SPIRIT REALM

BOOK 06

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Spirit Realm

(灵域)

by

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Synopsis

Thirty thousand years ago, the Heaven Fighting Race who called themselves “Gods” invaded the Spirit Realm. Hundreds of races rose up in resistance, but ultimately suffered a crushing defeat. The Human Race was the first to concede, and the rest of the Hundred Races soon followed in succession.

During the subsequent ten thousand years, all of the races were enslaved by the Heaven Fighting Race. They were cruelly treated, and lived beneath the shadow of terror.

The Heaven Fighting Race’s march of conquest did not stop there. With the Spirit Realm as the starting point, they invaded other secret dimensions, and spread war to all corners of existence. After greatly exhausting their combat strength, they were finally defeated by the Hundred Races who took advantage of this opportunity. With no other choice, they fled to the starry skies outside the realm.

Thirty thousand years later, in an era where the Heaven Fighting Race has already faded to become ancient legend, an amnesiac youth possessing the Heaven Fighting Race’s bloodline is being fostered in an insignificant household. Whilst struggling to live on, he silently awaits the day of the bloodline’s awakening.

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Chapter 501: Kill Them Slowly

The footsteps of the eastern barbarians continued while everyone hesitated. The barbarians swiftly gathered and moved to form a ring surrounding the thunder lagoon. Then, they brandished their bows and eyed them savagely.

The martial practitioners of every force from the Land of Chaos wore expressions that were as grim as tainted water. Every so often, they would look at the thunder lagoon behind them, still struggling to make a decision.

“Retreat for now!”

Qin Lie gritted his teeth, becoming the first person to turn away. He reluctantly moved in the opposite direction which the eastern barbarians had yet to reach.

“Damn it!” Du Xiangyang cursed angrily, also turning around.

Luo Chen said nothing, his expression somber.

Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian sighed helplessly.

Chu Li simply hugged He Wei’s corpse tightly, refusing to move.

“We have to go now, Chu Li. We’ll come back later,” Qin Lie said softly.

Chu Li abruptly raised his head to look at Qin Lie, harsh, icy light shooting from his eyes. A frightening killing intent welled up inside of them.

Qin Lie nodded. “Despite entering the fastest, the forces that went into the thunder lagoon failed to acquire a single Pure Soul Spring. Instead, they left eight corpses behind. This means that seizing the Pure Soul Springs isn’t as easy as everyone imagined.”

Qin Lie’s words brought hope to their faces, and they quickly came to agree with him.

Even Chu Li wordlessly got to his feet.

“We’re the ones farthest from the eastern barbarians! Let’s go!” Qin Lie exclaimed.

Becoming the first group to retreat, everyone followed Qin Lie’s lead and left without another glance at the thunder lagoon.

“Qin Lie’s group has retreated!” Su Yan yelled in surprise.

The leaders of the three remaining forces focused their sharp gazes on Qin Lie.

Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, Huang Zhuli, and Ye Yihao paused for a moment, exchanging glances, then gritted their teeth and yelled,

“Retreat!”

The three forces under their control turned and headed in the direction that Qin Lie’s group had escaped in. They moved like lightning, afraid of being left behind.

In the opposite direction, Sen Ye, leader of the eastern barbarians, grinned and laughed wickedly.

“Pursue them for two hundred and fifty kilometers!” he yelled.

Dozens of eastern barbarian obeyed his command, charging toward their enemies and roaring like a herd of violent beasts.

The Forbidden Land of Thunder was once again the location of an extraordinary occurrence. The four forces representing the Land of Chaos made a mad dash for the swamplands under the lead of Qin Lie.

Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain followed his group closely, afraid of being left behind.

Farther back, dozens of eastern barbarians drew their giant curved bows, raining arrows down upon them like a meteor shower. The continuous rain of arrows emitted shrill whistling noises, shooting toward the three forces of the Land of Chaos.

Blood curdling screams rang out as martial practitioners of the

three great families fell victim to the rain of arrows and died wretched deaths.

“Hahaha, these are the so-called elites of the Land of Chaos? They practically die in one shot!”

“One day, we eastern barbarians shall enter the Land of Chaos and bathe them in blood!”

“The nine great Silver rank forces of the Land of Chaos have killed too many of our clansmen. They must pay for their despicable deeds with blood!”

“Cut their heads from their bodies and give them to me. They are our trophies!”

The eastern barbarians hooted and yelled as they ran, occasionally shooting arrows and killing the martial practitioners at the back of the escaping group.

Qin Lie’s group was in the front of that group and out of firing range, so none of them were hit.

This merry chase lasted for several hundred kilometers before Qin Lie arrived at a short, desolate hill and came to a sudden stop.

He closed his eyes and sensed the area, then said, “We’re fine now!”

Everyone in his group slowed to a stop, taking positions around him. From their elevated vantage point, they looked back and watched Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. The martial practitioners of the three forces were still frantically fleeing from the pursuing onslaught of arrows.

"The eastern barbarians are extremely skilled in archery. Their proficiency has reached such a high level that nearly every single one of them is an amazing marksman," Xue Moyan explained in a soft voice. "The eastern barbarians live in a world rampant with violent beasts and evil races. The horrid environment they are born into forces them to become brave, strong fighters that are unafraid of death."

"Between the Land of Chaos and the eastern barbarians, who holds the advantage?" Qin Lie asked.

"We do, of course!" Du Xiangyang smiled proudly. "The eastern barbarians may be formidable and unafraid of death, but the martial practitioners of the Land of Chaos aren't pushovers either. We have a more diverse range of spirit arts and more advanced spirit artifacts. The advantages provided by our powerful spirit artifacts alone can suppress the eastern barbarians and leave them no room to breathe, not to mention the fact that we're smarter."

"The eastern barbarians are a warmongering people, but all of their invasions against us has ended terribly for them." Pan Qianqian lifted her head and said, "The eastern barbarians don't have skilled artificers, so they are unable to forge high grade spirit

artifacts for themselves. They lack flying spirit artifacts, offensive spirit artifacts, and large-scale defensive spirit artifacts.

"As a result, the eastern barbarians haven't been able to gain the upper hand in many battles. In fact, we'd chase them all the way back to their territory. Unfortunately, their territories have special terrain and unknown forbidden lands that allow them to escape our grasp. They can even use them to catch us off guard from time to time, ambushing us."

"So the eastern barbarians aren't as scary as we think?" Qin Lie asked.

"But there's still a lot of them," Pan Qianqian said bitterly.

"Then we'll split them up and kill them slowly!" Luo Chen exclaimed harshly.

"That's right." Qin Lie smiled.

Chu Li put He Wei's body down gently and stepped forward.

"What's your plan, Qin Lie?" he asked in a grim voice, watching the other three forces running toward the top of the hill they were currently standing on.

"What do you think we should do, everyone?" Qin Lie narrowed his eyes.

“There are too many eastern barbarians. With our numbers, it’ll be too difficult to deal with over two hundred of them at once.” Du Xiangyang rubbed his chin, quietly staring at Xue Moyan before saying, “Perhaps, we should put our feud with Black Voodoo cult to the side for now. What do you say?”

“I understand.” Xue Moyan nodded slightly.

“Then let us kill the eastern barbarians first!” Qin Lie declared.

“Alright!”

From their position at the top of the hill, Qin Lie’s group looked down at the dozens of martial practitioners bringing up the rear of the three great forces. All of them belonged to Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families.

“Too bad I’m all out of Terminator Profound Bombs! Otherwise, I would have let them all die horribly despite there being two hundred eastern barbarians!” Chu Li hissed in a raspy voice.

As he spoke, Chu Li unleashed his spirit artifact. His clothing transformed, becoming armor adorned with stars that shone brilliantly and radiated intense spirit energy.

Now clad in spirit armor shining with starlight, Chu Li hovered into the air, suspended above the short hill.

Suddenly, specks of light emerged from within his armor.

“Flowing Sandstorm!”

Tens of thousands of glittering miniscule stars flowed from every pore of Chu Li’s body, swiftly forming a violent tempest around him.

However, the chaos only lasted for a moment before Chu Li twisted the golden sandstorm toward the eastern barbarians.

In the eye of the violent storm, countless specks of golden light resembling fine sand surrounded Chu Li. However, this gold sand possessed a sharp, bladelike aura.

“Swoosh! Whoosh!”

Chu Li had essentially become a golden sandstorm that spun through the air with destructive force.

The golden storm met the rain of arrows descending down upon the three forces, instantly crushing the projectiles into particles of light on contact.

The moment Song Tingyu saw Chu Li’s attack, she couldn’t help but softly exclaim, “I-is this Chu Li’s true strength?”

The sight astonished Qin Lie and Xie Jingxuan as well.

Clad in star spirit armor, Chu Li clearly cultivated a spirit art related to stars. Yet the three of them from the Scarlet Tide Continent never thought he'd soar into the sky and create a violent storm, intending to use its might to go on a rampage.

Chu Li was clearly more proficient in using a sandstorm spirit art

Qin Lie subconsciously looked to Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang, and the others. He noticed that all of them wore calm expressions, obviously not surprised at all.

It seemed like they had already known about Chu Li's true capabilities and that his strength and fame did not originate from the Terminator Profound Bombs alone.

"Chu Li is definitely the strongest of all the ringers who entered the Graveyard of Gods!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed softly.

Qin Lie silently nodded.

Soon after Chu Li took action, Luo Chen channeled spirit energy into the sharp sword he wielded. Then it shot toward the eastern barbarians like a beam of light.

Light emerged from the tip of the sword, becoming several dozens of meters long. It contained a peerless sharpness, resembling a blade that could cut through space, and its aura was just as terrifying.

Then, Xue Moyan suddenly sat on the ground. The Illusory Demon Orb in her hands floated away from her, rising high into the air. Once it reached a certain height, it seemed as if a pair of bright eyes had appeared in the sky, taking in the scene happening below.

A beautiful, indistinct figure could be seen inside of the orb. If one looked at it closely, they would realize that the figure was Xue Moyan.

Her visage in the orb looked like a white ghost.

Of the eastern barbarians beneath the Illusory Demon Orb, those who raised their heads to look at it underwent a strange change..

Their faces went blank, a dazed look in their eyes.

They looked as if they had seen a person dear to them within the Illusory Demon Orb.

Xue Moyan’s beautiful appearance in the Illusory Demon Orb seemed capable of influencing the hearts of anyone who gazed upon it, miraculously taking on the appearance of thousands of people at once.

Many eastern barbarians lost themselves in the illusion, even the one that was more than two meters tall, had skin as tough as granite, and carried the basket of human heads on his back.

“Mother…” the enormous barbarian muttered to himself in a low voice, suddenly coming to a stop. Tears actually welled in his eyes.

At least half of the dozens of eastern barbarians lost their minds to the Illusory Demon Orbs magical powers and froze where they were, unable to move any farther.

Chu Li’s golden sandstorm and Luo Chen’s peerlessly sharp blade seized the opportunity that Xue Moyan’s Illusory Demon Orb had created, charging into the midst of the eastern barbarians.

Animalistic shrieks rang out as the first eastern barbarians were swallowed by the sandstorm, resulting in the dazed barbarians waking up one after another.

At this point, the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain finally reacted, abruptly turning around to unleash their respective spirit artifacts and counterattack.

“Uooooooooooh!”

Waking up from the illusion-induced daze, the giant eastern barbarian howled at the sky like a beast that had lost its mother.

Immediately afterward, he pounded the ground with his fists.

The giant barbarian's stony fists pummeled the ground, scattering bright yellow spirit energy and creating strange rumbling noises.

"Crack!"

The gray, muddy soil on the surface of the swampland transformed into countless sharp arrows that shot into the area in front of the eastern barbarian giant.

These dark gray arrows carried a terrifying amount of energy. They resembled snakes as they veered toward the three forces of martial practitioners, also targeting the center of the sandstorm where Chu Li was.

The eastern barbarian giant howled continuously, going into a rage and stampeding toward the three forces that had just turned around.

He slammed into a Lin Family martial practitioner like a massive boulder, crushing the man's bones.

Chapter 502: Colorful Arrow Rain

“Kill them all, Yan Min!” numerous eastern barbarians cried out.

All of them wore looks of excitement as they watched their giant ally, eyes glittering with violence.

“Crack!”

The eastern barbarian giant called “Yan Min” ran toward another martial practitioner, one belonging to the Xiahou Family.

He rammed into that martial practitioner like a giant beast made of iron and stone.

That martial practitioner took his last breath midair, and his life energy dissipated before he even hit the ground.

At the same time, the tens of thousands of mud arrows formed by Yan Min fell upon the center of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners like a swampy rain.

This assault prevented Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain from immediately unleashing a frenzied counterattack.

“Zzzt!”

Energy stretched from Luo Chen's sword, extending the length of its blade by several meters. It surged into the fray, slicing through the waists of three eastern barbarians.

The sword seemed to cut through space, as if the three barbarians were just an afterthought.

The energy-tipped sword continued to spin through the air above the eastern barbarians, harvesting lives left and right.

At the same time, Chu Li enveloped numerous eastern barbarians with his golden sandstorm.

Blood dyed the golden storm with a hint of scarlet amidst the screams of its victims.

Blood would shoot from the storm every so often, drenching the ground around it. The sight was incredibly shocking.

Chu Li was clearly on a killing spree!

"This is..."

Ye Yihao had initially looked into the sky with apprehension, worried that the attacks of Chu Li and Luo Chen would target them as well.

Yet he was surprised to discover that Luo Chen's sword, Chu Li in

his golden sandstorm, and even Xue Moyan's Illusory Demon Orb had flown right over them and gone straight for the eastern barbarians.

After a brief moment of hesitation, Ye Yihao came to his senses and sinisterly said, "Kill the eastern barbarians first!"

"Kill the eastern barbarians first!" Feng Yiyou and Yu Men also shouted.

"Moon Blade Barricade!" Feng Yiyou tossed a spatial ring into the air, a grim look on his face.

A multitude of bright silver crescent blades instantly came into existence, covering the sky above Celestial Artifact Sect like a divine umbrella.

Feng Yiyou's eyes shone with silver light as he used his mind consciousness and spirit energy to control the spirit artifact.

The Moon Blade Barricade possessed both offensive and defensive capabilities. In being summoned for the current situation, its crescent blades of light worked in tandem to create a literal meat grinder that whistled toward the eastern barbarians.

Any eastern barbarian that failed to get out of the way in time were cut to pieces by those silver blades. Blood curdling screams could be heard as arms and legs were lost.

A couple of them were instantly decapitated.

“Release the voodoo insects! Let’s see if these eastern barbarians have the ability to rule the entire Graveyard of Gods!” Huang Zhuli laughed coldly.

The Black Crystal Sky Scorpion and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen emerged from her and Ye Yihao’s bodies and released shrill whistling sounds. Black smoke trailed behind them as they flew toward the eastern barbarians.

Yu Men whirled around and charged toward the barbarians with a low howl. “Kill them!”

And just like that, a bloody battle commenced.

Every person on the side of the eastern barbarians paused for a brief moment, gathering their strength to draw their bows.

Their eyes exuded bloodlust, and their bows and arrows surged with a terrifying aura of spirit energy.

Every single eastern barbarian was able to perfectly channel the spirit art they cultivated into their bow and arrow. Some arrows resembled sharp icicles and others burned with colorful, blistering flames. Some even glowed with dazzling, metallic light sharp enough to pierce the heavens.

“Fire!”

Triggered by that explosive yell, arrows of all types shot into the air.

These new arrows, imbued with the refined spirit energy from the eastern barbarians, were several times stronger than the previous arrows had been.

Even from his position atop the desolate hill, Qin Lie could sense just how terrifying the spirit energy of those arrows was.

Fully saturated in spirit energy, those arrows were no longer normal. The energy inside of them was enough to blast a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner to gory pieces.

In the face of this onslaught, the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain cried out. Every single one of them summoned their respective shields of light, all of which were also enhanced with various defensive effects.

A Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner formed a greenish gray shield of light around his body, but an arrow radiating bright metallic light shattered it.. The metallic arrow pierced his heart, killing him instantly.

However, just as the eastern barbarians began killing martial practitioners with their arrows, Feng Yiyou’s Moon Blade Barricade and the voodoo insects of Black Voodoo Cult reached the eastern barbarians.

These, along with Chu Li's golden storm and Luo Chen's energy tipped sword, ensured that eastern barbarians were constantly dying as well.

Both sides had indisputably engaged each other in pitched battle.

"Die!"

Yan Min, the eastern barbarian giant, led the charge into the center of the Land of Chaos martial practitioners like an enormous boulder.

Martial practitioners from the three great families surrounded the giant, attacking him continuously, but anyone who came within ten meters of him immediately went pale and became unable to do anything. Any martial practitioner unlucky enough to be caught in that radius failed to respond to the sudden change and was crushed by Yan Min's rock-like body.

Just like that, he rammed five people to death one after another

"Let me at him!" Xiahou Yuan roared angrily, moving toward the giant.

However, he too went pale as soon as he got close.

"Something's wrong!" Xiahou Yuan cried out. Since he had

known that something strange was happening from the very beginning, he retreated from Yan Min's ten meter radius as soon as he began to feel affected. "H-he can mess with a person's dantian and prevent spirit energy from circulating!"

Everyone around him instantly realized what was going on.

"Attack him with spirit artifacts!" Huang Zhuli ordered.

A dark green serpent spear emerged from a Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner's sleeve, glowing with emerald light.

The spear rose into the air and flickered, bringing three strange snakes into existence. These snakes were representations of pure, condensed spirit energy, and were capable of greatly enhancing the spear's power.

The spear shot toward Yan Min, but just as it was about to strike him, the emerald spirit energy snakes burst into scattered bits of light and vanished.

The eastern barbarian giant seized the spear from the air with a nasty grin, snapping it in half. He then proceeded to charge the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner that had sent it to attack him.

That martial practitioner had been deeply shocked by the serpent spear's sudden destruction and failed to avoid Yan Min's charge in time. Once the giant closed in on him, the spirit sea of the martial

practitioner's dantian fell into disorder, and he lost the ability to escape.

That left him with no other fate but death by mutilation.

"You will lose control of your spirit energies as soon as you approach me! All spirit artifacts powered by spirit energy also cannot harm me!" Yan Min bellowed then grinned wickedly. He charged down martial practitioners left and right, eventually resulting in no man's land forming around him.

"Kill them all, Yan Min!" the eastern barbarians roared.

"Leave it to me! I can kill them all by myself! I won't even need your help!" Yan Min howled strangely.

"This is one difficult opponent. Who would've thought that he'd be able to disrupt the spirit energy around him? He can mess with the dantians of his enemies and render spirit artifacts that use spirit energy harmless. He won't be easy to deal with," Du Xiangyang said, surprise filling his face.

Aside from Luo Chen, Chu Li, and Xue Moyan, everyone else in Qin Lie's group currently stood on the sidelines, calmly observing the battle.

From their point of view, the three forces were not actually at a disadvantage against the eastern barbarians.

The only headache of Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was that giant. They didn't have a good method of dealing with him at the moment.

"When that person disrupts the spirit sea of his opponents, he does the same to his own spirit energy." Xie Jingxuan spoke up suddenly, looking at the people beside her. "He is only able to kill people using his explosive physical power, relying on a different kind of hard, fierce energy. Anybody who possesses a tough body and extraordinary combat potential that doesn't rely on their dantian's spirit sea can definitely go toe to toe with him.

She eyed Qin Lie, Xue Moyan, and Du Xiangyang.

"Jingxuan, are you saying that these three... are all qualified to fight against that guy?" Song Tingyu's eyes twirled.

"They're strong enough to fight him for a while." Xie Jingxuan calmly paused to look at Xue Moyan, then turned to Du Xiangyang before saying, "Qin Lie, you definitely aren't any weaker than that eastern barbarian without your dantian's spirit sea. You can match him with just your physical combat power alone!"

"Heh... I guess I underestimated you guys." Song Tingyu pursed her lips into a smile.

"Miss Xie, I am undeserving of such high praise. I certainly don't possess such strength, haha." Du Xiangyang rubbed his nose and laughed dryly.

He still wanted to conceal his true strength.

Song Tingyu then looked at Xue Moyan.

“Miss Xue, y-you can fight that guy too?” Pan Qianqian asked in surprise.

“I might not be able to kill him, but I can probably stop him from continuing his rampage. I suppose I’ll...” Xue Moyan frowned slightly.

“No.” Xie Jingxuan shook her head. “You don’t need to go down there. He should be able to handle that eastern barbarian without using his dantian’s spirit sea.”

She pointed at someone.

The group identified that person then softly exclaimed, “Yu Men?”

“Yes, him. He hasn’t joined the fray yet because that giant’s only been terrorizing Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families,” Xie Jingxuan said blankly, instantly exposing Yu Men’s treacherous plot.

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Chapter 503: Thunder Crystal Beast

After obtaining the Wood Race's inheritance, Xie Jingxuan's ability to sense a person's life force rose to completely new heights.

Now she could analyze a person's life force and use that to easily deduce the toughness of their physique.

She could more or less identify a person's realm and tell how strong they actually were.

In her eyes, Du Xiangyang and Xue Moyan were literally naked.

Terrifying blood spirit energy flowed inside of Xue Moyan's body because she secretly cultivated the Blood Spirit Art. Instead of her dantian's spirit sea, it was her small, delicate figure that housed that energy.

Even if her dantian's spirit sea were thrown into disarray, preventing her from unleashing the spirit arts of Illusory Demon Sect, she would still be able to battle Yan Min with just the Blood Spirit Art.

