Li Wan'er's teeth chattering as she shivered, as well as her gradually weakening breathing.

It could be that the dip in temperature was very significant, or that it was low, to begin with, but the emergence of the red fog affected and weakened the duo—causing Li Wan'er to lose heat extremely quickly. She couldn't withstand it any longer.

If this were to carry on, even if the duo's bodies evolved by virtue of the Spirit Qi, which could allow them to maintain the demands for breathing, they would still die eventually!

Seeing that that was the case, Wang Baole hesitated. Even though Li Wan'er was trembling, she still remained calm as she spoke, her voice emerging in the darkness.

"Wang Baole, take off your clothes."