As for Du Xiangyang...

Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and the others subconsciously looked at him, unable to hide the curiosity in their eyes.

“Alright, alright.” Du Xiangyang raised his hands and smiled bitterly. “I admit that Miss Xie’s eyes are as bright as a torch. Once upon a time… I put quite a lot of effort into tempering my body.”

Du Xiangyang admitted to the deed, yet he still hadn’t explained how or why.

However, it was at this moment that the situation before the desolate hill changed once more.

Once the eastern barbarian called Yan Min finished running wild in locations that martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families were gathered, he turned his attention to Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s Yu Men and moved in that direction.

Noticing this, several Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners retreated to Yu Men’s side with grim expressions.

Yu Men unleashed a guttural roar. Every bone in his body began to crack in succession as he instantly grew in size, swelling up like a balloon.

In just ten short breaths of time, Yu Men grew to become over two meters tall. Thick hair now adorned his neck, his cheeks, and his half-exposed arms.

Even his bones had swelled to become abnormally large.

A fierce, domineering aura of bloodlust gushed from every pore in Yu Men's body.

His eyes resembled those of a ferocious beast, cruel and inhuman. Even his teeth seemed to resemble be the fangs of an animal, protruding from his lips and giving him a frightening appearance.

"Beast Manifestation!"

Ye Yihao frowned deeply as he subconsciously gestured for his men to move away as far from Yu Men as possible.

"Stay away from Yu Men. Transforming into a beast completely exposes his bloodthirsty nature. It'll be extremely difficult for him to control his madness," Su Yan told her people.

Even when Yu Men first began his beast transformation, the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners by his side retreated from him step by step.

Yan Min, the eastern barbarian giant, lumbered over to Yu Men like a walking mountain.

For the first time since his unbridled rampage through the three forces of the Land of Chaos had begun, a serious expression appeared on this frightening man's face. His eyes, the color of which constantly alternated between gray and white, focused on the opponent before him.

He too had noticed how abnormal Yu Men was.

Then, in the next moment, the howl of an ancient predator erupted from Yu Men's throat as he suddenly charged Yan Min.

Soul shadows of dozens of terrifying beasts appeared behind Yu Men. Among those beasts, one could make out the shapes of a Purple-eyed Flame Lion King, a Deep Seawater Jade Dragon, and a Bloodmane Giant Ape. Every single one of the soul shadows was a violent, berserk creature, all of which roared toward the sky in an astounding display of ferocity.

These were the unbending beast souls hidden within Yu Men's body!

Yu Men had refined these beast souls into his blood and bones. If he lost his temper and transformed into this bestial shape, they would automatically appear and greatly enhance his combat power.

As if he were the king of beasts, Yu Men joined the cacophony of beast souls behind him and let out a ferocious, feral roar.

He charged directly at Yan Min.

Like the clash of metal, or a meteor striking a mountain, the two men collided in a deafening shower of sparks.

It was like a fight between two ancient ferocious beasts.

“Amazing! Yu Men practically isn’t human!” Song Tingyu inwardly clicked her tongue.

“Actually, there’s a rumor that claims Yu Men… really does have the bloodline of an ancient beast inside of him,” Du Xiangyang said, his eyes narrowed.

“What?” Song Tingyu covered her mouth as surprise appeared on her lovely face. “He actually has such a bloodline?”

“…according to the rumors.” Du Xiangyang shrugged.

Qin Lie rubbed his chin, a pensive look on his face, then turned to look at Xie Jingxuan.

“Can you sense any proof of this?” he asked.

“Yu Men’s blood does vaguely release howls of a ferocious beast as he fights. It’s almost as if a relentless soul of an ancient beast is influencing him,” Xie Jingxuan said after a moment of thought, but she wasn’t sure of herself. “He may actually possess the bloodline of an ancient beast, but I can’t really confirm it…”

“With Yu Men suppressing the evil flame that is Yan Min, it shouldn’t be too hard for the remainder of the three forces to eliminate the eastern barbarians,” Qin Lie said indifferently.

Yan Min and Yu Men continued to clash against each other like savage beasts, tearing and biting one another. They actually fought each other to a standstill.

Ye Yihao, Feng Yiyou, Huang Zhuli, and the martial practitioners of the rest of the forces coordinated with Luo Chen's sword and Chu Li's golden sandstorm to begin attacking the eastern barbarians in return.

The individual combat power of each eastern barbarian was obviously weaker than those of each Land of Chaos elite. As a result, the eastern barbarians constantly retreated from the attacks of the three forces in defeat.

Judging from the current situation, the martial practitioners of the three forces were not at a disadvantage at all. They might even be able to slaughter all of the eastern barbarians after a span of blood-soaked fighting.

Of course, the three great forces would have to pay a price to do so.

"Boom boom boom!"

The terrifying sound of thunder erupted from the dark gray sky. An instant later, heavy rain and thunder fell from the sky all at once

This sudden downpour stretched across several hundred

kilometers.

Everyone present had no choice but to summon shields of light for protection and watch out for lightning bolts as they fought.

“Huh!”

Joy suddenly leaped to Qin Lie’s eyes as he looked at the thunder and lightning in the sky above. A smile appeared at the corners of his lips once more.

“What is it?” Du Xiangyang exclaimed softly.

“Let’s move!” Qin Lie said in a low voice. “We’ll retreat, circle around the fighting, then head back to the thunder lagoon!”

Qin Lie’s group reacted to his commands, distracted from the battle below.

“The eastern barbarians are most likely assaulting the thunder spirit and forcing it to lose its grasp over the thunder and lightning energy in the Forbidden Land of Thunder,” Qin Lie explained with a grin. “I’ve regained control of the thunder and lightning!”

This news made everyone jump for joy.

As they were now, if they avoided the struggle between the three forces and the eastern barbarians and charged over to the thunder

lagoon, Qin Lie's group would most likely fail to face Sen Ye and his hundred or so eastern barbarians.

However, having regained his control over thunder and lightning, Qin Lie would be able to work with the thunder spirit to fight the eastern barbarians on two fronts. Since this was the case, they wouldn't necessarily be at a disadvantage.if Qin Lie regained control of thunder and lightning, he could join hands with the thunder spirit and fight the eastern barbarians both from the inside and outside. In that case, they might not necessarily be at a disadvantage.

"The thunder spirit may be the reason I can now control the power of thunder and lightning. Even if I challenged its authority, it probably thought of me subconsciously in the face of danger. Since my aura is similar to its own, it must consider me the easiest to trust!" Qin Lie said confidently.

"This is great news!" Du Xiangyang's eyes lit up.

"What about Chu Li? He's still fighting the eastern barbarians!" Song Tingyu reminded everyone.

"Let's ignore Chu Li for now. Considering his strength, the eastern barbarians won't be able to harm him. Besides... in his mind, there probably isn't anything more important than killing as many of those savages as possible," Luo Chen said coldly.

As Luo Chen spoke, his sword finished rampaging amidst the eastern barbarians and flew back from its distant location,

returning to his hand.

He obviously wasn't planning to engage these eastern barbarians any longer.

"Alright. We'll pretend to retreat until we're out of range of everyone's tokens, then circle around and return to the thunder lagoon!" Qin Lie exclaimed.

Having come to a consensus, Qin Lie's group turned tail and pretended to run from the thunder lagoon.

As soon as they were out of range of token detection, they circled around and headed to the thunder lagoon from another direction.

After an hour, they were once again at the outskirts of the thunder lagoon.

Thirty or so eastern barbarians stood guard outside of the thunder lagoon and saw Qin Lie's group the moment they arrived. All of those barbarians immediately nocked arrows to their huge bows and aimed at them.

Behind the barbarians, all kinds of divine lights shot from the thunder lagoon into the sky. A colorful rain of arrows, harsh sword beams, and various types of spirit energy constantly flashed at the bottom of the lagoon.

"Capture the Thunder Crystal Beast alive! Alive!" Sen Ye's yells

continuously echoed from the lagoon.

Having appeared in the Graveyard of Gods out of nowhere, these eastern barbarians seemed to be familiar with the thunder spirit, its strength, its value, and how to deal with it.

Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and other elites of the Land of Chaos weren't able to do anything to the thunder spirit. These eastern barbarians, however, seemed to have found a way.

Qin Lie could hear the thunder spirit's angry roars, but the thunder and lightning in the thunder lagoon were clearly weaker than they had been earlier. They were much weaker than when they had been used against Feng Yiyou and the others.

And it only continued to weaken.

"The eastern barbarians seem to have a way to weaken the thunder and lightning inside the thunder lagoon!" Du Xiangyang cried out.

"These savages actually came prepared. It would appear that they entered the Graveyard of Gods a long time ago... they also knew about the seven spirits and the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods!" Luo Chen said grimly.

Luo Chen's words made everyone come to a realization.

The eastern barbarians were extremely familiar with the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods! If they weren't, they wouldn't have used the thunder spirit's true name—Thunder Crystal Beast!

The eastern barbarians were obviously trying to capture the Thunder Crystal Beast. They even knew how to weaken the thunder and lightning inside of the thunder lagoon. This meant that they might know more about the Graveyard of Gods than the forces of the Land of Chaos!

Everyone in Qin Lie's group grew wary as a result of this revelation.

"My renewed control over thunder and lightning might have nothing to do with what the thunder spirit wants... it may have already lost control of the situation!" Qin Lie exclaimed in terror.

The thirty odd eastern barbarians gathered at the edge of the thunder lagoon continued to aim their colorful arrows at Qin Lie's group.

Yet they didn't shoot them.

"I think they may be too far from us," Du Xiangyang said. "The moment they believe we're close enough for their arrows to destroy our shields of light, they'll attack!"

"Let me throw their plan into chaos!" Qin Lie exclaimed in a serious voice.

With that, he circulated Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

“Prak prak prak!”

The thunder and lightning covering the sky and the earth became violent once more. All of it boomed and sparked, converging on Qin Lie from every direction.

After a moment of surprise, everyone else in Qin Lie’s group had no choice but to leave his side.

Qin Lie trembled.

Shock appeared on his face as he raised his head and looked into the dark gray sky. Dazzling streaks of lightning twisted through the sky like dragons with glittering eyes.

“Help me! Please, help me!”

Qin Lie could sense a weak, fleeting aura in every bolt of lightning. The traces of this aura were clearly from the Thunder Crystal Beast inside of the thunder lagoon.

It seemed to be using some unfathomable method to summon him, hoping that he would help it fight off the eastern barbarians.

“Alright! I’ll help you!” Qin Lie focused and unleashed his soul

energy, unconcerned with whether or not the Thunder Crystal Beast could sense it.

Immediately afterward, lightning flashed and thunder roared. Dazzling lightning bolts swept toward the group of eastern barbarians as Qin Lie launched himself in their direction.

Chapter 504: Electrical Dampening Field

“Kill him!”

The leader of the thirty or so eastern barbarians smiled coldly and waved his hands, ordering his men to shoot.

All of a sudden, dozens of colorful arrows flew toward Qin Lie like an iridescent meteor shower.

Chilling cold, burning heat, and immeasurable sharpness instantly locked onto him.

Every arrow was imbued with the spirit energy of an eastern barbarian. Some were even engraved with complicated patterns, like the shape of a snake, turtle, or dragon. These were spirit diagrams that contained exceedingly mysterious spirit energy.

Qin Lie’s expression went icy cold as he streaked closer to the eastern barbarians, eyes glowing with electricity.

He could feel the violent soul intent of poisonous pythons, profound turtles, and dragons seep into his mind and head for his True Soul.

Inside of his soul consciousness, he could see a poisonous python several dozens of meters tall, a spirit turtle the size of a small hill, and a dragon entangled in colorful rays of light.

Soul fragments of the strange beasts flooded his mind, attempting to destroy his True Soul to distract him from the threat of the arrows that had locked onto him.

“I guess these savages have some ability after all,” Qin Lie thought to himself with a cold smile.

“Burst!”

Balls of lightning exploded from his True Soul, transforming into pairs of gigantic, godlike hands of intertwining lightning.

These gigantic hands closed in on the python, turtle, and dragon, grabbing each one and tightening their hold.

The Soul Shadows formed by the soul fragments of these three beasts burst into dazzling particles of light, crushed by the electrical hands.

Three of the eastern barbarians in front of Qin Lie each spat a mouthful of blood at the same time, the light in their eyes growing dim.

The first arrows that had been shot at Qin Lie, the ones engraved with the patterns of a snake, turtle, and dragon, instantly exploded into bits of wood.

“Heh. You imbued the soul fragments of ferocious beasts into arrows and actually tried use them to kill a martial practitioner

that cultivates a thunder spirit art. What wishful thinking."

Qin Lie swung the Astral Thunder Hammer with a strange chuckle, sending several hundred lightning bolts hurtling toward the center of the eastern barbarians.

Thunder and lightning flooded the arrows along the way, shattering one after another.

The colorful arrow rain of the eastern barbarians became an actual rain of arrows as their bits and pieces fell from the sky.

Not a single one came close to touching Qin Lie.

"Thunderstrike!"

A ball of lightning appeared in Qin Lie's mind, then suddenly formed beside his body as well. It resembled a cluster of numerous tiny suns that radiated raw, violent energy as it descended upon the group of eastern barbarians below.

The ball of lightning broke apart as it fell through the sky, spreading into a shower of meteoric light. Each light blasted the eastern barbarians into bloody pieces of flesh and bone, scattering the gore in every direction amidst bloodcurdling screams that resembled wailing ghosts and howling wolves.

Exhilaration shone in Qin Lie's eyes.

With this act of destruction, he discovered that his control over thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder had become even better than before.

He felt as if he had become the eye of the Forbidden Land of Thunder's formation.

That's when he came to a sudden realization.

When Qin Lie had unleashed his soul consciousness earlier, expressing his intent to help the Thunder Crystal Beast, the lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder had formed a strange connection with him.

The Thunder Crystal Beast was using an unfathomable method to empower him!

"You guys deal with the barbarians out here." Qin Lie turned to the rest of his group, exclaiming in a grave voice. "I'm going down into the thunder lagoon!"

With that declaration, Qin Lie flew past the screaming eastern barbarians and charged straight into the thunder lagoon.

Upon hearing his words, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Pan Qianqian immediately plunged into battle and attacked the remaining eastern barbarians.

Sen Ye, the eastern barbarian leader, noticed their approach and cried, “Ma Tuo!”

An eastern barbarian that was as thin as a stick released a low, strange howl, then charged toward Qin Lie’s group. Tattoos of evil ghosts covered his body, and his eyes glowed with a malevolent, eerie light. Loose-fitting clothing draped his intimidating body, flowing as he made threatening movements.

At first glance, this Ma Tuo looked like a wraith from the depths of hell

Qin Lie spared Ma Tuo a quick glance, then turned his attention to the depths of the thunder lagoon. As soon as he saw the Thunder Crystal Beast at its base, his expression underwent a sudden change.

Eight enormous logs of wood sat upright inside the thunder lagoon. Metallic silver threads entangled the wood, crisscrossing to form a gigantic silver web that filled the area.

At the bottom of the thunder lagoon, the thunder and lightning that the Thunder Crystal Beast unleashed struck the expansive silver web. The web glowed with light as the electricity soaked into it, running along its metal strands to its wooden anchors.

The giant, dark gray logs of wood seemed to absorb thunder and lightning energy through the web, greatly weakening the might of the Thunder Crystal Beast’s attacks.

The six Pure Soul Springs that were originally suspended in the air of the thunder lagoon were now floating above the Thunder Crystal Beast in the depths of the lagoon.

On the other hand, Sen Ye and his group of eastern barbarians hovered above the giant silver web. They didn't dare to carelessly approach the depths of the lagoon.

But they still continued to taunt the Thunder Crystal Beast and attack it with their spirit arts and arrows.

Their goal was to anger the thunder spirit to the point that it would unleash its electric flames and lightning bolts in retaliation.

Unfortunately for the Thunder Crystal Beast, the attacks it formed would immediately be dampened and dispersed by the silver web. The eight giant wooden logs would then devour all of the resulting thunder energy.

Using this method, the eastern barbarians were gradually weakening the Thunder Crystal Beast, exhausting its strength until it would no longer be able to fight.

Qin Lie's expression changed when he took this scene in because he immediately understood what was going on.

All eight logs of wood were made from Thunderblitz Trees. These logs of wood and the metallic threads that entangled them made up a formation that felt extremely familiar to Qin Lie.

This formation of wood and metal threads was exactly the same as the formation that his grandfather had constructed in the belly of Herb Mountain!

In the past, Herb Mountain housed a formation of eight stone pillars and metallic silver threads that formed an enormous silver web just like this one.

That formation dampened lightning that descended from the sky, decreasing its terrifying might to a tolerable level that Qin Lie could use to cultivate.

Although they had replaced the stone pillars with the wood of eight Thunderblitz Trees, the eastern barbarians were obviously using the same method to dampen and absorb the thunder and lightning. These logs of wood made it extremely difficult for the Thunder Crystal Beast's attacks to function correctly, continuously weakening the violent lightning within the thunder lagoon.

Qin Lie understood all of this in just a glance.

As of that moment, the eastern barbarian named Ma Tuo had finally made his way to Qin Lie.

"Someone like you who cultivates a thunder spirit art actually dared to recklessly enter this place... How foolish. You're just throwing your life away!" Ma Tuo said with an evil smile. "God knows how much effort we've put into gathering these eight thousand year old logs of Thunderblitz wood! If the Thunder

Crystal Beast can't unleash its full power, someone like you won't be able to do anything either! There's no way we'll let you ruin our plans to obtain the Pure Soul Springs and soul crystals! I'll kill you right now!"

Ma Tuo thrust his hands in Qin Lie's direction, arms straight. Seven spring-loaded bone arrows shot from his loose sleeves like flashes of light.

These seven bone arrows were eerily white and bore engravings of evil ghosts. The stench of poisonous rotting corpses emanated from them.

Seven terrifying wraiths appeared alongside the tips of the arrows and emitted strange howls.

"Krak!"

Thick shields of ice suddenly appeared five meters away from Qin Lie and blocked all seven bone arrows.

"Ice burst!"

The ice shields exploded outward, sending dozens of icicles shooting in every direction like the sharp quills of a porcupine.

The bone arrows that had embedded themselves into the shields of ice contributed to the explosion, scattering in other directions along with the icicles.

Curses erupted from the cloud of eastern barbarians hovering above the thunder lagoon as they rushed to protect themselves or find a place to hide.

Two bone arrows shot back in Ma Tuo's direction, hurtling toward his chest. He swore as well, turning his body sideways to avoid them.

Qin Lie looked down into the depths of the lagoon once more.

Noticeable cracks now marred the crystalline body of the thunder spirit and the surfaces of the soul crystals covering the lagoon's floor. Under the constant attacks of the eastern barbarians, as well as the continuous weakening of its own attacks, the Thunder Crystal Beast getting wounded as it found itself at an increasing disadvantage was inevitable.

"Continue attacking the Thunder Crystal Beast! Grievously injuring it is fine as long as it remains alive!" Sen Ye yelled coldly.

A rain of colorful arrows threaded through the gaps of the giant silver web and descended upon the Thunder Crystal Beast.

A symphony of clanging metals and scattering sparks resounded from the Thunder Crystal Beast's body.

Suddenly, the thunder spirit raised its head and gazed at Qin Lie with intelligent eyes.

The Thunder Crystal Beast's eyes overflowed with sadness, wordlessly begging Qin Lie to help it escape its miserable situation.

"I'll do my best," Qin Lie thought, placing his intent into a wisp of soul consciousness.

Sending that wisp into the electric flames around the Thunder Crystal Beast, he looked at it again.

Gratitude actually appeared in the Thunder Crystal Beast's eyes, clearly understanding his thoughts through any form of lightning or thunder present.

The sight made Qin Lie harden his resolve.

Chapter 505: Seal Broken!

The Thunder Crystal Beast was the thunder spirit of the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

As the eye of the Forbidden Land of Thunder's formation, even if the Thunder Crystal Beast wasn't able to slaughter the eastern barbarians because of the electrical dampening field, it could still greatly empower Qin Lie.

Qin Lie could sense the Thunder Crystal Beast's aura and understand the expectations it had for him from the electric flames and dazzling lightning bolts.

All of the thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder now resonated with Qin Lie in a strange way. He could sense with his True Soul that all of the electrical energy seemed to have become tame.

It seemed that Qin Lie was able to control the Forbidden Land of Thunder in the thunder spirit's place...

"Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons!"

The giant curved bow in Sen Ye's hands burned with ferocious scarlet fire. An arrow of flame the size of an arm swiftly formed inside the bow like a scorching pillar of heat.

If one were to pay close attention to the flame arrow, they would

discover that seven writhing miniature dragons intertwined to form it.

Eerie howls continuously echoed from the dragons as the flame arrow burned.

“Swoosh!”

Sen Ye launched the flame arrow, and its seven writhing dragons locked onto Qin Lie’s aura, rushing toward him with a roar.

A terrifyingly intense heat that threatened to burn the world gushed from the draconic arrow. It seemed as if it would overwhelm Qin Lie like a sea of fire.

Qin Lie grinned as flames approached him, their shine reflecting in his eyes. He prepared to activate the Frost Art and circulate the refined frost energy in his three frost natal palaces.

However, when the flame arrow came within thirty meters of Qin Lie, his expression twisted in shock.

An unspeakably strange energy entered his dantian’s spirit sea like a formless and shadowless wave. In an instant, all of the spirit energy in his dantian’s spirit sea became chaotic. The thunder, earth, and frost energy in all nine of his natal palaces twisted up into a useless ball.

Qin Lie actually lost control of his dantian’s spirit sea for a

moment, rendering him incapable of summoning a shred of energy to defend himself against the flames that were about to flood over him.

This was the same bizarre method that Yan Min used!

When Yan Min and the martial practitioners of the three forces were clashing against each other earlier, anyone who got within ten meters of him would lose control of their spirit energy. Regardless of how refined or powerful their spirit art was, that person's spirit sea would fall victim to an abnormal effect and they wouldn't be able to unleash their power.

Even powerful spirit artifacts would be reduced to common steel, losing all spirit energies upon entering that giant's vicinity.

Qin Lie originally thought this was caused by a unique talent that Yan Min possessed, and that he was the only eastern barbarian capable of nullifying spirit energy.

He hadn't thought that Sen Ye would be capable of the same thing.

In fact, Sen Ye was even more terrifying than Yan Min!

The Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons he fired would disrupt the spirit energy of its targets right before it overwhelmed them!

Such a turn of events would surprise even the calmest person,

causing them to panic and be flooded by flames.

Anyone who fell victim to this would be burned to dust.

This method was even more cruel and wicked than Yan Min's!

Having shot a Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons at Qin Lie, Sen Ye no longer paid attention to him. Instead he turned and shot another one at the Thunder Crystal Beast.

He had given up on capturing the Thunder Crystal Beast alive. Now he just wanted to quickly take care of everything inside the thunder lagoon.

Sen Ye was very confident that he would succeed.

He was certain that Qin Lie and the Thunder Crystal Beast would die horrible deaths after firing both flame arrows .

These two divine arrows would put a nail in both their coffins.

"Save me!'

Every electric flame transmitted the soul cries of the Thunder Crystal Beast.

It could sense terrible danger from that arrow.

At the same time, since his dantian's spirit sea was in disarray, Qin Lie couldn't use the frost energy in three of his natal palaces.

And the seven draconic flames soaring through the air were about to reach him.

How could Qin Lie split his concentration and try to protect the Thunder Crystal Beast when he couldn't even protect himself?

"Ma Tuo! That person cultivates a thunder spirit art. His body will be useful if we preserve it. Remember not to cut his head off; I want his corpse intact!"

Sen Ye stared at the Thunder Crystal Beast in the depths of the thunder lagoon and snorted coldly, his back to Ma To.

"Zzzt!"

The buzz of an electric current radiated from the giant silver web, attracting the attention of the eastern barbarians.

They suddenly realized that Qin Lie had struck the web, his body shrouded in flames.

The moment the flame arrow came into contact with his body, the seven dragons that formed the arrow had slipped into his body like seven fiery lights.

Flames had covered Qin Lie's body, and the seven tiny dragons had charged inside of him. He had lost all of his energy and fell toward the bottom of the lagoon.

But instead of falling to the lagoon's muddy floor, he had fallen onto the giant silver web. Electricity soaked into his body as he fell through gaps in the web, crashing against thread after thread of metal and descending toward the Thunder Crystal Beast like a fiery meteor.

At the bottom of the lagoon, the Thunder Crystal Beast continuously moved around like a bolt of lightning, not daring to stop for even a moment.

The other flame arrow chased it like a ray of burning light. It had locked onto the Thunder Crystal Beast's aura, relentlessly pursuing the thunder spirit as if it had a mind of its own.

The Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons was extraordinarily vicious. As soon as Sen Ye locked onto his prey with his mind consciousness, that poor soul wouldn't be able to avoid it in any way. No matter how much his target ran, if they couldn't forcefully destroy the arrow, they would be pursued until they were struck.

Simply dodging it wouldn't put and end to their crisis.

"Boom boom!"

Qin Lie's flame-covered body slammed into the floor of the lagoon, shattering numerous soul crystals.

"Dammit! He shattered a lot of soul crystals! What a waste!" the eastern barbarians swore.

"Are we almost done?" someone asked Sen Ye.

"The Thunder Crystal Beast hasn't collapsed yet. Just wait. Keep waiting!" Sen Ye smiled savagely. "Heh, this is good. As long as the Thunder Crystal Beast doesn't stop, neither will my Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons . Once I've exhausted all of its strength, I will be able to capture it alive and unharmed. That is the best case scenario!

"We eastern barbarians have finally turned the situation around with this trip. We'll kill all the elites of the Land of Chaos and seize all the precious treasures in the Graveyard of Gods! Hehe! Next time we invade the Land of Chaos, we will achieve a historic victory!

"For too long have we waited for this day! The Land of Chaos will soon be ours! Those nine great Silver rank forces, whatever they're called, should've been slaughtered down to the last man a long time ago!"

All of the eastern barbarians above the thunder lagoon laughed wickedly from behind the giant web of silver metal.

They treated the situation as if everything had been settled, like they'd gained complete control of the Forbidden Land of Thunder. It was clear that they no longer considered Qin Lie and Thunder Crystal Beast threats.

"Eh?! Something's wrong!" Ma To screamed.

The eastern barbarians, all of which were imagining a bright future, looked at him with skeptical eyes.

"That guy! The flames on that guy's body have gone out!" Ma To pointed at Qin Lie.

Every eastern barbarian's gaze turned to the bottom of the lagoon.

The flames that had been burning Qin Lie's body, which currently lay at the bottom of the soul crystal covered lagoon, actually seemed to miraculously seep into his flesh bit by bit.

It was as if he had absorbed the tiny, fiery dragons.

Then, although he should've drawn his last breath and been scorched to ash, Qin Lie sat straight up.

He raised his head and grinned at the eastern barbarians, eyes full of bone-chilling cold.

“Whoosh whoosh!”

Two translucent blood drops of blood emerged from the palm of his left hand, floating into the air and expanding continuously. Matching their increase in size, they burst into flames and grew hotter and hotter.

They slowly took on the shape of two ferocious Fire Qilins!

Under the utterly shocked gazes of the eastern barbarians, the two Fire Qilins turned into wisps of fiery light and shot forward, enveloping the Flame Arrow of Seven Dragons that was chasing the Thunder Crystal Beast. Like a giant whale sucking tons of water into its mouth, the Fire Qilins absorbed the intense flames emanating from the seven intertwining dragons that made up the arrow.

“Fire Qilins! Those are the essences of the Fire Qilin, the first spirit of the Forbidden Land of Flame!” Ma Tuo went pale with fright. “He captured the Fire Qilin in the Forbidden Land of Flames! God dammit!”

Sen Ye’s face was grim. His earlier confidence instantly disappeared from his face.

In addition to that, the fire spirit energy that had been gushing from his body became weaker after Qin Lie absorbed the flames of both flame arrows.

“Shoot him! Shoot him now!” Sen Ye roared angrily.

As he did, the third blood essence finished absorbing the flames on Qin Lie’s body.

Then Qin Lie coincidentally walked next to one of the logs of Thunderblitz wood.

“This piece of Thunderblitz wood is the key of the electricity dampening field… heh.” Qin Lie smiled, then reached out and touched the giant log of wood.

Thunderblitz Trees were extraordinary trees that could absorb thunder and lightning.

As a result of this unique characteristic, the Thunder Crystal Beast couldn’t do anything. Even though it knew that the electricity dampening field could be destroyed as long as it the Thunderblitz wood formation was disrupted, there was nothing it could do.

The Thunder Crystal Beast was made up of thunder and lightning energy. The only spirit energy it could use was thunder and lightning energy.

That was its only attribute.

Whether it was the thunder and lightning that circulated inside of its body or the thunder and lightning it controlled separately, the logs of Thunderblitz wood were capable of indiscriminately absorbing all of the thunder spirit's energy.

For someone else, moving the wood of a Thunderblitz Tree wasn't hard..

For the Thunder Crystal Beast, however, such a thing was harder than reaching the highest point in the sky.

This was why it hadn't dared to touch any of the eight logs of wood this entire time.

Not only did it not dare to touch them, it basically couldn't touch them because it only had one type of power.

Qin Lie, on the other hand, was different.

"Shoot him! Quickly! Shoot him to death!" Sen Ye roared madly.

Every eastern barbarian present gathered their strength and attempted to overwhelm Qin Lie with waves of fire arrows of all kinds of colors.
Unfortunately, arrows formed through the condensation of one's spirit energy weren't easy to fire. One needed to spend a decent amount of time to fill the arrows with power.

Before any of the barbarians could loose their arrows, both of Qin

Lie's hands already pressed against the log of Thunderblitz wood he was next to.

"Rise!"

Bright yellow haloes filled with the immense power of earth erupted from Qin Lie's body.

"Boom!"

Qin Lie forcefully lifted the dark gray log of wood with both of his hands. As his body slowly leaned backward, so too did the wood of the Thunderblitz Tree.

Eventually, the log of Thunderblitz wood at the center of the formation toppled over, and the giant silver web of metallic threads was instantly torn to pieces.

"Prak!"

Countless sparks of electricity and dull explosions flashed across the giant metallic web.

Amidst the explosions, the strange energy of the electricity dampening field swiftly fell apart. The lockdown on the thunder lagoon quickly vanished.

At the other end of the lagoon, the Flame Arrow of Seven

Dragons that had been chasing the Thunder Crystal Beast lost its power as the two Fire Qilin flames absorbed it.

The Thunder Crystal Beast had finally been saved from disaster.

It came to a sudden stop, raised its head, and stared at the giant silver web responsible for locking down its small world up to this point. As the log of Thunderblitz wood fell and crumbled to pieces, the thunder spirit's shiny, crystalline eyes shone with a cold light.

"Boom boom! Prak!"

The dull rumbling of thunder resounded from every direction in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. Rainbows of lightning that resembled giant dragons gathered in the thunder lagoon like shooting stars.

It seemed as if the god of the Forbidden Land of Thunder had become furious and was now intent on cleansing this tainted, filthy world with a baptism of thunder and lightning and eliminating all beings who dared to challenge its might.

"Retreat! We're leaving this place!" Sen Ye looked into the sky and swore angrily. Yet his eyes still held a look of calm.

Sen Ye knew that the Thunder Crystal Beast had regained control of the Forbidden Land of Thunder, and that the broken metal threads he had brought could no longer be used to form a new electricity dampening field.

This meant he could no longer seal the Thunder Crystal Beast's power.

Regardless of how reluctant he was or how angry he felt, he couldn't do anything but escape.

"Ooooooooooo!"

A horn suddenly resounded, its harsh tone echoing throughout the area. Every barbarian, from the ones inside the thunder lagoon to the ones outside clashing with the three forces, turned pale with fright as soon as they heard the sound.

And they all retreated toward the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Chapter 506: The Thunder Spirit's Confession

The destruction of the electricity dampening field signaled the failure of the eastern barbarian operation in the thunder lagoon.

Sen Ye was well aware of this fact.

As the blare of the horn resounded throughout the Forbidden Land of Thunder, every eastern barbarian that could hear it roared in anger, reluctantly retreating in the direction of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

At the same time, the Thunder Crystal Beast commanded all of the thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder to target the skulking barbarians, sending every lightning bolt and rumble of thunder into a frenzy.

It was as if a thunder god had erupted into a violent rage, determined to cleanse the world of filth with electric flames.

Berserk lightning washed over the retreating eastern barbarians, blowing scores of them to pieces.

In one part of the Forbidden Land of Thunder not far from the thunder lagoon, Yan Min and his group of eastern barbarians were still fighting the three forces.

Despite his sturdy physique, Yan Min was covered in bloody wounds that were bone-deep. Still engaged in pitched combat with Ten Thousand Beast Mountain's Yu Men, the barbarian giant wore an expression of insanity. He howled madly, preparing to fight Yu Men to the death.

But the blaring barbarian horn jolted Yan Min from his violent rage. After looking to the thunder lagoon for a few seconds in disbelief and hesitation, he suddenly roared, "Retreat to the Forbidden Land of Ice!"

This order stunned the eastern barbarians who were in the middle of fighting the three forces. They stopped for a moment, dazed, then turned and ran toward the Forbidden Land of Ice.

All of this only took an instant. The eastern barbarians that had been locked in battle against the three forces were suddenly receding tides in the sea.

One of the last to retreat, Yan Min was at the back of the retreating barbarian forces. He grinned as Yu Men chased him, roaring, "You won't be left alive! All martial practitioners who go deeper into the Graveyard of Gods shall be killed one after another! You will all die!"

As these words echoed throughout the area, Yan Min bellowed angrily, barreling off into the distance like a giant boulder.

His actions left every martial practitioner of the three forces surprised and confused.

“What happened?”

“What the hell happened?”

“Look at the sky! The thunder and lightning of the Forbidden Land of Thunder are assaulting the eastern barbarians... almost as if they’ve become sentient! This is... this is unbelievable!”

Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Yu Men, Feng Yiyou, and everyone else of the three forces stood perfectly still, yet the lightning pouring from the sky seemed to ignore them.

On the other hand, thick arcs of lightning would strike the heads of the escaping eastern barbarians, leaving deafening rumbles of thunder in their wake.

These fierce attacks were precise, only targeting the eastern barbarians.

“Where are Qin Lie and his companions?” Huang Zhuli asked in sudden realization.

The moment she spoke, vacant looks adorned the faces of the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Celestial Artifact Sect, Black Voodoo Cult, and the three great families.

However, someone had noticed Qin Lie’s movements and picked

this moment to bring it up.

"They snuck away while we were mired with bloody combat some time ago," they said.

"They left?" The cogs in Huang Zhuli's mind turned as she shook her head, frowning. "That can't be right! They would never give up so easily!"

"Maybe Qin Lie caused the strange change in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. That guy could control this place's thunder and lightning, so could he be the cause?" Feng Yiyou exclaimed in shock.

"The thunder lagoon! He must be at the thunder lagoon!"

"The Pure Soul Springs! He probably went back to acquire the Pure Soul Springs!"

"Dammit!"

Many martial practitioners came to these realizations, and after a moment of hesitation, all three forces turned back and headed for the thunder lagoon.

Only a golden sandstorm remained on the battlefield, which slowly faded to reveal Chu Li. After a moment of silent contemplation, he wordlessly followed everyone back to the thunder lagoon.

……

Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Song Tingyu, Pan Qianqian, and Xie Jingxuan stood just outside the thunder lagoon. They craned their necks, peering into its depths.

At this point in time, Sen Ye had long since led his eastern barbarian companions in a terrified retreat.

Dozens of eastern barbarian corpses lay scattered around the perimeter of the thunder lagoon. Having beaten a hasty, laborious retreat, the remainder of their forces had clearly failed to bring those corpses with them.

“Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang cried out from above.

From the bottom of the lagoon, Qin Lie looked up and called out, “Are you guys okay?”

“We’re all fine. How about you? Are you okay?” Song Tingyu asked worriedly.

“I’m fine.” Qin Lie smiled calmly and pondered for a moment. Then he said, “Don’t come down yet. Help me by guarding the entrance and preventing anyone from entering.”

“Alright,” Du Xiangyang agreed, calmly turning around to sit at

the edge of lagoon.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian followed his lead, sitting down one after another to guard the lagoon. They had no problem with letting Qin Lie take care of the situation down there.

However, Luo Chen's face was rigid and full of reluctance, and he was unwilling to look away from the depths of the lagoon.

"It's time to sit and rest, Luo Chen." Du Xiangyang patted the ground beside him, beckoning him with a smile.

"He won't let us go down there. Is he trying to take the Pure Soul Springs for himself?" Luo Chen clearly took no comfort in this arrangement.

Du Xiangyang laughed loudly. "The thunder spirit is still down there. Even if he actually wanted to take all the Pure Soul Springs for himself, would you be able to stop him?"

Luo Chen frowned.

"We've done all we can. As for whether we'll get any of the Pure Soul Springs... heh. That'll depend on our luck. It can't be forced," Du Xiangyang said calmly.

After hesitating for a moment, his face grim, Luo Chen finally moved beside Du Xiangyang and sat down.

At the bottom of the thunder lagoon, its floor covered in bright soul crystals, Qin Lie sighed.

“I’m here to seal you with the Demon Sealing Tombstone,” he said.

Crouching in front of him, as clear as the six flowing Pure Soul Springs floating around it, was the Thunder Crystal Beast. Its intelligent eyes shone with the light of helplessness and sorrow.

A wisp of mind consciousness in the form of electric light shot from its pupils.

“I know. I... understand. You have the essences of the fire spirit and wood spirit inside of you. I know you have the Demon Sealing Tombstone.”

“I have also come for the Pure Soul Springs and the soul crystals here.” Qin Lie had no intention of hiding his motives.

“You aren’t the only one. Every being who entered the Forbidden Land of Thunder to seize the Pure Soul Springs, pilfer the soul crystals, and seal me.” Every bolt of lightning that the Thunder Crystal Beast seemed to contain a sigh. Qin Lie watched silently as cracks appeared on the beast’s crystalline body.

—They were signs of how grievous its injuries were.

After long period of deliberation, Qin Lie calmly said, “Tell me about your… circumstances.”

“Thunder Crystal Beasts such as I are born in violent, thunderous lands. We inherently posses the power of the world’s thunder and lightning within us, and are able to control that power from birth. We live for the thunder and lightning, and it lives in us.

“For as long as I can remember, I was a captive of this place, imprisoned as the eye of the Forbidden Land of Thunder’s formation. I didn’t know what I was when I was younger. But I did know that I could control the Forbidden Land of Thunder and use its thunder and lightning to cultivate and grow.

“However, just as I am able to control the Forbidden Land of Thunder, it and the Graveyard of Gods control me. I am only allowed to move around this domain of thunder and lightning, unable to leave.

“As I slowly grew, an incredibly powerful being threw the souls of elites into this domain and told me how to refine them, how to use lightning to temper them one by one.

“I have never seen that person. I have only heard his voice. He told me that, as long as I obeyed his orders and refined nine Pure Soul Springs from the souls of elites he gave me, he would free me and allow me to leave.

“Souls of elites were thrown to me one after another. Many of them couldn’t endure refinement by thunder and lightning and

were instantly destroyed. Upon destruction, portions of these powerful souls formed soul crystals.

"After countless years and so many souls... I was only able to refine six Pure Soul Springs.

"Three are still needed to complete a set of nine.

"Unfortunately, that person hasn't thrown any souls in here for a very long time, and I haven't heard his voice either. It seems that the person who imprisoned me here, the master of this place, has encountered some kind of accident...

"That person once told me that, if he didn't show up for long period of time, someone with the Demon Sealing Tombstone would come. If that were the case, he said I needed to be obedient, give the person with the tombstone everything in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, and allow myself to be sealed. He said that was my only shred of hope in escaping this place."

At this point, the Thunder Crystal Beast paused and stared at Qin Lie deeply.

"I sensed the auras of the wood spirit and the fire spirit in your body from the moment you arrived here. I know you possess the Demon Sealing Tombstone. You are the person he spoke of.

"But I do not wish to believe that person's words. I do not wish to be sealed. I do not wish to be trapped in the tombstone.

“I wish to try and see if there is another way. I wish to escape this place and reach the outside world on my own.

“That is why I prevented you from controlling the power of thunder and lightning. I hoped that you would be killed by others, resulting in the tombstone becoming masterless once more. I thought this would help me become free.

“Perhaps everything was long ago ordained by fate.

“People more aware of this place’s secrets than you are came.

“They even brought something that could restrain me, saying that they would capture me alive and take me from the Graveyard of Gods to refine me. To use me as a living sacrifice.

“In the end, I was grievously injured, and my strength was exhausted. I sense that a huge change had occurred in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. I... probably do not have the ability to leave this place any longer. I do not wish to be captured by those people either.

“Now... I submit to fate. I will allow myself to be sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone. I will act according to that person’s plans.”

After everything that had occurred, the Thunder Crystal Beast resigned itself to its fate and attempted to merge with the Demon

Sealing Tombstone. It did so willingly, just like the fire spirit of the Forbidden Land of Flame.

Perhaps the fire spirit, the wood spirit, and the thunder spirit were all promised the same thing.

—As long as they willingly submitted and allowed the Demon Sealing Tombstone to seal them, there may yet be hope for freedom.

This was the promise that the master of the Graveyard of Gods made to them.

The wood spirit had resisted, attempting to leave the Graveyard of Gods using Ye Yihao, but failed. The Demon Sealing Tombstone ultimately sealed it.

The Thunder Crystal Beast resisted like the wood spirit had. However, it also failed. In the end, it submitted to fate as well.

“Is your knowledge limited to just his land? What secrets does it hold?” Qin Lie asked, unwilling to give up so soon.

Everything he knew about the Graveyard of the Gods came from Feng Yiyou and Chu Li’s explanations.

Chu Li’s understanding of the Graveyard of the Gods was even worse than Feng Yiyou and Yu Men’s. Those two were more familiar with the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods because they

both lived in the Heavenly Fissure Continent, which hosted its entrance.

If Qin Lie could truly learn the secrets of this mysterious place, he would know about the plans for it and why they were made. If he knew these things, they could give him an edge later on.

“I am not the only spirit. Like me, the others exist only as the eyes of their respective formations. We are all trapped. We are all imprisoned within our own domains.” The Thunder Crystal Beast sighed deeply. “Although we have been here for so long, we do not understand this place.

“That is all I know.”

The thunder spirit’s confession caused Qin Lie to frown deeply.

Chapter 507: Sudden Change!

“The six Pure Soul Springs I refined are no longer useful to me.”

The Thunder Crystal Beast let out a long breath.

The electric flames and arcing lightning that shrouded the Pure Soul Springs transformed into rainbow light and were swallowed by the thunder spirit.

The power protecting the six Pure Soul Springs disappeared, suddenly leaving them exposed.

A pristine, refreshing soul aura radiated from the thunder lagoon.

Song Tingyu and the others sitting around the thunder lagoon immediately became alert, their eyes bright with joy.

They could sense the wondrous presence of the Pure Soul Springs.

All of them were unable to suppress their curiosity. They turned and craned their necks to look down into the thunder lagoon..

Shocked by the aura of the Pure Soul Springs, Qin Lie instinctively looked up and said, “Throw me a few jade bottles.”

Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen immediately became nervous with excitement, happiness leaping to their faces. They hurriedly reached for the spatial rings and were about to take out some jade bottles to hold the Pure Soul Springs.

However, at that same moment, a sudden change took place!

When the electric flames and the arcing lightning were removed from the Pure Soul Springs, leaving nothing to restrain their clear soul auras from being released...

The Soul Suppressing Orb in Qin Lie's forehead seemed to detect it.

Like a third eye opening, a bright light abruptly shone from his forehead.

From their position above Qin Lie, the others were temporarily blinded by the bright light. They couldn't see what was happening in the lagoon.

This turn of events also stunned the Thunder Crystal Beast.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh! Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

As if moving of their own accord, the six Pure Soul Springs flowed toward Qin Lie's forehead.

The Soul Suppressing Orb consumed all six streams of energy in the span of a few breaths, then receded back into Qin Lie's forehead, going dormant.

Then, almost as soon as the Soul Suppressing Orb disappeared from sight, the Demon Sealing Tombstone emerged from Qin Lie's spatial ring on its own.

Seven rays of light that resembled divine chains shot from the Demon Sealing Tombstone, flailing around the surroundings.

They seemed to be looking for something, an action that left Qin Lie dumbstruck..

The seven chains of pure light explored the thunder lagoon, eventually locking on to the Thunder Crystal Beast.

Before Qin Lie could react, the seven chains of divine light latched tightly around the Thunder Crystal Beast. Qin Lie could only watch in shock as the Demon Sealing Tombstone slowly pulled the Thunder Crystal Beast into it.

In the end, the thunder spirit transformed into a bolt of lightning that surged through the chains and disappeared into the tombstone.

All of this occurred in a flash.

First the Soul Suppressing Orb released its blinding light, seizing

the Pure Soul Springs before going back into hiding.

Then the Demon Sealing Tombstone flew out, searched the area, and sealed the Thunder Crystal Beast after failing to find anything else.

As the light in the thunder lagoon dissipated, Du Xiangyang and the others were once again able to see inside of it... but first they noticed that the lightning in the sky had grown less furious.

Qin Lie raised his head to look up.

The sky was devoid of its usual booming thunder. Even the swathes of lightning that resembled dragons had charged back into the abyss they had come from, disappearing from sight.

A deafening rumble emanated from deep underground. The Forbidden Land of Thunder seemed to be experiencing an earthquake of great magnitude, deep cracks appearing as the ground shook.

The Forbidden Land of Thunder’s wondrous formation was collapsing.

The perpetual thunder and lightning was finally coming to an end.

All because the thunder spirit had been sealed.

“Qin Lie! What happened?” Song Tingyu shouted in shock.

“I…”

“He took the Pure Soul Springs!” Luo Chen sneered. “All of them vanished in that bright flash of light!”

“No, that can’t be right!” Du Xiangyang shook his head. “We haven’t even given him the jade bottles yet! Did he have enough jade bottles to store every single one of the Pure Soul Springs?”

“He definitely had more than he led us to believe!” Luo Chen yelled, his expression icy..

He was sure that Qin Lie had taken all of the Pure Soul Springs for himself. He thought that Qin Lie created that blinding light so they wouldn’t be able to see him take them. He believed that Qin Lie didn’t want to share.

What he didn’t know was that the Soul Suppressing Orb in Qin Lie’s forehead had consumed the six Pure Soul Springs.

“I didn’t take them,” Qin Lie said, narrowing his eyes. He searched his mind and discovered that six streams of energy were uncontrollably flowing toward depths of the Soul Suppressing Orb he had yet to explore.

Qin Lie was just as confused as everyone else, and he didn't know why the Soul Suppressing Orb would act so strangely at such a critical moment.

But he didn't want to waste time trying to explain the situation.

"I'll explain what happened to the Pure Soul Springs when we have time. Right now, all of you need to come down here and help me gather the soul crystals!" Qin Lie shouted up to them. "Since the thunder spirit has been sealed, all the thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder will gradually dissipate. It'll be difficult for me to achieve a level of strength like before! Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain... even the eastern barbarians will return after realizing that something has happened. We don't have much time!"

"Get the soul crystals first!"

"Focus on what's important!"

"I believe Qin Lie!"

"Quickly!"

Du Xiangyang and the others quickly reached an agreement.

Even Luo Chen knew they couldn't delay the matter a moment longer. He stopped trying to interrogate Qin Lie and immediately

jumped into the thunder lagoon alongside the others.

Many things changed after the Thunder Crystal Beast was sealed. Like a fire at the end of its lifespan, the electric flames and arcing lightning that originally populated the thunder lagoon gradually died out.

The thunderous vibrations, originally furious and unceasing, slowly became calm like an ocean after a storm.

All six of Qin Lie's group landed at the bottom of the lagoon without a hitch.

Not all of the bright soul crystals scattered throughout the bottom of the lagoon were the same quality. Some were full of soul power, bright a translucent, while others weren't as bright and contained impurities within them.

Yet even soul crystals with impurities were worth as much as cities in the Land of Chaos.

The smaller soul crystals in the lagoon were the size of walnuts, while the bigger, extremely valuable ones were the size of a person's head.

"There must be at least a thousand soul crystals..." Excitement shone in Xie Jingxuan's eyes.

She hadn't said a thing about the Pure Soul Springs. As soon as

she landed, she moved about the muddy floor of the lagoon, using her spatial ring to gather soul crystals.

Everyone else jumped into action as well. They knew that now was not the time to talk, and instead they competed against each other to see who could gather the most soul crystals.

Qin Lie was among them, but didn't immediately move to pick up the soul crystals from the floor of the lagoon.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Lie first worked to calm himself. He refrained from using his soul to examine the Soul Suppressing Orb and instead moved to take care of matters in front of him.

Qin Lie looked at the eight thick logs of Thunderblitz wood. These logs of wood were extremely tall, protruding high into the sky like the Sealing Obelisks. Wrapped around each log were threads of silver metal. Upon closer inspection, he discovered that the wood held patterns that seemed to have been formed naturally. The grain of each piece of wood resembled patterned lightning and looked mysterious and profound.

In order to capture the thunder spirit alive, it had taken a lot of effort for the eastern barbarians to gather these eight logs of Thunderblitz wood. Each one was thousands of years old and extremely valuable.

Even though they were valuable to begin with, the logs of Thunderblitz wood had consumed enormous amounts of thunder and lightning from the thunder lagoon. As a result, each log

contained an abundance of thunder and lightning energy.

“These pieces of wood are top quality thunder and lightning spirit materials! They can be used to make Terminator Profound Bombs!”

Qin Lie’s eyes shone brightly.

As Luo Chen and the others focused all of their energy on gathering soul crystals, he shoved all eight logs of Thunderblitz wood into his spatial ring.

Once all eight logs were inside of his spatial ring, he put away the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Using his mind consciousness to inspect the ring, he discovered that the space within was full.

Qin Lie’s spatial ring could only hold so much. Twelve Sealing Obelisks, eight logs of Thunderblitz wood... all of these were enormous. If Qin Lie added anything else to them, the limits of his spatial ring would be exceeded.

“I have to get a high grade spatial ring,” Qin Lie thought to himself.

There were thousands of soul crystals on the floor of the thunder lagoon. However, with everyone scouring the lagoon for them, the floor was swept clean in just half an hour.

The bottom of the lagoon was promptly picked clean.

Qin Lie concentrated on sensing his surroundings. Just as he was about to explore deeper into the lagoon, his expression changed.

The bottom of the thunder lagoon could be considered the center of the Forbidden Land of Thunder. After the thunder spirit was sealed, the Pure Soul Springs were taken, and the soul crystals were cleaned out, distinct vibrations emanated from underground.

“Run!” Qin Lie shouted.

Everyone in his group looked at him with confused expressions as though they weren’t satisfied with their current profits. They seemed prepared to continue searching the area.

“The people of the three other forces, as well as the eastern barbarians, will probably be back soon,” Qin Lie explained. “Also, the thunder lagoon is going to explode soon.

“This place is about to explode?” Du Xiangyang asked in disbelief.

“Yes, it’s going to.”

“Then what are we waiting for?!”

“Let’s get out of here!”

“Run”

The seven of them soared from the bottom of the thunder lagoon, quickly ascending. Upon reaching the surface, Qin Lie chose a random direction to fly in and everyone followed.

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Chapter 508: Putting A Matter To Rest

Just fifteen minutes after the departure of Qin Lie's group, blinding arcs of lightning and intense, thunderous rumbles erupted from the depths of the thunder lagoon.

"Boom!"

The thunder lagoon became a bright flash of light, a brilliant explosion of sparks bursting from its center. All the remaining traces of thunder and lightning energy dispersed in the commotion.

This reduced the thunder lagoon to an enormous, smoldering pit hundreds of meters deep. The wondrous scene from earlier was gone. There were no soul crystals or Pure Soul Springs to marvel at.

An hour later, the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain finally arrived at the smoldering pit. All of them took in the ruined land, stunned.

"Where's the thunder lagoon? Why is there a huge pit where it used to be?"

"What happened? Where are the eastern barbarians?"

"There are intense fluctuations of thunder and lightning here!

The thunder lagoon must have exploded. But… where are the soul crystals and Pure Soul Springs?”

“Did they get destroyed in the explosion? Did Qin Lie or the eastern barbarians take them? Damn it!”

Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, and the others gathered next to the enormous pit, ordering their subordinates to venture into it and search for clues about what happened.

Soon after, their people returned, but all they could do was shake their heads in the face of their leaders’ expectant gazes.

“I don’t know what happened here. The thunder lagoon is in ruin, and the soul crystals and Pure Soul Springs were nowhere to be found,” someone said, head bowed.

Everyone present started to curse and smoke came out of their ears. Hatred boiled within each and every one of them.

All except for Chu Li, who stood among them.

After observing the pit that used to be the thunder lagoon, he silently left.

As a member of Terminator Sect, Chu Li could easily recognize the power of thunder and lightning. He was also aware of Qin Lie’s abilities.

After examining the area with his mind consciousness, he had faintly detected Qin Lie's presence. He was certain that Qin Lie had something to do with the decimation of the thunder lagoon.

Gripping a Heavenly Sword Mountain token, Chu Li left without a word and tried to sense Qin Lie's location.

A few minutes after Chu Li left, the tokens at the waist of every martial practitioner began to ring furiously.

"The eastern barbarians are returning!"

Everyone looked amongst each other, their faces grim with realization.

"The eastern barbarians outnumber us, and once Yan Min and Sen Ye join forces, their offensive potential will multiply." Huang Zhuli's eyes flashed with malice. "Our Black Voodoo Cult has fought against the eastern barbarians for years. We know what they're capable of. Since thunder lagoon has been destroyed, we no longer have a reason to fight them to the death."

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men nodded.

After exchanging looks with each other, all of them beat a decisive retreat in a direction opposite from the eastern barbarians.

All three groups joined together to form one larger group as a precaution. They were afraid of being attacked by the eastern barbarians, so they didn't dare to split up.

They wanted to be prepared for any unforeseen circumstances.

……

Qin Lie's group sped through a remote corner of the Forbidden Land of Thunder, moving away from the destroyed thunder lagoon as fast as lightning. The eyes of every person in the group flashed with irrepressible joy..

The sky above them, which used to be a thunderstorm that occasionally flashed with lightning, was now a dull gray. Lightning no longer rampaged through the air.

The Forbidden Land of Thunder hadn't experienced this kind of calm in tens of thousands of years.

"Follow me."

At some point, Xue Moyan had moved in front of everyone to lead them.

"We shall take a detour to the Forbidden Land of Ice. The Land of Buried Gods lies within the Forbidden Land of Ice, so it is unique in and of itself," she explained as she sped along.

It could be said that, to a certain degree, Xue Moyan and Chu Li were familiar with the Graveyard of Gods. She could more or less tell which way to go because the thunder spirit had been sealed. As a result, the Forbidden Land of Thunder became normal and no longer inhibited other types of spirit energy.

Qin Lie and the others weren't familiar with the area, so they didn't have a problem with following her.

After a few days of travel, all of them had used up pretty much all of their spirit power. They found a random place to stop and used spirit stones to recover.

Once their spirit energy had been replenished, they continued to journey according to Xue Moyan's guidance, almost never stopping to rest.

A few days later, they arrived at the border of an icy mountain range.

"Over there!" Xue Moyan came to a sudden stop and pointed into the distance.

Everyone's gazes traced her finger to the location she was pointing at.

Distant, snow-capped mountains stretched as far as the eye could see.. Trees covered in ice accentuated their enormous, jagged

shapes, composing a silver-tinged world of ice and snow.

A small wind blew across the group, bone-chilling cold piercing into them like icy knives.

And this was just the outer edge of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

All of them looked at each other. Aside from Qin Lie, everyone else was trembling from the cold.

Instinctively, they formed their individual shields of light.

“It’s so cold... this frigid air soaks all the way down to the marrow of my bones. If I don’t wrap my body in spirit energy, I’d quickly go numb. Even my tendons would freeze and become ice!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed, his chin pressed against his chest.

Crimson flames covered his body, and he exhaled hot air. It was clear that he couldn’t tolerate the cold.

The Forbidden Land of Ice truly didn’t suit him at all.

Du Xiangyang was only skilled in fire spirit arts. Most of his life had been spent in hot places, using the heat to cultivate, and intense flames to refine his body.

Luo Chen and the others shrouded themselves in their shields of light. All of them stood at the border of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

They flashed with light, almost as if they were wearing glittering armor.

Once again, Qin Lie was an exception.

Just like in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie didn't shield himself from the elements, instead completely exposing himself to the snow and ice. He allowed the bone-chilling cold and the frigid winds to engulf him.

Yet he smiled happily. He was relaxed, clearly comfortable with his situation.

"Big Brother Qin, a-are you not afraid of the cold?" Pan Qianqian looked at him in shock. The cold had made her face as red as an apple. "If too much cold energy enters your body, it will interfere with the circulation of your spirit energy. If we encounter any enemies, you won't be able to launch attacks effectively."

"Don't worry about him." Song Tingyu smiled brightly. "He has thick skin. Cold energy of this level will only be beneficial for him."

Xie Jingxuan nodded slightly.

Their nonchalant attitudes shocked Pan Qianqian.

"He's fine," Xue Moyan said in a small voice. "Qin Lie is also skilled in Frost Spirit Arts..."

After secretly examining him with her mind consciousness, she smiled calmly and explained, “Qin Lie has three frost natal palaces.”

Pan Qianqian’s eyes flashed with surprise. “Huh?! Why do you cultivate so many different spirit arts? Aren’t you afraid that they’ll clash?”

“It doesn’t seem to be a problem for now,” Qin Lie said reassuringly and smiled.

Then, in the next moment, he went silent, clearly contemplating something.

Luo Chen’s brow furrowed.

Everyone was able to guess what Qin Lie was thinking about and instinctively became quiet.

However, just as Qin Lie was about to tell them what he was thinking, Luo Chen spoke up.

“Don’t bother,” he growled. “None of us were any help when it came to acquiring the Pure Soul Springs. Even taking the eastern barbarians or the three forces into account, we weren’t helpful enough for our efforts to be considered important.”

Luo Chen was cold and proud, but he wasn't unreasonable. He had a lot of time to go over things while they were traveling.

During their journey to the Forbidden Land of Ice, he had gone over everything in his mind and came to a realization. He, Du Xiangyang, Xue Moyan, and the others had almost no effect on the struggle for the Pure Soul Springs in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

In other words, even if they hadn't done anything, Qin Lie would have done everything the same way.

Rather than providing coal during a snowstorm, what they had done was the same as gilding a flower.

At most, their help entitled each of them to large amounts of soul crystals. It did not earn them a portion of the Pure Soul Springs.

Luo Chen had his own code, his own perspective on how rewards should be distributed.

Now that he had finally thought everything through, he was relieved. He believed that Qin Lie taking all of the Pure Soul Springs was a logical outcome.

—Luo Chen thought that they were rightfully his.

"Ugh..." Du Xiangyang groaned, a weird expression on his face. He scratched his head in embarrassment, suddenly making the

situation somewhat awkward.

After pausing for a moment, he shook his head and said, “I hadn’t expected you to be so wise, Luo Chen. Compared to you, I… I was so fixated on those Pure Soul Springs.”

Before Luo Chen had spoken up, Du Xiangyang actually felt upset too. He thought that Qin Lie shouldn’t have taken all of the Pure Soul Springs.

Ever since Qin Lie parted ways with Terminator Sect in the Forbidden Land of Wood, Du Xiangyang had staunchly stood by his side.

He had thought that following Qin Lie would definitely be better than following Terminator Sect.

Reality soon proved his choice to be the correct one. Qin Lie had found the thunder lagoon and discovered the Pure Soul Springs inside of it.

Du Xiangyang had thought that maybe, just maybe, he’d be able to get one of them…

Yet, when Qin Lie admitted to taking all of the Pure Soul Springs, Du Xiangyang had been angry.

—He thought that he deserved to have one.

However, once Luo Chen expressed such a logical view of the situation, Du Xiangyang realized that he hadn't actually been much help to Qin Lie.

Luo Chen was right.

From Qin Lie's perspective, the efforts of everyone else in the group did not equate to coal during a snowstorm. They had simply gilded a flower.

Taking that into consideration, the soul crystals were more than enough compensation.

Chapter 509: Absolute Frost Concept

“It’s not that I want to keep the Pure Soul Springs for myself, but… for the time being, I can’t take them out and give them to you,” Qin Lie said, spreading his arms helplessly.

That was all he could tell them.

When the electric flames and arcing bolts of lightning disappeared from the thunder lagoon, allowing the refreshing aura of the Pure Soul Springs to escape, the Soul Suppressing Orb emerged from his forehead without warning.

Everything happened too quickly.

The Pure Soul Springs disappeared into the Soul Suppressing Orb before Qin Lie could even think. It was only after the fact that he realized what happened.

At that time, both Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen had been standing at the edge of the thunder lagoon,. As a result, the light of the Soul Suppressing Orb’s appearance had blinded them, preventing them from seeing what took place at the bottom of the lagoon.

Because of that, they assumed that he had taken the Pure Soul Springs for himself.

“I trust Qin Lie,” Xue Moyan said, establishing her position. “And

I also don't think we played a role deserving of any Pure Soul Springs."

"I am of the same opinion," Xie Jingxuan added.

Song Tingyu pursed her lips into a smile, clinging to Qin Lie's arm of her own volition.

It was obvious that Qin Lie had her unconditional support.

After hearing Luo Chen's opinion, Du Xiangyang had internally put the matter to rest. Now that Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan had also expressed their thoughts, it suddenly appeared as if everyone accepted the fact that Qin Lie took all the Pure Soul Springs for himself.

Since no one had a problem with it, they no longer needed to pursue the matter.

"B-but..." Pan Qianqian seemed like she wanted to say something.

Yet Xue Moyan cut her short. "Enough!"

Pan Qianqian sighed and bit her lips, reluctantly falling silent.

"What is it?" Qin Lie asked.

Taking a moment to gather her thoughts, Pan Qianqian ignored Xue Moyan and found the courage to speak. “If... if we aren’t able to take the Spring of Life back from Huang Zhuli, it’ll be difficult for Sister Xue and her mother... to recover. With a Pure Soul Spring, however, Sister Xue would be able to ask the sect master to help her exchange it for multiple Springs of Life. This way, the... problem... plaguing Sister Xue and her mother can be... resolved.”

Pan Qianqian revealed the reason for her apprehension.

Xue Moyan shook her head. “Losing the Spring of Life is our fault. We already owe Qin Lie far too much.”

“I know, b-but... that doesn’t mean you should just stop living. The Spring of Life can save you...” Pan Qianqian said, her voice faltering.

Qin Lie frowned and pondered for a moment. Then he said, “Let’s look for a place to properly recover and try to use the soul crystals to increase the strength of our souls. We don’t have to venture deeper into the Forbidden Land of Ice just yet.”

“Sure.” Everyone immediately agreed.

They searched for a place to sit down and recover, eventually settling for a secluded spot in a snow-covered forest at the edge of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Winds carrying shards of ice ravaged the land, howling like the

sound of metal clashing against metal. It sounded as if the frigid air could cut deep into a person, down to their very bones.

Everyone in Qin Lie's group took shelter in their respective shields of light. Not long after they sat down to recover in the icy forest of pine trees, they found themselves covered in snow.

Even the shields of light surrounding each of them were besieged, turning them into a group of faceless snowman.

Qin Lie was no exception.

Instead of summoning his own shield of light, he exposed himself to the freezing elements of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Soon enough, a thick blanket of snow covered him as well.

Before beginning the process of recovering, however, he first delved deep into the Soul Suppressing Orb with his mind consciousness.

The misty space inside of it was vast and never-ending, as boundless as it was desolate.

Qin Lie's mind consciousness became a faint shadow that roamed within that space, and he eventually arrived at the hovering spirit diagrams.

The four diagrams, Spirit Gathering, Spirit Storage, Strengthening, and Amplification, resembled four grand paintings that stretched through the sky. A myriad of fine, delicate spirit threads crisscrossed to form worlds of intricate wonder.

At the same time, another world existed in this space. This world hovered nearby, its visage cold and icy.

This world was the frost concept that used to be hidden within the Eye of Frost. It was a profound painting formed by the absolute frost concept, the one that originally sealed the elites of the Giant Spirit Race in the land underneath the Arctic Mountain Range.

This painting of the absolute frost concept had served as Qin Lie's guide, having helped him figure out the secrets of the Frost Arts and form three frost natal palaces in his dantian's spirit sea.

Qin Lie initially entered the Soul Suppressing Orb to search for the Pure Soul Springs and find out where they'd gone. However, seeing the painting that the Ice Emperor had left behind left him in shock.

For years, this painting of the absolute frost concept had lain hidden inside of the Soul Suppressing Orb like a dead object, devoid of energy.

It only emanated an aura of profound coldness during the few times that Qin Lie entered the icy land beneath the Arctic Mountain Range to cultivate.

Yet, when his wisp of mind consciousness arrived at this place, Qin Lie discovered that cold mist enveloped the painting. Translucent, icy white beams aimlessly flowed within it.

The absolute frost concept seemed to contain some sort of magic.

This painting of the absolute frost concept was the end result of gathering all of the frost concept that the Ice Emperor left behind.

Within the Graveyard of Gods, the Forbidden Land of Ice consisted of enormous icy boulders, freezing winds, snow-covered mountains, and endless amounts of swirling sleet.

The Forbidden Land of Ice clearly had a lot in common with the Arctic Mountain Range of the Scarlet Tide Continent.

Of course, compared to the Arctic Mountain Range, the Forbidden Land of Ice was ten times colder.

Focusing on the painting, Qin Lie discovered that even the lingering cold of the land beneath the Arctic Mountain Range couldn’t compare to that of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

“Could the cold air of this place have caused these changes in the absolute frost concept?” Qin Lie thought, clearly confused.

“Krak!”

Icy rocks shattered as dazzling rays of rainbow light shot from Qin Lie's spatial ring, scattering the snow that coated him.

The noise startled Qin Lie, jolting him out of his careful observation of the absolute frost concept within the Soul Suppressing Orb.

Song Tingyu and the others were also startled, and they looked at him in surprise.

Their abrupt movements broke the snow that encased them, causing it to slide to the ground.

Seven rainbow lights circled the Demon Sealing Tombstone as it hovered above Qin Lie's head. Three drops of azure liquid dripped down the length of the tombstone, each containing a shocking amount of thunder and lightning energy.

One by one, the slid off of the tombstone and fell toward Qin Lie's head.

Upon closer inspection, one would realize that each drop of azure liquid carried the figure of a small Thunder Crystal Beast. This was exactly the same as the blood essences that held small Fire Qilins inside of them.

Just as the three drops of azure liquid were about to touch Qin Lie's hair, he raised his hand.

The three droplets splashed against his palm, quickly soaking into his hand and merging into his blood.

Waves of violent thunder and lightning energy rippled from the droplets, each containing the aura of the Thunder Crystal Beast.

Everyone watched this scene with strange looks on their faces.

They could obviously tell that the three drops of azure liquid had come from the Demon Sealing Tombstone!

This meant that, every time Qin Lie used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to seal one of the seven spirits, he benefited greatly.

At that moment, Du Xiangyang thought about the past, immediately realizing where Qin Lie's blood essences came from.

"Seems like being the master of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and sealing the seven spirits has been very good to you, Qin Lie..." Du Xiangyang said, green with envy.

Luo Chen, on the other hand, felt bitter.

"The Demon Sealing Tombstone..." he whispered regretfully.

Luo Chen had once stolen the Demon Sealing Tombstone from Qin Lie and even spent a long time researching it.

Not only did he fail to gain anything from the Demon Sealing Tombstone, it had even flown back to Qin Lie as soon as he brought it into the Graveyard of Gods.

It was painfully apparent that the Demon Sealing Tombstone considered Qin Lie its master. Whenever he sealed a spirit, the tombstone refined its essences and offered them up to Qin Lie.

Then, using these essences and some miraculous tempering method, Qin Lie used them as if they were a part of his own body.

Once the three droplets of thunder and lightning energy vanished into Qin Lie's palm, the Demon Sealing Tombstone returned to the spatial ring once more.

Throughout this entire process, Qin Lie's eyes had been closed.

He ignored the people around him and sensed the three droplets of thunder and lightning energy in his blood, nurturing them.

With a thought, he used the Blood Refinement Art, intent on making them his own blood essences—just like he did for the essences of the fire spirit and the wood spirit.

Qin Lie began the refinement process immediately.

"The Blood Refinement Art...! Making the blood essence your own..." Xue Moyan's eyes lit up.

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

After those five days, Luo Chen and the others brimmed with immense soul energy, having used the soul crystals empower their True Souls.

After using up a portion of the soul crystals, each of them could feel that their True Souls had solidified and become stronger. Their soul perceptions also had a greater range.

All of their soul energies had clearly improved considerably.

At the same time, Qin Lie had spent the past five days refining the three drops of azure liquid into his own lifeblood essences.

He had imprinted them with his soul imprint so that they became a part of him.

“Let’s give it a try.”

Qin Lie issued a mental command, causing the three newest blood essences to emerge from his body at the same time. All three resembled azure gemstones.

With another command, the six remaining blood essences floated out of his body to join the other three.

Nine blood essences of varying colors floated in front of Qin Lie, all dazzlingly bright.

Three were a burning scarlet, three were a verdant jade, and three were a shocking azure.

Chapter 510: Merge!

The nine blood essences floating in front of Qin Lie had been created using the Blood Refinement Art. Each had been refined from the essences of the fire spirit, the wood spirit, and the thunder spirit, then merged into his own blood.

The gem-like drops of blood gently radiated rings of bright, beautiful light.

Every blood essence shared a miraculous connection with Qin Lie. When he examined them with his mind consciousness, he could even tell that they possessed basic intelligence.

It was as if they were completely new forms of life that had just been brought into existence. Simply sensing them gave him an indescribable feeling.

“These nine blood essences came from the fire spirit, wood spirit, and thunder spirit. The Demon Sealing Tombstone gave them to me after refining the essence of each spirit.”

Qin Lie didn’t bother hiding the truth as he examined the blood essences with glee. Each one looked like a gemstone.

“Blood? Every single one of them... are blood essences?!” Pan Qianqian cried out in surprise.

To Pan Qianqian, these blood essences were clearly dazzling

gemstones that contained sparks of beauty.

"The energy within them is incredibly powerful and refined," Du Xiangyang said. He was incredibly envious of Qin Lie.

Luo Chen sighed and shook his head slightly, eyes filled with regret.

"What miraculous lifeblood essences... One has to temper them by nurturing them with their own blood? I wonder how many other mysteries lay hidden within them..." Xue Moyan exclaimed in wonder.

All of a sudden, the Soul Suppressing Orb concealed inside of Qin Lie's forehead appeared once more.

An extremely strong force of attraction emanated from the orb in waves, forming an intense suction effect.

The nine gem-like blood essences turned into rays of light, instantly flying into the Soul Suppressing Orb.

Then, as quickly as it had appeared, the Soul Suppressing Orb vanished back into Qin Lie's flesh. However, the powerful suction never stopped.

Qin Lie's expression twisted in amazement as he realized that the blood in his veins frantically surged toward his head.

Like a powerful vacuum, the Soul Suppressing Orb in his forehead swiftly drained his blood.

When Qin Lie tried to form his soul consciousness, he discovered that the soul energy of his True Soul seemed to be fading rapidly. The Soul Suppressing Orb seemed to be draining it as well.

“This is bad!”

Scared out of his wits, Qin Lie immediately focused all of his mind consciousness and examined the Soul Suppressing Orb.

He saw that wisps of his blood were vanishing inside of it, heading toward an unknown area he still couldn’t reach.

Suddenly, exhaustion bore down on Qin Lie, a sign that his soul energy was swiftly depleting.

All of this happened in the blink of an eye.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian were frozen, watching the scene unfolding before them. They stared in shock as a strange third eye appeared on Qin Lie’s forehead, protruding from his flesh then opening. Sucking in and devouring the nine blood essences, that eye resembled a black hole capable of consuming everything in existence.

At the same time, they could see the terror in Qin Lie's face.

This meant that all of this had caught Qin Lie unaware. He couldn't control what was happening to him!

It was only then that everyone truly believed Qin Lie's explanation from earlier. He really did want to share the Pure Soul Springs with them, but he couldn't control the changes within his own body.

The extraordinary changes occurring inside of Qin Lie shocked everyone. They had no idea how they could help him.

"H-his face is getting paler and paler!" Song Tingyu cried anxiously.

"He's running out of blood!" Since she cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, Xue Moyan could immediately tell what was wrong with Qin Lie after quickly examining him. "He's lost at least a fifth of all the blood in his body, and it's still being sucked out of him!"

"All of his blood is flowing to his forehead! Xie Jingxuan exclaimed softly.

"His soul energy is also being drained, look at his eyes!" Du Xiangyang shouted.

Everyone looked and Qin Lie's fear-filled eyes. They were clearly dimmer than before.

This meant that Qin Lie's soul energy had been greatly depleted in this short amount of time.

"He needs to replenish his blood and his soul energy as quickly as possible!" Xue Moyan cried.

Without hesitation, she took out several dozen high quality soul crystals from her spatial ring and poured them onto the snow-covered ground at Qin Lie's feet.

"Qin Lie!" she yelled. "Extract the soul energy from the soul crystals as quickly as possible! You need to replenish your own!"

A moment later, Song Tingyu also sprang into action, taking out high quality soul crystals of her own and putting them next to Qin Lie.

"His blood!" She rushed to his side frantically, attempting to bolster Qin Lie's life force with her own spirit energy. "How are we going to replenish the blood in his body?"

"It's no use," Xue Moyan said, shaking her head. "None of our blood is compatible with his."

"Then what should we do?!" Song Tingyu shouted.

Xue Moyan didn't answer her. She didn't know what to do either.

In this frigid, snowy land, Qin Lie sat in an upright position, a thick layer of ice forming on his body.

It was as if he had transformed into an ice sculpture.

His face grew increasingly pale, his eyes becoming dimmer and dimmer. He seemed to be slowly dying.

Song Tingyu and the others surrounded him, anxious and concerned, but they didn't know how to help him.

Some time later, Xie Jingxuan's eyes lit up. "H-his blood and his soul energy seem to have stopped depleting."

After taking a few seconds to sense Qin Lie's condition, Xue Moyan regained her calm. "He's lost a lot of blood, but it seems as though that draining effect has truly stopped. He isn't getting any worse."

This information allowed the group to relax a bit.

Everyone continued to huddle around Qin Lie, frowns covering their faces. They refused to let down their guard in case another disaster struck.

Inside of the Soul Suppressing Orb, Qin Lie's wisp of soul shadow ventured into its depths. As usual, he could only see the spirit

diagrams. However, in addition to that, he could see a steady stream of his blood and his soul energy flowing toward the space beyond them.

There seemed to be a door behind the spirit diagrams. It was sealed, preventing him from sensing the mysteries it kept within.

Yet it didn't affect the flow of blood or soul energy.

Qin Lie was well aware of the fact that the six Pure Soul Springs, the nine blood essences, his blood, and his soul energy had been absorbed into the space behind that door.

He didn't know what was going on behind that door, but he had the strangest feeling. It felt as if all of these elements were being gathered in one place and... were merging together.

What on earth would happen after the Pure Soul Springs, the nine blood essences, his blood, and his soul energy merged together?

Qin Lie didn't know the answer to that question.

After examining the Soul Suppressing Orb's interior for a bit longer, Qin Lie gradually withdrew his mind consciousness.

Then he opened his eyes.

“I’m fine,” Qin Lie said to Song Tingyu and the others. “I just lost a lot of blood… and a portion of my soul energy. I’ll probably need some time to recover.”

“Th-those changes… what in Spirit Realm just happened?” Song Tingyu asked, fraught with worry.

Qin Lie shook his head, a bitter smile on his face, then said, “I can’t explain it, nor do I actually understand it, but I think I’ll find out after some time.”

He decided to wait for everything in the Soul Suppressing Orb to merge together.

He wanted to see the end result.

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Chapter 511: Nurturing The Soul

At the edge of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

After cultivating using the soul crystals, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian were in high spirits.

“Soul crystals truly are amazing things.” Joy filled Pan Qianqian’s face as she gripped a soul crystal. “Even with her status in Illusory Demon Sect, it’s extremely difficult for Sister Xue to obtain soul crystals.”

Xue Moyan nodded slightly.

Unlike spirit stones, soul crystals weren’t supplementary spirit materials that were commonly seen in a powerful force. Xue Moyan and Luo Chen were both illustrious individuals in Illusory Demon Sect and Heavenly Sword Mountain. They were the ringers of their respective sects.

Yet even they struggled to acquire soul crystals to aid in cultivating their True Souls while they were in the Netherpassage Realm, the stage in which condensing one’s True Soul and increasing their soul energy was most important.

Even people with the status of elder within the nine great Silver rank forces could not always temper their souls using soul crystals.

Soul crystals were expensive, and although the nine great Silver rank forces did have some soul crystals stored away, they were usually used to help martial practitioners whose souls were damaged. Soul crystals could help such martial practitioners stabilize their souls and maintain their realms.

If Luo Chen didn't have the luxury of constantly cultivating with soul crystals, there was no way people like Pan Qianqian or Du Xiangyang could!!

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan came from the Scarlet Tide Continent, and soul crystals were even rarer in Profound Heaven Alliance. It was unlikely that Song Yu or Xie Yaoyang had the opportunity to cultivate using soul crystals, let alone their daughters.

Each person in Qin Lie's group had acquired a sizeable number of soul crystals from the thunder lagoon. They could clearly sense their souls getting stronger as they continued to temper their souls, empowering them with the energy from the soul crystals.

"From here on out, breaking through each realm will rely on the transformation of one's soul!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed excitedly. "From the Netherpassage Realm to the Fulfillment Realm... the Nirvana Realm and the Imperishable Realm... the benefit that these soul crystals will have on our cultivations will show itself more prominently in the future!"

Everyone's eyes were alight with passion.

“I originally thought that we’d never run out of the soul crystals we gathered from the thunder lagoon,” Pan Qianqian said. Then her voice became tinged with regret. “But now that I look at the amount we have now… It may not necessarily be enough.”

“Soul crystals aren’t things that anyone would say that they have enough of,” Du Xiangyang said with a shrug. “Unfortunately, the Pure Soul Springs are even more valuable.”

All six of them subconsciously glanced at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie sat on the ground nearby, frozen in a thick layer of ice. While they talked amongst each other, he appeared to be an unmoving, human-shaped ice sculpture.

After absorbing the Pure Soul Springs and blood essences, a switch in the Soul Suppressing Orb seemed to have been flipped, causing it to extract his blood and his soul energy. This made Qin Lie feel incredibly weak once he awakened from his trance.

Qin Lie was currently in the process of replenishing his soul energy with the soul crystals that Song Tingyu and Xue Moyan gave him.

When everyone looked at him, he opened his eyes and laughed bitterly. Then he said, “The Pure Soul Springs, eh…? I don’t what’ll happen to them in the future.”

“We understand.” Du Xiangyang smiled, thought to himself for a

moment, and then said, “You can use the soul crystals to replenish your soul energy, but how will you replenish your depleted blood supply?”

“Qin Lie cultivates the Blood Spirit Art, so every single drop of blood in his body contains a terrifying amount of blood spirit energy. After losing so much blood, it’ll be impossible for him to recover all of it in a short time. Well, unless we capture some powerful spirit beasts and construct a blood pool. He’d be able to use a pool of spirit beast blood to recover.”

As the heir to Blood Fiend Sect, Xue Moyan possessed a deep understanding of the miraculous Blood Spirit Art. She glanced at the white world around her and shook her head. “There probably aren’t any spirit beasts here. Even if we could find a single one, it would most likely be the ice spirit. We also don’t have the means to construct a blood pond.”

“It’s fine, I have a way to replenish the blood in my body.” Qin Lie smiled slightly.

Xue Moyan suddenly shot him a look. “You do?”

“Mn.” Qin Lie took a brief moment to think before saying, “I can use the bloody aura of the Demon Sealing Tombstone. With it, I’ll be able to quickly create more blood!”

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone possesses a blood aura?” Xue Moyan asked in shock.

“It does!” Qin Lie exclaimed.

As he said this, Qin Lie moved his mind consciousness, and rays of bright, icy light flooded the ice encasing him.

“Crack!”

The thick layer of ice around his body instantly shattered.

Qin Lie struggled out of the ice and summoned the Demon Sealing Tombstone from his spatial ring, causing it to land in the snow in front of him.

He reached out and touched its surface with his finger, softly circulating the Blood Spirit Art.

Seven rainbow lights shone from the Demon Sealing Tombstone, its ethereal chains twisting restlessly within. Wisps of thick blood aura gushed out of the tombstone like a breached dam and mingled with the godly light.

Everyone had been watching closely, eyes glued to the Demon Sealing Tombstone, so all of them reacted the moment its thick blood aura gushed out.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang wore expressions of envy.

Luo Chen's complexion, on the other hand, became a gloomy pale.

When he previously had the Demon Sealing Tombstone in his possession, he tried to touch it. However, before his fingers could ever make contact with its stony surface, he was always sent flying by a terrifying force.

He tried again and again, but he was just repulsed over and over. In the end, although extremely reluctant to do so, he admitted defeat.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone ultimately never acknowledged Luo Chen.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone currently stood before Qin Lie and he could use it to cultivate, extracting its blood aura and using it to replenish his lost blood.

A complicated mix of feelings washed over Luo Chen.

"What a pure blood aura! Qin Lie... c-can I give it a try?" Xue Moyan bit her bottom lip, expectation welling in her eyes.

Since Xue Moyan cultivated the Blood Spirit Art as well, she could sense the surging blood energy within the blood aura of the Demon Sealing Tombstone. If she could find a way to use that energy while she cultivated, she would be able to raise the blood spirit energy in her blood to new heights with the Blood Spirit Art.

“Go on ahead,” Qin Lie said generously.

Xue Moyan walked over, her face filled with joy, then reached out her tender, pale hand and slowly approached the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The instant the middle finger of her hand was three inches away from the tombstone’s surface, a ray of bloody light erupted from it. The light forced Xue Moyan’s delicate body backward, pain appearing on her face.

After stabilizing herself, Xue Moyan let out a soft sigh and shook her head helplessly. “It’s rejecting my aura.”

“You were better off than I was. Back when the Demon Sealing Tombstone was in my possession, it blasted me away more than tens times in a row,” Luo Chen said bitterly. “It wasn’t until I was severely injured that I decided to give up. Now that I think back, I still don’t know why…”

It was obvious that Luo Chen still hadn’t completely accepted that outcome.

“It appears as though the Demon Sealing Tombstone only allows its master to use it.” Du Xiangyang rubbed his chin, then suddenly asked, “How did you get the Demon Sealing Tombstone to acknowledge you as its master, Qin Lie?”

“Maybe I got it to acknowledge me when I got hurt and accidentally spat a mouthful of blood on it.” Qin Lie himself wasn’t sure. “Who knows?”

“It was that easy?”

“Mn.”

“You’re ridiculously lucky.”

“Hehe.”

After this simple back and forth, everyone in the group was either envious of regretful. Yet they were no longer curious about the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

In the meantime, Qin Lie continued to replenish his blood using the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s blood aura. It took him six hours before he finally managed to refine some blood.

“Shall we attempt to enter the Forbidden Land of Ice?” Du Xiangyang suggested.

Nobody rejected the idea.

For the next few days, Qin Lie’s group summoned their respective shields of light and ventured deeper into the Forbidden Land of Ice, enduring bone-chilling winds.

The deeper they went, the colder it became.

Their speed gradually slowed because they constantly had to stop and replenish their spirit energy, which they were always using to keep their shields of light up continuously.

Qin Lie, on the other hand, completely exposed himself to the elements. His body could still endure the intense cold of the Forbidden Land of Ice on its own. The frost natal palaces inside of him had been filled to brim with refined frost energy a long time ago, and even now, it continued to gradually take in more.

Every time the group stopped to recover spirit energy, he was either using the blood energy of the Demon Sealing Tombstone to refine more blood for himself or replenishing his soul energy using the soul crystals.

A few days later, just when he replenished half of the blood he lost and restored around sixty to seventy percent of his soul energy, the powerful suction force of the Soul Suppressing Orb started up again.

Like a giant beast that only devoured soul energy and blood, the Soul Suppressing Orb opened its bloody maw once more. Just like before, Qin Lie's soul energy and blood flowed into the Soul Suppressing Orb.

Once the process began, Qin Lie immediately dropped to the icy ground with a pained look on his face. Helplessness flashed

through his eyes as he passively endured his soul energy and his blood draining out of him.

This time, the Soul Suppressing Orb's merciless absorption lasted for an hour.

However, the blood that Qin Lie had refined and the soul energy he had used the soul crystals to replenish... had been completely absorbed.

This latest bout of draining had thrown him back to where he started a few days ago, exhausted of both soul energy and blood.

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Chapter 512: Great Danger

Qin Lie quietly sat atop an icy rock. His face was pale as he refined blood for himself using the Demon Sealing Tombstone's blood energy.

As he did this, the rest of his group were accumulating spirit energy from spirit stones to maintain their shields of light.

When Qin Lie opened his eyes a considerable amount of time later, he inadvertently smiled when he saw that everyone was looking at him.

It recently felt as if he had fallen into a never-ending nightmare. Every time he replenished his soul energy and blood to a certain point, the Soul Suppressing Orb would generate a powerful sucking force.

A large majority of the soul energy and blood that Qin Lie worked so hard to replenish would then be drained from him.

However, the Soul Suppressing Orb would avoid some of the soul energy and blood in his body, refraining from causing his body any real harm.

As for the soul energy and blood that the Soul Suppressing Orb did take, they would be drained and absorbed behind the sealed door within the orb.

Each time he replenished more of his soul energy and blood, the Soul Suppressing Orb would just extract it. The cycle kept repeating.

This brought a sudden halt to Qin Lie's cultivation, keeping him stuck at his current realm and preventing him from making any more breakthroughs in his various spirits arts.

All of his time and effort were spent on replenishing his soul energy and blood. He couldn't afford to care about anything else.

The Soul Suppressing Orb's drain on his soul energy and blood also led to a large decrease in his combat potential, cutting it down to half of what it would be.

His companions fared a bit better.

As Qin Lie's group headed deeper into the Forbidden Land of Ice, the air grew colder and colder, forcing their pace to get progressively slower. Only after spending a lot of time replenishing their spirit energy with spirit stones did they dare to continue onward.

More than half a month passed by, and their group of seven slowly approached the center of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

As of this moment, they were quietly sitting among frozen trees and recovering their energy. Translucent, icy peaks could be seen in the distance, pure white snow accenting their frigid outlines.

Arctic winds weaved through these mountain-tops with shrill, earsplitting howls.

“The Land of Buried Gods should be the coldest place in the Forbidden Land of Ice. That is the only place in which the remains of the deceased would never rot. In addition to that, the dispersal of the energy in their bodies would decrease to an extremely slow speed.

Xue Moyan slowly got to her feet and looked into the distance. A serious expression surfaced on her face.

“Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and the eastern barbarians…” She sighed softly. “There really are quite a few people coveting the remains of those elites. Even if we did find the Land of Buried Gods, we wouldn’t necessarily be able to obtain anything like we did in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.”

She looked at Qin Lie, a hint of worry in her eyes.

Everyone could see that Qin Lie wasn’t doing so well. If it weren’t for the constant loss of soul energy and blood, Qin Lie’s combat strength still could’ve been considered extraordinary even outside of the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

But now…

“How many soul crystals do you have left?” Song Tingyu asked

gently.

“About thirty or so.” Qin Lie frowned.

For the past half a month, Qin Lie needed to continuously consume soul crystals to replenish his soul energy. Back in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, since he had taken the priceless Pure Soul Springs, he allowed the others to take the soul crystals.

They had ended up sharing them to a certain extent..

Now, however, since he required soul crystals to replenish his soul energy, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan would give him soul crystals every so often.

Because of an urgent need for soul crystals at the moment, he naturally didn’t turn them down. As a result, he had been using up their soul crystals for quite some time now.

The number of soul crystals that each of the three girls had was swiftly decreasing..

“I’ll give you another fifty.”

Song Tingyu took numerous translucent soul crystals out of her spatial ring and gave them to him.

“I also have a lot of soul crystals. If you don’t have enough, I can

give you some more.” Pan Qianqian raised her voice.

“These will be enough for now.” Qin Lie smiled and accepted the soul crystals that Song Tingyu gave to him. His eyes, however, were far from relaxed.

—He had no idea when this torture would end.

Every time Qin Lie replenished his soul energy and blood, recovering a little bit, the Soul Suppressing Orb would trigger its draining effect and steal everything he had worked so hard to accumulate.

This cycle of absorption felt like a hole in which he was freefalling and couldn’t see the bottom of..

It weighed down on his heart, causing it to sink lower and lower..

“I wonder how Chu Li is doing,” Du Xiangyang suddenly said.

“He’ll be fine,” Luo Chen interjected. “Considering how strong he is and the fact that he no longer has He Wei and those other Terminator Sect fools holding him back, no one will be able to take him down without a fight.”

“Don’t worry. We’ll definitely run into him here in the Forbidden Land of Ice,” Song Tingyu said.

Qin Lie nodded and stood up. “Let’s get going. We need to continue searching for the Land of Buried Gods.”

The group continued on their journey once more.

Another five uneventful days passed by until, suddenly, Pan Qianqian shrieked in surprise.

“There’s a body here! Someone froze to death!”

Lying amidst the numerous icy trees was a young man. He was garbed in eastern barbarian clothing, and his white skin bore many exquisite tattoos. His body was encased in ice, having first been frozen and then covered in snow.

“At first I thought he was an icy rock. It was only after I pushed the snow out of the way that I realized there was an eastern barbarian inside of it,” Pan Qianqian explained.

Everyone in the group gathered around the corpse of the white eastern barbarian and swept the all of the snow aside, carefully inspecting it.

“I don’t see any wounds or traces of combat. Nobody killed him,” Du Xiangyang said firmly.

“Judging from his appearance, this person probably froze to death. He was most likely in the early stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Perhaps he rushed here without replenishing his spirit

energy and was overwhelmed by the frigid air. His nerves would have then gone numb, leading to him being frozen alive."

After she took a moment to examine the man, Song Tingyu paused. A serious expression appeared on her beautiful face.

"I believe we should take this as a warning. We need to make sure we have as much spirit energy as possible at all times. Otherwise, if we encounter unforeseen circumstances and expend too much, the frigid air may overwhelm us! We might suffer the same fate as him!"

"Mn. We need to be more careful," Du Xiangyang said, his expression becoming more serious as well.

"Black barbarian... scarlet barbarian... white barbarian..." Xue Moyan muttered a few words to herself, her brow deeply furrowed. Then, as a realization occurred to her, she spoke up, her voice filled with worry. "The eastern barbarians may prove to be even more of a problem than we originally thought."

All eyes immediately turned to her.

"The barbarians we encountered in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Sen Ye and his men, all had dark skin. All of them were black barbarians of the Black Barbarian Tribe," Xue Moyan explained grimly. "I initially thought that they made up all of the eastern barbarians in the Graveyard of Gods. However, this white barbarian we've stumbled across means that the black barbarians weren't the only eastern barbarians to enter the Graveyard of

Gods. There are probably white barbarians and scarlet barbarians here as well. The number of eastern barbarians in the Graveyard of the Gods might exceed our expectations... by an obscene amount. Similar to how each of our nine great Silver rank forces sent people here, each of the eastern barbarians tribes may have sent their own."

"Compared to us, the eastern barbarians are definitely more united. They also despise us to their very cores. This Trial... may actually prove to be rather difficult." Du Xiangyang started to feel a headache coming on.

The appearance of a white barbarian made them realize that Sen Ye and his men were just a portion of the eastern barbarians in the Graveyard of Gods.

"Let me think..." Du Xiangyang said. "Those scarlet, white, and black barbarians most likely entered the Graveyard of Gods through an opening in their territory. The must've come through on the opposite end, meaning they probably showed up in the Forbidden Lands of Metal, Earth, and Water. All of us were at one end of the seven great forbidden lands while they were on the other end, and now everyone is headed toward the Forbidden Land of Ice at the center."

Du Xiangyang paused for a moment, sucking in a deep breath, then spoke in a grim tone, "If I'm correct, the fact that Sen Ye and his men were in the Forbidden Land of Thunder means that the eastern barbarians have already passed through the Forbidden Lands of Metal, Water, and Earth!"

“You mean to say that... we’ll probably encounter all three eastern barbarian tribes here in the Forbidden Land of Ice?” Qin Lie frowned.

“I am one hundred percent certain that we’ll meet them in the Land of Buried Gods!” Du Xiangyang explained softly. Then he said, “That is, of course, if we manage to find the Land of Buried Gods.”

“Even if we do encounter them, it doesn’t seem like the best idea to enter the Land of Buried Gods with our current strength... does it?” Pan Qianqian asked timidly.

As soon as she said this, everyone went quiet.

When they realized that there were probably a few hundred eastern barbarians in the Graveyard of Gods, a heavy weight suddenly pressed down on their chests. It was almost a struggle for them to breathe.
The eastern barbarians clearly understood more about the Graveyard of Gods than they did.

The white and scarlet barbarians could already be on their way to the Land of Buried Gods. In fact, they might have already reached it! Sen Ye and his black barbarians were probably headed there as well.

Qin Lie’s group could be counted on two hands, and they would have to face several hundred members of the three great eastern barbarian tribes, all of which were in the same realms as them.

Even if they did know where the Land of Buried Gods was, would they really want to go inside?

“If we enter the Land of Buried Gods, won’t we just lose the soul crystals we acquired from the Forbidden Land of Thunder? The eastern barbarians could even shoot us to death!” Pan Qianqian cried.

No one said anything in response, and the group fell silent.

……

Chapter 513: Weak

Qin Lie's group headed deeper into the Forbidden Land of Ice.

As they ventured further into the snowy landscape, they discovered the corpses of eastern barbarians who had frozen to death. From what they could identify, most of the chilled bodies were scarlet barbarians and white barbarians, and none had any obvious wounds or other signs of combat.

—All of them appeared to have died due to lack of strength or caution, having hurried on their journey without fully recovering their spirit energies.

The numerous corpses they discovered were like a layer of shadow on everyone's minds. The pitiful fates of these barbarians weighed down on them, making them feel lethargic and morose.

"Pssh!" A foot plunged into the snow.

Every time someone took a step, they would be knee deep in the thick layer of icy snow on the ground. This rough terrain made the group move slower and slower.

At this moment, Qin Lie's group stood at the foot of a snow-covered mountain.

They had decided on climbing up to the peak of this mountain and survey the land. They wanted to see if they could figure out

the approximate direction that the Land of Buried Gods would be in.

The seven of them were already deep inside of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Here, the freezing cold went bone-deep, and massive chunks of snow flew through the air. Bitter, frigid winds would even batter them from time to time.

Whenever wind swept across the land, the crisp sound of something cracking would resonate from an unknown place. It was the terrifying sound of something being frozen.

“Some of the scarlet barbarians and white barbarians we came across froze to death because they didn’t have enough spirit energy to protect themselves from the cold,” Qin Lie said. “The others... they were swept away by the freezing winds.”

Qin Lie sucked in a deep breath and stared off into the distance, eyes glittering. “The bitter, freezing winds of the Forbidden Land of Ice are several times more terrifying than those of the land underneath the Arctic Mountain Range. I can also feel how frightening this extreme cold is. Forget those scarlet barbarians and white barbarians with weak realms... even we may not necessarily be able to endure for long!”

Qin Lie’s words shocked the entire group, making everyone become more cautious.

During this period of time, Qin Lie's group became acutely aware of the terrifying wind sweeping throughout the Forbidden Land of Ice in the form of strange frigid airflows.

These cold winds seemed to come out of nowhere, threatening to sweep across all eight of them with bone-chilling cold.

However, thanks to how amazingly perceptive Qin Lie was, he could predict which direction the cold winds would blow in advance. He would then tell them how to avoid the winds and let them know when to rush out of each gust of wind's path.

Even though they were able to avoid the winds and remain unaffected, everyone was still greatly alarmed.

"Ugh..."

Just as he was about to speak, a soft groan escaped from Qin Lie's lips. He sat on the ground, face twisted in pain.

Waves of blood energy and soul energies emanated from Qin Lie's body.

Everyone exchanged glances and inwardly sighed. They understood what was happening.

—The Soul Suppressing Orb was absorbing Qin Lie's soul energy and blood again.

Fifteen minutes later, Qin Lie got up sluggishly. His face was a pale white, and his eyes were a dim gray. Sweat poured from him as if he were suffering from a dire illness.

"Let's go," he said. "We need to get to the peak of the mountain as soon as possible."

"Qin Lie, shouldn't we... take a break? Why don't we wait for you to recover before climbing any farther?" Du Xiangyang asked sincerely.

Qin Lie shook his head and said, "It's fine. This location is exposed. Those extremely cold winds will constantly sweep through, so we definitely can't afford to stay here. Besides, you guys just replenished your spirit energy. We should hurry while you're able to. Otherwise, once you've expended your spirit energy, we'll have to stop and rest again anyway."

"But you..." Song Tingyu frowned.

"I'm fine. At least I don't need to expend spirit energy to resist this cold. Also... if I replenished my soul energy and blood, they'd only get drained again." Qin Lie smiled helplessly.

"Alright." Du Xiangyang nodded.

"Then let's walk shoulder by shoulder," Song Tingyu said softly, walking up to him and holding him by his shoulders. "You just had

your blood absorbed and are at your weakest. Don't force yourself..."

Qin Lie smiled. "Okay."

The sight of Qin Lie and Song Tingyu being intimate no longer surprised the rest of the group.

Two hours later, Qin Lie's group reached the peak of the snow-covered mountain and looked into the distance.

Through the swirling wind and snow, they could see enormous, interconnected glaciers of ice and the peaks of snowy mountains. The white, silver land around them seemed to stretch on endlessly.

Here, even Qin Lie's soul perception was greatly impaired. He couldn't scan the area for life signatures.

In light of this, the group could only rely on their eyes to search for the tiniest of movements, confirm that there weren't any living creatures nearby, and figure out which direction the Land of Buried Gods might be in.

"Over there! There's a shadow over there!"

On another icy, snow-covered mountain, Su Yan stood behind a gigantic boulder of ice, carefully observing her surroundings from her hiding spot. She immediately spotted Qin Lie on a snowy peak in the distance.

Behind Su Yan were several man-made caves. Celestial Artifact Sect's Feng Yiyou, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain's Yu Men, Black Voodoo Cult's Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao... everyone was there.

All of them were gripping spirit stones, absorbing spirit energy from them to recover their strength.

"Have the eastern barbarians caught up to us again?" Ye Yihao asked grimly.

Sen Ye and his black barbarians had caught up to them not longer after they had entered the Forbidden Land of Ice. He and his eastern barbarians attacked them repeatedly as they ventured deep into this freezing land.

When they finally made it to the peak of this mountain, the three forces thought they had thrown the black barbarians off their trail. Instead of black barbarians, however, they encountered white barbarians and scarlet barbarians and were forced to fight even more.

Up to this point, they lost many subordinates.

After a long pursuit riddled with numerous battles, most of the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, had either been killed or frozen. The number of those who remained had become dangerously low.

At this moment, these people were like birds that could be startled by just the soft twang of a bow. Even when they recovered their spirit energy, they had to leave one person on guard duty to prevent the eastern barbarians from ambushing them again.

As a result, they always chose to rest high up on a mountain, providing a better position with which they could observe their surroundings.

“It isn’t the eastern barbarians,” Su Yan said, peering into the distance from her hiding spot. “I-It looks like Qin Lie’s group!”

“Qin Lie!”

“Qin Lie!”

Shock appeared on everyone’s faces.

“Qin Lie and those other people definitely reaped a good harvest back in the thunder lagoon!” Feng Yiyou said, gnashing his teeth hatefully.

“The Pure Soul Springs!” Yu Men’s eyes were ablaze with fervent desire.

“Back in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie’s thunder spirit art allowed his combat power to increase to the maximum. It was

like a god went out of its way to help him, and we weren't able to do anything because of that." Huang Zhuli's beautiful face was grim. "However, this is the Forbidden Land of Ice. He definitely won't be a match for us here!"

Every martial practitioner present in these caves had been harassed by the eastern barbarians until they were dizzy and lightheaded, yet when someone mentioned the Pure Soul Springs, they acted as though their minds had been thoroughly refreshed.

"Let's go get them!"

With their opinions united, the surviving martial practitioners of the three forces left their caves, figured out which direction Qin Lie's group was in, and secretly made their way toward them.

Meanwhile, at the mountain peak where Qin Lie's group was, everyone carefully observed their surroundings. Their gazes swept across the myriad mountain peaks in the distance, but no one saw anything out of the ordinary.

—They didn't notice Su Yan hiding behind a boulder of ice.

"All of us have used up quite a bit of spirit energy, so let's quickly go and recover," Song Tingyu reminded the others.

Everyone nodded their heads in agreement.

In order to recover, Qin Lie took out the Demon Sealing

Tombstone so that he could absorb its aura of blood energy and replenish his blood supply.

However, the moment that the Demon Sealing Tombstone appeared, its surface suddenly shone with the seven rays of brilliant, divine light.

Qin Lie's group immediately looked at the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

It floated into the air as it glowed, seemingly moving in a specific direction.

Qin Lie's expression changed into one of understanding as he hastily jumped onto the Demon Sealing Tombstone and dragged it back to the icy ground in front of him.

"I think I know where the ice spirit is!" he exclaimed.

The eyes of the other lit up in surprise.

"Now I understand." Qin Lie continued to restrain the Demon Sealing Tombstone and keep it from flying away as he explained, "Back in the Forbidden Land of Fire, the Demon Sealing Tombstone flew off on its own and led me to the fire spirit. That means it can sense the seven spirits..."

The others nodded in understanding.

“Here, in the Forbidden Land of Ice, the Demon Sealing Tombstone hasn’t reacted to anything despite the the fact that I’ve taken it out to recover the blood in my body.” Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment before continuing, “It probably couldn’t detect the ice spirit because it’s too far away. Such a function is like that of the tokens. The tokens can be used to sense other tokens and transmit messages within a fifty kilometer radius. In the same vein, the Demon Sealing Tombstone can only detect the seven spirits when they are nearby!”

“Does that mean that we’re currently close to the ice spirit?” Du Xiangyang asked, growing excited.

“That should be the case!” Qin Lie seemed to have regained his spirits as well. “If I let go of it right now, I believe that the Demon Sealing Tombstone will float away and lead us to the ice spirit!”

“Before you do that, we need to recover our strength!” Luo Chen exclaimed.

“Then let us quickly recover our spirit energy using the spirit stones!” Du Xiangyang agreed.

“Okay!”

Keeping a hand on the Demon Sealing Tombstone to prevent it from flying away, Qin Lie continued to absorb blood energy from it and use the Blood Spirit Art to recover his blood supply.

He extracted soul energy from a soul crystal in his other hand.

Since the Soul Suppressing Orb had begun to drain soul energy and blood at regular intervals, Qin Lie had learned from all the times he needed to replenish himself and gradually became able to multitask. Now he could absorb blood energy from the Demon Sealing Tombstone and extract soul energy from a soul crystal at the same time.

He would sometimes even have the leisure to examine the inside of the Soul Suppressing Orb with his soul consciousness.

As he replenished his energies this time, his soul consciousness entered the strange, borderless space inside of the Soul Suppressing Orb once more.

And he looked at the frost concept painting.

Just like a spirit diagram, several crisscrossing, icy threads and silver lines made up the frost concept painting. It faintly depicted a land covered in icy crystals that looked extremely cold. When Qin Lie examined it with his mind consciousness, he felt as if he were in a freezing land.

A wisp of his mind consciousness entered deep into the frost concept painting, intermingling with the thin icy threads and experiencing painting's aura of frost.

Qin Lie sought to use the frost concept painting to understand power of frost on a more profound level.

“S-so cold!”

“It suddenly became a lot colder!”

“It feels as if the Forbidden Land of Ice’s aura of frost secretly converged on us, causing the temperature to drop sharply.”

Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Xie Jingxuan, and the others shivered as they were recovering their spirit energy with spirit stones.

They were still inside of their shields of light.

All of them opened their eyes as they continued to replenish their spirit energy and observed their surroundings with a frown.

Wisps of white, frosty mist surged to their location from every direction and slowly floated toward Qin Lie. They shrouded him like thin, white clouds.

This caused the air around Qin Lie to suddenly become several times colder.

The intense chill that everyone felt obviously came from Qin Lie.

“This guy really is a freak,” Du Xiangyang yelled after a moment of disbelief. “I think all of us should stay away from him for now… just in case something bad happens.”

Luo Chen was the first one to walk away.

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Chapter 514: Frozen To Death?

“Ding ling ling! Bzz… bzz bzz…”

A series of low chimes burst forth from the tokens in the possession of Luo Chen, Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and the others. It jolted everyone from their meditative process of using spirit stones to recover their energy, promptly making everyone tense up.

“Someone’s approaching us!” Du Xiangyang shouted, touching a token at his waist. “They’re moving fast, but I can’t tell who they are!”

“It has to be either the eastern barbarians or Ye Yihao and the others,” Luo Chen said grimly. “Who else could it be?”

As of that moment, all of them were hundreds of meters away from Qin Lie.

Cold energy in the form of dense white mist swirled around his location.

A thick layer of ice encased his body, and on top of that, heaps of snow covered him.

At a glance, he resembled the white and scarlet barbarians that had frozen to death. There weren’t any clear indications that he was alive.

But none of his companions dared to go near him.

“I hope it isn’t the eastern barbarians,” Xue Moyan said, her expression grave.

“I’ll go investigate.” Song Tingyu got to her feet, walked to the edge of the mountain peak, and peered down at the surrounding area.

The tokens of the nine great Silver rank powers had a certain range. Since their tokens had sounded off, it meant that other people with tokens were currently within fifty kilometers of them.

If a person looked down at an area from a high vantage point, it would be very easy to see even the smallest of movements. However, whoever was out there had deliberately concealed their approach. They moved through the forest below, obscured by the icy foliage and thick snow, preventing Song Tingyu from locking on to them.

After a while, Song Tingyu shook her head in frustration. “I can’t see anyone.”

“There’s no point in looking,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly. “The people approaching us belong to Black Voodoo Cult.”

“How can you be so sure?” Luo Chen asked, shocked but skeptical.

“The Terminator Sect tokens haven’t reacted strongly.” Xie Jingxuan paused for a brief moment, then continued, “The people of Black Voodoo Cult haven’t killed many Terminator Sect martial practitioners. The eastern barbarians, on the other hand...

“When we first encountered the eastern barbarians, Chu Li’s Terminator Sect token had a strong reaction. This means that they’ve killed numerous Terminator Sect martial practitioners and taken their tokens.”

“That does seem to be the case,” Du Xiangyang said, checking his own tokens and realizing she was right.

“Black Voodoo Cult, huh...” Song Tingyu pursed her lips in contemplation. A moment later, her face was serene as she said, “Maybe we should meet with them and the two other forces.”

Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen’s faces twisted in surprise.

Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian only frowned at the suggestion.

Du Xiangyang sighed, then grimaced. “There could be hundreds of black, scarlet, and white barbarians gathered in the Land of Buried Gods. As we are now, even if we manage to find its location, we shouldn’t enter it recklessly.”

“Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain together form a powerful

force. I'm afraid they might not be willing to work with us." Song Tingyu's beautiful eyes flashed.

"Shall we wait for them to arrive and see what they have to say?" Du Xiangyang suggested.

"If they harbor malicious intent, how are we going to deal with them?" Pan Qianqian asked. "Huang Zhuli is ruthlessly cunning and definitely isn't easy to handle."

"We aren't pushovers either!" Luo Chen snorted.

"They have Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and the heirs of the three great families," Xue Moyan said with a frown. "Their overall offensive capabilities... surpass ours."

Everyone inadvertently looked at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie was the only reason they had a clear advantage when fighting others in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Now, however...

Qin Lie was in no condition to fight properly, and they had lost contact with Chu Li. As they were now, they were clearly weaker than the combined group of the three forces.

If both sides actually fought, there was a good chance that Qin

Lie's group would end up being the weaker side and even dying.

"Now isn't a good time to face them!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed, quickly regaining his wits.

Although she originally wanted to try and negotiate with the other group, Song Tingyu nodded decisively and said, "Shall we go hide?"

"What about Qin Lie?" Xie Jingxuan interrupted.

Everyone froze.

Qin Lie was still covered in a thick layer of ice and heaps of snow.

His location still radiated a white mist of bone-chilling cold that all of them stayed away from.

If they wanted to go and hide, how would they bring Qin Lie with them?

"In spite of our desire to avoid Black Voodoo Cult and the other forces... considering Qin Lie's condition, I don't think we have a choice." Du Xiangyang grimaced.

The rest of the group went quiet, then nodded in helpless understanding. It was clear that the other three forces were approaching them, but they couldn't do anything but silently wait.

This wait lasted two hours.

“Crunch… crunch… crunch…!”

The sound of feet plodding through dense snow eventually rang out in the distance, gradually growing nearer. Everyone in Qin Lie’s group felt their nerves stand on end as they focused their attention in the direction of the sound.

Soon enough, Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao appeared leading Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. And, as expected, the familiar faces of Feng Yiyou and Yu Men were there as well.

“Just as we suspected…” Su Yan smiled coldly. “It’s you!”

“We’ve known you were coming here for quite some time now!” Song Tingyu retorted.

The distance between both sides rapidly decreased until Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, and the rest of their group were standing right in front of Qin Lie’s group.

“Where is Qin Lie?! Hm?!” Ye Yihao shouted, his eyes searching the area. Once he found what he was looking for, he laughed. “Hah! Hahahah! He froze to death? How ironic! That’s hilarious!”

Behind Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and the others, Qin Lie sat

on the floor, encased in ice and shrouded in cold white mist.

His looked exactly the same as the scarlet and white barbarians that had frozen to death.

“Hahaahahahaha!” Yu Men laughed madly. “Qin Lie was a fierce dragon in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. I never would have expected him to become a frozen worm upon entering the Forbidden Land of Ice!

“Qin Lie was a martial practitioner that has just entered the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm! Not only was his realm not strong enough, his spirit energy was neither pure nor abundant!” Feng Yiyou said disdainfully. “I don’t know what thunder and lightning spirit art he cultivated that allowed him to manipulate the thunder and lightning of the Forbidden Land of Thunder, but in the Forbidden Land of Ice... Here, he isn’t even worth mentioning!”

“Qin Lie froze to death? Just like that? Tsk tsk! That... that really is funny!” Su Yan said, glee on her face as she clearly felt a sense of schadenfreude. “I almost thought he would end up being somebody in the future. I didn’t expect that he wouldn’t be able to endure just this much! As expected, poor little martial practitioners from lower level continents don’t amount to much!”

“And he dreamed of returning Blood Fiend Sect to its former glory? I hadn’t thought that he’d freeze to death right after leaving the Forbidden Land of Thunder!” Xiahou Yuan said with a cold smirk.

Upon seeing Qin Lie encased in ice and covered in heaps of snow, the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain heaved a collective sigh of relief.

All of these people were extremely wary of Qin Lie for some reason. This boy of unknown origins had too many secrets that they couldn't uncover.

On the way over here, everyone came to the consensus that they needed to attack Qin Lie first and prevent him from doing anything.

They considered him their number one enemy!

However, they hadn't expected Qin Lie, the person they had placed so much importance on, to be encased in ice like a frozen corpse.

Although this discovery disappointed them, it also made them rejoice.

"Enough talk," Ye Yihao said after he finished laughing, his expression becoming cold and murderous. "Give us the Pure Soul Springs and we'll let you leave, simple as that."

"Scarlet, white, and black barbarians are here in the Forbidden Land of Ice. Any battle that takes place here will expend huge

amounts of spirit energy," Huang Zhuli said calmly, her expression cold and dark. "There's no need for such a wasteful... diversion. We don't want to fight you. As long as you give us the Pure Soul Springs and the Demon Sealing Tombstone, we'll be on our way!"

Neither Yu Men nor Feng Yiyou spoke, but their vicious gazes showed that they had clearly reached an agreement with Black Voodoo Cult.

"We didn't manage to get any of the Pure Soul Springs," Du Xiangyang said with a grimace, spreading his arms. "We waited here for you because we hope to join forces with you in the Forbidden Land of Ice and fight the eastern barbarians together."

"There are eastern barbarians here in the Forbidden Land of Ice. They are many, they are united, and they will do everything they can to hunt all of us down," Song Tingyu said harshly. "It doesn't matter if it's you or us, escape will be difficult for either side if they encounter the eastern barbarians with just their own people. We won't be able to defeat the eastern barbarians like that. Even if we did know the location of the Land of Buried Gods... divided as we are now, we wouldn't gain a thing..."

As soon as Song Tingyu mentioned the eastern barbarians, ugly expressions appeared on the faces of Ye Yihao, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men. They lowered their heads in silence.

Picking up on this, Song Tingyu changed the direction of her argument. "I see that you've suffered significant losses. More than a dozen of you are missing. Did they... fall at the hands of the eastern barbarians?"

Their expressions became even uglier.

“As long as you move about in the Forbidden Land of Ice, as long as you’re in the Graveyard of Gods, the eastern barbarians will never stop their pursuit!” Song Tingyu exclaimed, raising her voice. Then she took a deep breath and said, “Think about it. Divided, we are weak. Together, we’d be stronger.”

Many people of the three forces were silent. Their eyes clearly showed that Song Tingyu’s words had moved them.

Huang Zhuli, however, smiled coldly and said, “We might be able to work together against the eastern barbarians, but… before any of that, we want three of the Pure Soul Springs! Just half of the haul! That’s not such an outrageous demand, right?

The moment they heard the Pure Soul Springs come up in the negotiations, greedy light shone from the eyes of every person that Song Tingyu had almost managed to convince. All of them started to shout.

“Right! The Pure Soul Springs!”

“There are six of them! Give us half!”

“We’ll only consider cooperating with you after you share them with us!”

“We only want three of the Pure Soul Springs,” Ye Yihao said impatiently. “That’s quite generous of us, don’t you think?”

“No, we can’t even give you one Pure Soul Spring.” Du Xiangyang grimaced, spreading his arms once again. “Because we didn’t get any of them from the Forbidden Land of Thunder!”

“We encountered Sen Ye on the way here! He ambushed us multiple times and was unusually angry. He told us that you were the last ones to leave the thunder lagoon and that, not long after you left, it exploded!” Ye Yihao’s sinister eyes flashed with cold light. “He said that, not only did he not get any of the Pure Souls Springs, you had them! And I don’t think he lied. You have the six Pure Soul Springs, and we only want three. If you won’t agree to this, don’t blame us for what we may do!”

The moment Ye Yihao finished speaking, a voice rang out. Qin Lie, who they thought had already been frozen to death, suddenly spoke up from within the ice and snow.

“I have the Pure Soul Springs! They’re mine! So, what are you going to do now?”

“Crack… cra-crack!”

As Qin Lie spoke, the thick layer of ice encasing his body suddenly burst. Pieces of shattered ice fell to the ground.

In that instant, a bone-chilling essence spread from Qin Lie. It

mingled with the cold white mist and gradually spread into the surroundings.

The expressions of Ye Yihao and the others twisted in shock.

Chapter 515: Leave!

Qin Lie stepped out of the ice and walked forward, shattering it to pieces.

Cold white mist wrapped around him like thick smoke, moving with him and spreading its icy energy into the surroundings.

The extreme cold felt like icicles slowly sinking into everyone's bodies, threatening to freeze their blood.

The martial practitioners of the three forces wore fearful expressions.

All of them originally thought that Qin Lie had frozen to death... that his nightmarish oppression wouldn't happen again. They hadn't expected him to spring back to life before they could even finish making threats.

Focusing their soul perceptions, the remaining martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Sect, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were shocked to discover that the frost concept emanating from Qin Lie's body felt extremely similar to the cold of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Looking amongst each other, they could see the shock in the eyes of those beside them.

Qin Lie didn't cultivate a frost spirit art for fun—he was just as skilled with it as he was with his thunder spirit art!

His frost spirit art even resonated with the cold of the Forbidden Land of Ice!

Just how absurd was this situation?

All of this stunned Huang Zhuli and the others.

"Qin Lie?" Song Tingyu called out.

She and the rest of Qin Lie's companions wore strange expressions, gazing at him with eyes full of questions.

At this moment, Qin Lie exuded an extraordinarily intimidating presence. Continuously pulling in all of the surrounding icy energy, he seemed to be the source of all cold.

Bizarre cracking sounds emanated from Qin Lie, echoing through the air. The sounds made it seem as if the whole world were going to freeze over.

Qin Lie's eyes were a strange silvery white. They resembled clear, solid ice and gave off a cold, serene feeling.

"I have all six Pure Soul Springs. What are you going to do about it?"

Qin Lie marched through the thick snow, walking from Song Tingyu's side until he stood directly in front of Ye Yihao and the others.

Wherever he moved, whatever snow he passed through, quickly grew colder, leaving a trail of ice.

Wisps of white frost energy hovered above his head like silver clouds, gently swirling around him.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh…"

Gusts of frigid wind converged on this location from far in the distance, a harbinger for the flood of frost energy that seemed to be approaching.

"I…" Ye Yihao was at a loss for words.

He looked at Qin Lie, at how Qin Lie was controlling the entire situation yet again, and he felt as if he were back in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

And he wasn't the only one. Huang Zhuli, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and the others gritted their teeth, their faces pale.

Qin Lie's challenge made them secretly regret choosing to come here and cause trouble.

“The Pure Soul Springs are in my possession. You want them?” Qin Lie took another step forward. “Come and get them!”

With this step, he was only ten meters away from Ye Yihao and the others.

The white mist swirling around his body slowly spread toward them, carrying a bone-chilling cold.

“Crack! Crack!”

Terrifying sounds came from the shields of light of martial practitioners from the three great families. They sounded like glass under an enormous pressure that threatened to crush them into powder.

This was a sign that their shields of light could no longer endure the frost energy, threatening to collapse as the freezing energy spread.

“Retreat!” Su Yan yelled.

Her face was dark and hostile, but she moved backward, forcing herself to give the order.

Upon hearing her say this, the Su Family martial practitioners behind her secretly sighed in relief and hurriedly retreated.

The Lin Family and Xiahou Family martial practitioners looked to Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing at the same time, their eyes filled with desperation.

With the frost energy approaching, the shields of light protecting them were on the verge of failing.

They wouldn't be able to last much longer.

"Retreat!" Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing ordered in unison, each gritting their teeth.

At that moment, the martial practitioners of the three great families retreated, the crunch of their feet against the snow ringing sharply in everyone's ears.

The other martial practitioners on their side felt uneasy, anxious expressions surfacing on their faces.

Then Qin Lie moved farther forward, reducing the distance between him and Ye Yihao to five paces.

He would soon reach Ye Yihao.

"If you want the Pure Soul Springs... why don't you try taking them from me?"

Qin Lie's icy expression suddenly disappeared. His gaze became warm, his tone uncharacteristically peaceful.

—Yet the icy energy emanating from his body began to spread even faster.

"Kra-kra-kra-krak—!"

The shields of light of other martial practitioners of the three forces began to fracture. They seemed like they would shatter at any moment.

"If you can't endure any more of this..." Feng Yiyou yelled, "... then get back!"

Although he was unwilling to back down from Qin Lie, Feng Yiyou was intelligent enough to know that he had to give the order.

The Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners retreated.

Then everyone looked at Ye Yihao.

Each of Qin Lie's companions gazed at him with bright, energetic expressions, beaming smiles on their faces.

"Big Brother Qin... really is a good man!" Pan Qianqian exclaimed, covering her mouth.

Xue Moyan's lips had long since curved into a beautiful smile. Her elation was obvious.

"The terrifying winds that wreak havoc across the Forbidden Land of Ice are converging here. They're probably heading... for Qin Lie!" Huang Zhuli exclaimed, realization spread across her face.

The moment she said this, terror filled the hearts of everyone within earshot, especially Ye Yihao and the others.

"Move! Get farther away from Qin Lie!" Yu Men shouted.

All of the martial practitioners from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, including Yu Men himself, rushed backward, trying to distance themselves from Qin Lie.

The martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult pulled back, not bothering to wait for Huang Zhuli or Ye Yihao to issue orders.

All of a sudden, only Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao stood before Qin Lie. They had yet to move even a millimeter.

Their eyes, however, were filled with terror and hesitation.

"Fine," Huang Zhuli eventually said. "We'll leave."

She came to the conclusion that, even if they did fight Qin Lie, they probably wouldn't benefit from it. It was possible that they would just suffer heavy losses again.

—And they couldn't afford any more deaths.

She finally decided to back down.

"I'm going to kill you!" Ye Yihao exclaimed, slowly emphasizing each word. "I, Ye Yihao, swear… that you will die by my hands!"

Ye Yihao moved backward as he spoke, glaring at Qin Lie the entire time.

—It was clear that he understood his current situation.

However, Qin Lie disagreed.

"You think you can come and go as you please?" Qin Lie asked in a low tone. "Life isn't that simple!"

The instant he finished speaking, an earsplitting shriek pierced the surroundings. Streams of frost energy converged on their location, but upon arrival, they went eerily still.

"Huang Zhuli!" Qin Lie barked, his eyes dark and cold. "Hand over the Spring of Life that you stole from Xue Moyan! If you don't, none of you will leave this place alive!"

With that declaration, the white mists of frost energy began to move once more, each resembling an icy dragon.

Ye Yihao and the others started to panic.

As they watched these strange changes occur in the wisps of frost energy, seeing how bizarre their movements were, it dawned on them that Qin Lie could control the frost energy of the Forbidden Land of Ice.

All of them knew how terrifying the frost energy was. They also knew that the corpses they had come across on the way here belonged to scarlet and white barbarians that fell prey to the frost energy and died as a result.

A portion of their group had also been swallowed up by the frost energy. They hadn't been able to keep their shields of light up long enough and collapsed shortly after being exposed to it.

Upon seeing Qin Lie display a miraculous amount of control over the situation in the Forbidden Land of Ice, the people of Black Voodoo Cult felt extremely regretful. They cursed their bad eyesight and how they essentially came here in search of death.

Yet Huang Zhuli was the one who felt the most bitter. She watched as the streams of misty frost energy writhed through the air, her face the epitome of regret.

“I’ll count to three!” Qin Lie said, immediately starting the count. “One! Two! Thr—!”

“I’ll give you the Spring of Life!” Huang Zhuli screamed. “All of it! Every last drop!”

She trembled as she took a dark green bottle out of her spatial ring and threw it at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie had nearly driven her mad, helplessness and defeat covering her face.

Never before had she been reduced to such a sorry state.

“Th-the Spring of Life!” Pan Qianqian exclaimed with joy.

Xue Moyan stared at Qin Lie in disbelief. Emotions welled in her heart, her face positively glowing.

Under her gaze, Qin Lie leisurely caught the green bottle then threw it to her without hesitation, saying, “Inspect it.”

She hurriedly received the green bottle, twisted the cork from its mouth, and took a whiff of the clear fragrance that emerged.

“Yes!” Xue Moyan said excitedly. “It is the Spring of Life!”

Qin Lie nodded slightly, then waved the three forces off with contempt.

“Leave.”

This angered Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao so much, they gritted their teeth hard enough to nearly chip them.

Yet they didn’t dare to act at this moment. They could only shoot poisonous glares at Qin Lie as they slowly retreated.

“We’re leaving!”

And just like that, the three forces turned tail and left.

Chapter 516: Out of Control

The combined group of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had eagerly rushed over to oppress Qin Lie's group, but the terrifying events that took place resulted in a huge blow to their morale.

"Sister Xue! Is that truly the Spring of Life?" Pan Qianqian asked in pleasant shock.

"Yes! This is, without a doubt, the Spring of Life!" Xue Moyan replied, tightly gripping the dark green bottle as joy filled her small face. Like Pan Qianqian, she couldn't believe that the Spring of Life, which Huang Zhuli stole from them, would be reclaimed so easily.

"Thank you, Qin Lie," she said softly, her eyes flickering with a strange light.

"Why did you let them leave, Qin Lie?" Du Xiangyang asked. He seemed confused as he observed the mists of frost energy that surrounded them. "Compared to how you acted in the past, letting them go is much more mild. You actually didn't start a great battle..."

"A battle?" Qin Lie replied with a bitter laugh.

Immediately after he laughed, the dense mist of frost energy that lingered around them quickly dispersed. The raging gusts of frigid

air suddenly changed direction, vanishing just as fast as the mist.

At the same time, Qin Lie went limp and fell over, the blood draining from his face. It was as if he had suddenly been overwhelmed by exhaustion.

“Qin Lie!”

“Qin Lie, what’s wrong?”

Everyone quickly surrounded him.

Qin Lie lay on the snowy ground, the silvery white glow in his eyes gradually fading.

The intense, freezing air emanating from his body also receded like waves of seawater during low tide, quickly disappearing.

To the rest of the group, Qin Lie currently resembled someone who had fallen gravely ill. He seemed extremely feeble. His eyes had glazed over, and his usually strong aura had all but disappeared.

Compared to when he had intimidated Huang Zhuli into leaving, Qin Lie’s current state was like the darkness that followed a bright flash of light. It felt like even the slightest breeze could make him fall, let alone a casual attack from an enemy.

“What’s going on?” Song Tingyu rushed over anxiously, wrapping her arms around Qin Lie from behind and helping him to his feet.“ Your aura was fine earlier. Why did it get so weak in the blink of an eye?”

Everyone else also had the same question on their minds.

Qin Lie sighed subconsciously.

While he had been refining fresh blood using the Demon Sealing Tombstone and using soul crystals to recover his soul energy, Qin Lie used a wisp of his soul consciousness to examine the painting of the absolute frost concept inside of the Soul Suppressing Orb.

As if attracted by him doing this, all of the frost energy in the Forbidden Land of Ice quietly gathered from every direction.

As a result, the area around him abruptly became bone-chillingly cold.

As he examined and comprehended mysteries of the painting, wisps of the frost energy entered the pores of his body and penetrated into his dantian’s spirit sea and three frost natal palaces.

Since he was at the late stage of the Manifestation Realm, his three frost natal palaces had already completely formed and filled with frost energy.

There shouldn’t have been any new developments related to them.

However, large amounts of the intense frost energy within the Forbidden Land of Ice were relentlessly surging toward the frost natal palaces in his spirit sea, causing the three crystalline natal palaces to surprisingly undergo yet another transformation.

With that continuous influx of frost energy, the three frost natal palaces gradually grew larger and larger. The tiny space inside of each of them also underwent a brand new stage of growth.

Normally, this would be a good thing.

However, Qin Lie discovered that he was slowly losing control over the entire spirit sea in his dantian. The gradual refinement of frost energy inside of his frost natal palaces, along with their sudden growth, resulted in an intense disparity between the energies.

The frost energy seemed to be trying to take over his dantian’s spirit sea and turn it into a space ruled by frost.

The frost energy was also beginning to affect the other six natal palaces, threatening to transform the thunder and earth natal palaces into frost natal palaces and force his dantian’s spirit sea to become a single attribute, turning it into a world of frost.

In response, the thunder and earth energies within his body

started fighting back. All three types of energies clashed within Qin Lie's dantian.

When Qin Lie first awoke, his aura had been shockingly powerful because the frost energy had been erupting in his dantian's spirit sea. This was also the reason why the frigid air had gathered around him.

When he was threatening Ye Yihao, in reality, Qin Lie was bitterly trying to secretly use the frost energy to keep the thunder and earth energies from exploding out of his control.

However, that suppression had consumed huge amounts of his energy.

If Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli hadn't been so terrified of him and instead chose to attack, he would have immediately lost control.

Fortunately, the two were terrified of Qin Lie and were afraid of making a mistake like they had in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. So, upon sensing the frost energy emanating from his body and seeing his control over the frigid air, they gave up the Spring of Life and fled.

The moment the three forces left, Qin Lie could no longer suppress the surging energy in his dantian's spirit sea. The thunder and earth energies immediately burst forth and began to clash with the frost energy.

This completely disrupted Qin Lie's control over his dantian's spirit sea. The Soul Suppressing Orb had already cut the amount of soul energy and blood inside of him by half. In his already weakened state, the current condition of his dantian's spirit sea, where it could collapse at any moment, momentarily paralyzed him.

"So... the aura you radiated earlier was just an empty shell that you used to scare them off?" Du Xiangyang asked, stunned.

Qin Lie smiled bitterly, then nodded and said, "If Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao had been a little more brave and decided to make a move instead of retreat, I would have instantly been exposed."

The second his words came out, everyone started looking at each other and didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"How do you feel right now?" Song Tingyu asked worriedly.

"My spirit sea is a total mess. The frost, thunder, and earth energies are at war inside of me, and it feels like it'll never end." Qin Lie took a deep breath, then continued, "I need to calm them down as soon as possible!"

Not bothering to chat anymore, Qin Lie closed his eyes and condensed a wisp of his now weakened soul consciousness to go check on the situation within his spirit sea.

Within Qin Lie's spirit sea, his nine natal palaces hung in a

roiling sea of clouds like nine brilliant suns of different colors. They floated in the sky of the dantian, releasing dazzling, iridescent light.

Of the nine natal palaces, three released tranquil blue light reminiscent of electricity, three radiated bright yellow earthen light, and the remaining three unleashed a torrent of pure white icy light. The icy light resembled a multitude of sharp, hundred-meter-long swords. They scraped the sky, forming a frigid rainbow as they constantly fought for dominance over Qin Lie's spirit sea. As a result, Qin Lie's spirit sea seemed blindingly bright due to the flashing and dazzling tumult of energies.

Cloud after icy cloud bloomed and released frost energy, wrapping around the three natal palaces to form a cluster of clouds.

With the help of the frost energy from the Forbidden Land of Ice, the three frost natal palaces continued to grow in size while releasing an increasingly intense icy light. As this occurred, the frost, thunder, and earth energies intermingled, continuing to clash with no end in sight.

Qin Lie's wisp of soul consciousness, which had condensed into an avatar of himself, appeared to have entered an ancient battlefield. Energy flashed like cold steel as he observed the intense three-sided battle unfolding before him.

However, all three sides were technically on the same side him. If they continued to fight, he would be the only loser.

Electric, frosty, and earthen lights crashed against each other over and over, each attempting to subdue the other two. Qin Lie could clearly feel the consumption and dispersal of energy every single time.

As the clashes between the three types of energies and their various fragments of colored, shooting lights intensified, the fluctuations of Qin Lie's spirit sea grew increasingly violent. It seemed as if his spirit sea could collapse at any moment.

This implication made Qin Lie's terror skyrocket.

Unable to stop the cataclysmic chaos occurring around it, Qin Lie's soul shadow wandered between the nine natal palaces within his spirit sea.

He had spent too much soul energy and lost too much blood. His body was also extremely weak. Considering how fierce the fighting in his spirit sea was on top of all that...

It was obvious that he'd completely lost control of this situation.

"What should I do? What should I do!?" Qin Lie wracked his brain trying to think of something.

At the same time, the three forces plodded along in gloomy silence, having withdrawn from the icy peak that Qin Lie's group was at.

A strange depressing atmosphere surrounded them.

They walked back in the direction they had come from with their heads lowered and their faces icy. Silence reigned.

All of them were thinking about the humiliation they had suffered at Qin Lie's hands.

"Ding ding ding!"

A few minutes later, a harsh series of sounds resounded from a token at Ye Yihao's waist.

In the same moment, everyone else's tokens emitted harsh sounds as well. Without even looking at each other, everyone's expressions twisted in anxiety as they all shouted in unison, "Eastern barbarians!"

"They just won't leave us alone!" Su Yan gritted her teeth.

Ye Yihao's eyes brightened as he said, "Sen Ye has been searching for Qin Lie's group this entire time! Ever since they stole the Pure Soul Springs out from under him, finding them has been Sen Ye's top priority!"

"You mean?" Feng Yiyou asked in sudden realization, his lips curving into a grim smile.

“I’m going to find Sen Ye and tell him where Qin Lie is. Let’s have the eastern barbarians deal with him!” Ye Yihao began to laugh.

“Good plan!” Yu Men exclaimed in anticipation. “We’ll be the fisherman, waiting until the eastern barbarians have fought Qin Lie’s group and then swooping in for the spoils!”

“Qin Lie! I’ll personally see to it that those savages tear your corpse into ten thousand pieces!” Huang Zhuli shrieked in an unforgettably bone-chilling voice.

“ I, Ye Yihao, have never received an insult as terrible as the one I received today. Qin Lie must never rise again!”

Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao’s hatred for Qin Lie had already sunk deeply into their bones.

There were willing to do whatever it took to kill him.

Chapter 517: White Barbarian Girl

Qin Lie crouched low in the snow.

Streaks of lightning, claps of thunder, flashes of frost, and rays of earthy light continuously surged from his body, an element-ridden chaos.

Nobody in the group could take their eyes off of him.

At this moment, it became clear that the three different spirit energies in Qin Lie's body had begun clashing with one another.

Qin Lie's brow furrowed deeply as if he had entered a meditative state, making everyone around him grow increasingly worried.

Within Qin Lie's spirit sea, his nine natal palaces resembled dazzling suns as they shot countless rays of light, fiercely clashing with one another.

The intense fluctuations of energy made the surface of his spirit sea roil, as if it could burst at any second.

"What should I do...?" Qin Lie murmured, his mind racing.

"Qin Lie! Try returning to your former state!" Xue Moyan suddenly chimed in. "The discord between the three types of spirit energies inside of you started because of the sudden change in your

frost natal palaces and ongoing increase of your power of frost. Maybe you can restore balance to your nine natal palaces by dispersing the frost energy, and by extension, the power of frost in your spirit sea!

"What a good idea!" Du Xiangyang cried.

Xue Moyan's suggestion sent Qin Lie's thoughts into overdrive.

Taking a deep breath, he withdrew his wisp of soul consciousness from his spirit sea and immediately stopped circulating any spirit arts. He also stopped analyzing the diagram of the absolute frost concept.

He also stopped using soul crystals and the Demon Sealing Tombstone to replenish his soul energy and blood, attempting to enter the state of Thoughtless Tranquility.

His mind consciousness began to wander as his head became devoid of thought. His breathing gradually slowed, and he soon stopped thinking about the chaotic situation in his spirit sea...

"Eh?" A look of disbelief surfaced on Luo Chen's icy face as he shook his head slowly, his brow furrowed.

As far as he could tell, Qin Lie seemed to have abruptly disappeared from reality. His body no longer showed any signs of life or gave off any soul fluctuations.

Qin Lie looked as if he had turned into a block of ice and become one with the Forbidden Land of Ice.

This was the same for everyone else.

“The chaotic fluctuations within his spirit sea are slowly calming down. He seems to have found a way after all…” Xie Jingxuan said quietly.

Everyone narrowed their eyes, attentively gazing at Qin Lie. They realized that the lights of lightning, frost, and earth that had been wildly discharging from Qin Lie’s body had actually begun to retreat back within him.

Turbulent waves of energy no longer radiated from Qin Lie.

The tension gradually faded from everyone’s bodies as they scattered around Qin Lie and sat down, taking out spirit stones to start their own recovery.

An hour later, Qin Lie opened his eyes. A cloud of icy mist emerged from his mouth as he exhaled. His mind had finally settled down for the time being.

Qin Lie took another look at his spirit sea and discovered that his frost, thunder, and earth natal palaces had long since stopped clashing and returned to a state of calm.

Three natal palaces filled with frost energy, which looked like

crystalline spheres of ice, continuously radiated a glacial sheen. It seemed as if the spaces inside of them were still expanding in order to contain even more frost energy.

As for the thunder and earth natal palaces... no obvious abnormalities could be seen.

“In the Natal Opening Realm, one opens a total of nine natal palaces. Once those nine are completely established, will they remain like that forever or can they continue to expand?”

Qin Lie directed this question to Du Xiangyang, who had already finished recovering by then.

“According to my knowledge, once the nine natal palaces are established, they’ll expand every time you break through to the next realm. Once from the Netherpassage Realm to the Fulfillment Realm, then another time from the Fulfillment Realm to the Fragmentation Realm. Your natal palaces change with each great breakthrough.”

Du Xiangyang thought to himself for a moment, then continued to explain. “However, cultivation during the Netherpassage and Fulfillment Realms is primarily focused on tempering and developing the soul. They don’t really focus on the natal palaces. When a breakthrough happens, though, the natal palaces will benefit just the same.”

“So... you’re saying that natal palaces only expand to contain more power when one breaks through a higher realm?” Qin Lie

asked, rubbing his chin.

"I believe so." Du Xiangyang nodded.

"You don't really need to worry about your natal palaces," Xue Moyan added. "You'll be destroying them once you reach the Fragmentation Realm anyway."

"I'll be... destroying them?" Qin Lie asked with a blank stare.

"Of course," Xue Moyan said, looking at Qin Lie in surprise. Her expression lasted for moment, then she continued, "The Fragmentation Realm is where a martial practitioner fails in order to succeed. Not only is that the realm where you destroy your nine natal palaces one by one, you also fragment your True Soul. This is done so you can fuse your natal palaces into one and can also reform your True Soul."

"That's right," Du Xiangyang agreed.

Qin Lie suddenly went still.

When in the Natal Opening Realm, a martial practitioner would work hard to establish a total of nine natal palaces in order to break through to the Manisfestation Realm.

Yet, upon reaching the Netherpassage Realm, one no longer had to think about these natal palaces and instead only had to focus on tempering and nourishing their True Soul. This would be the case

until after the Fulfillment Realm.

However, upon entering the Fragmentation Realm, a martial practitioner would have to destroy their nine natal palaces and merge them together, allowing that martial practitioner to find another opportunity to break through...

“Each realm has its own requirements and focuses, but you don’t need to worry about them too much. Everything will come to you naturally once you reach those realms,” Du Xiangyang said with a grin, then stood up. “We still have a long, difficult path ahead of us. Since we currently have no need for it, let’s not think about reaching the Fragmentation and Nirvana Realms just yet.”

“If you don’t have anything else to say...” Luo Chen said coldly. “Let’s move out.”

Qin Lie couldn’t help but scratch his head because of the strange events that occurred in his dantian’s spirit sea. As if possessed by a devil, he continued to go over everything in his head.

In the state of Thoughtless Tranquility, he seemed to be able to adapt his mind and calm down. He could distance himself from the danger.

Since the crisis had been solved for the time being, Qin Lie put it out of his mind and nodded in response, saying, “Let’s go.”

He once again took out the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

As soon as the Demon Sealing Tombstone appeared, it began trying to fly in a certain direction. Qin Lie allowed the tombstone to pull his hand, and once he determined which way it wanted to fly, he said, “That way!”

Everyone’s eyes lit up. Now that their course had finally been set, they all hurried to follow.

In another area of the Forbidden Land of Ice, Xiahou Yuan caressed a token.

“They’re moving!” he cried icily.

The group consisting of martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Armament Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were less than twenty five kilometers away from Qin Lie’s group. As a result, their tokens immediately notified them of their movements.
“Ye Yihao still hasn’t returned. Should we wait for him?” Su Yan asked.

“We wait!” Huang Zhuli ordered harshly.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men remained silent, brows furrowed as they continued recovering their spirit energy.

A few minutes later, Ye Yihao returned with a smirk on his face.

“I didn’t find Sen Ye and his black barbarians, but I did encounter white barbarians led by a woman. The moment I told her where Qin Lie’s group was, she immediately moved to pursue them! It seemed like she already knew that Qin Lie had the Pure Soul Springs.”

“Let’s wait for them to get a head start,” Huang Zhuli said.

Relying on the faint connection between all of the tokens in the area, they silently stayed where they were. Only after confirming that the white barbarians left to find Qin Lie’s group did they finally move out.

A day later, following the guidance of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, Qin Lie and his group of people found themselves rushing along a path within the Forbidden Land of Ice when, all of a sudden, a token at Qin Lie’s waist began to sound off.

“It can’t be Black Voodoo Cult and their people, so it must be the eastern barbarians! Based on the detection of the token, they’re behind us. They must already be on our tail. Should we speed up and try to throw them off?” Du Xiangyang asked.

“The eastern barbarians are a mixed group of skilled and unskilled martial practitioners. Many of them don’t posses high realms. If we increase our speed, their lower realm martial practitioners shouldn’t be able to keep up with us.” Song Tingyu thought for a moment, then continued, “This way, even if the higher realm martial practitioners catch up to us, their number will definitely be smaller. If we really end up having to fight, this will at least reduce the pressure on us somewhat.”

“Then let’s increase our speed!” Qin Lie said.

Everyone quickly reached a tacit agreement and immediately picked up the pace.

Four hours later, they reached a forest of cedar trees. Snow covered each enormous tree, forming a blanket of pure white on top of them.

Using their tokens, they knew that the eastern barbarians were hot on their trail. However, the majority of them had fallen further behind, unable to keep up because of their lower realms. This left around ten of them in pursuit.

Qin Lie’s group silently heaved sighs of relief.

“Hehehe!”

A soft chuckle resounded from a dozen or so meter tall tree right in front of them

Everyone quickly swung around to look at its source.

A slim girl leisurely stood under the cedar tree in front of them almost as if she had been waiting for them. She wore a mixture of white fur and leather clothing, and her skin was as white as snow.

Beside her, hands and neck imprisoned in a silver pillory, was Gao Yu.

Bound by a leash that the girl gripped in her hand, he resembled a prisoner awaiting execution. His head was lowered, but a cold darkness filled his eyes.

“Gao Yu!” Qin Lie exclaimed in shock.

“You know him?” The white barbarian girl laughed as she gestured toward Qin Lie’s group and said, “This... Gao Yu fellow told me he was Qin Lie’s friend. Then Sen Ye told me that very same Qin Lie had taken the Pure Soul Springs our people had long since planned to acquire...”

She then took out a silver sword of ice, the blade of which was two fingers wide, and held it to Gao Yu’s throat. She flashed Qin Lie a smile and asked, “This person... is he worth three Pure Soul Springs to you?”

Chapter 518: Let Them Go!

“Who is this Gao Yu?” Du Xiangyang asked.

Prior to entering the Graveyard of Gods, Du Xiangyang’s understanding of Qin Lie had been the same as other people’s. He had not investigated Qin Lie or those who had come with him from the Scarlet Tide Continent.

As a result, he wasn’t familiar with Gao Yu.

Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian were also meeting Gao Yu for the first time.

“Gao Yu came from the Scarlet Tide Continent with us. He entered the Graveyard of Gods using one of the Xiahou Family’s command tokens,” Song Tingyu quietly explained.

“He and Qin Lie fought side by side several years ago. They are close allies,” Xie Jingxuan added.

Back when Qin Lie and Gao Yu both lived in Icestone City’s Nebula Pavilion, they helped Xie Jingxuan capture and kill a Soul Devouring Beast nearby.

Her impression of the two had always been good because of that.

“Gao Yu!” Qin Lie shouted, raising his voice.

Gao Yu, whose hands and neck were currently bound by a silver pillory, raised his head slightly. The coldness in his eyes sparked as he recognized Qin Lie. His expression became strange, but he didn't say a single word.

"I placed a seal on his body that prevents him from speaking." The white barbarian girl giggled as she held the sharp ice sword to Gao Yu's neck. "I'm willing to trade this person for three Pure Soul Springs. Do you accept?"

"I can't take them out," Qin Lie said with a bitter smile.

"Swff!"

The girl jerked the ice sword slightly, drawing a thin bloody line on Gao Yu's neck.

Blood seeped from the wound, immediately freezing because of the Forbidden Land of Ice's cold conditions.

Unlike Du Xiangyang and the others, who were using shields of light to protect their bodies from the cold, Gao Yu and the white barbarian girl were unprotected. Similar to Qin Lie, they left themselves completely exposed to the icy air and snowy ground.

The power of frost emanated from the girl's pores and made the area around her bone-chillingly cold. She clearly cultivated a frost spirit art.

She stood there looking pretty, seeming to blend into the Forbidden Land of Ice's landscape and become a part of it.

—This showed that the conditions of the Forbidden Land of Ice suited her extremely well.

As for Gao Yu, a strange energy circulated within his body. Although it seemed to suppress him, it also protected him from the cold. It allowed him to be exposed to the Forbidden Land of Ice without freezing.

"It seems like you don't want to trade." The white barbarian girl raised an eyebrow. "If that's the case, then I worked so hard to capture this guy for no reason."

She tugged at the leash, and Gao Yu gave Qin Lie a blank stare, his eyes dim.

"Stop!" Qin Lie cried, realizing that the girl was about to do something. A look of anxiety leaped to his face as he said, "I already used the Pure Soul Springs. I truly don't have a way to take them out. Give me another demand!"

"You used them?" the girl asked, shaking her head in disbelief.

"The Demon Sealing Tombstone devoured them. I don't have a way to take them out of it." Qin Lie said with his hands open, frustration appearing on his face. "It isn't that I don't want to give

them to you.”

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone?!” the white barbarian girl exclaimed in response, her eyes lighting up. “So Sen Ye really wasn’t lying. You actually have the Demon Sealing Tombstone in your possession?”

“It’s right here,” Qin Lie replied bluntly.

Qin Lie touched his spatial ring, willing the Demon Sealing Tombstone to emerge.

Once the Demon Sealing Tombstone appeared, it began to fly in the direction of the ice spirit again. Qin Lie held it down, keeping it from flying off by itself.

“This is the Demon Sealing Tombstone,” he said.

“It seems like you don’t want Gao Yu to die after all,” she said. “Now give it to me.”

“Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang shouted.

A grim expression took over Luo Chen’s face.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone played a vital role. Having so many mysteries to unravel, it could be considered the most important artifact within the Graveyard of Gods.

If one could solve any of the Demon Sealing Tombstone's mysteries and use it to seal the seven spirits, then the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods could finally be revealed, the location of the Land of Buried Gods could be discovered, and everyone would have the opportunity to obtain the remains of those that had long since passed away.

In everyone's eyes, the Demon Sealing Tombstone was the key to the Graveyard of Gods.

Even though Gao Yu suddenly appeared, none of his group wanted Qin Lie to hand the Demon Sealing Tombstone over. If he did, they wouldn't have something to guide them in the future.

Song Tingyu and the other three girls remained silent.

Gao Yu stared straight at Qin Lie.

"I'll give you the Demon Sealing Tombstone!" Qin Lie shouted.

"Okay!" The white barbarian girl laughed softly, happily responding, "As long as you give me the Demon Sealing Tombstone, I promise that nothing will happen to this Gao Yu."

"Ding ling ling!"

At that moment, the tokens at everyone's waists suddenly began

emitting harsh noises. The eastern barbarians that were chasing them grew closer and closer.

"Qin Lie, the eastern barbarians who have been chasing us will arrive soon." Song Tingyu reminded him quietly. "If we're making this trade, we need to do it as soon as possible. If we waste time, there'll be trouble when they arrive."

"Having chased us all this way without losing us, these eastern barbarians definitely possess higher realms," Xue Moyan said, her expression grim. "They'll be much stronger than ordinary eastern barbarians."

"Are you going to come over here and take the Demon Sealing Tombstone or do you want me to bring it to you?" Qin Lie furrowed his brow.

"Bring it here," the white barbarian girl ordered, a relaxed smile on her face.

This girl seemed to be around twenty years old and seemed to be a bit younger than Gao Yu.

She stood there in a large white cloak made from fur, looking pretty in the snow. Her figure was slender and her face was beautiful. She seemed surprisingly regal in stature, and probably had a high status among the eastern barbarians.

"Beware of any tricks!" Song Tingyu exclaimed.

Du Xiangyang and the others began to cry out, urging him not to go to the girl, with worried expressions on their faces.

"Okay!" Qin Lie said with a nod, then started taking large steps toward Gao Yu and the girl, ignoring the protests of his group.

Gao Yu watched Qin Lie stride over to them with the Demon Sealing Tombstone in hand, the ice sword still pressed against his neck. A strange light flashed in the depths of his dim eyes, and a complicated expression surfaced on his face.
Coming to a stop right in front of the girl, Qin Lie said, "The Demon Sealing Tombstone will direct you to the ice spirit, but you need to hold onto it so it doesn't fly away."

"I'm well aware of the Demon Sealing Tombstone's mysteries," the white barbarian girl said. "I know that I shouldn't touch it directly. It should be stored within a spatial ring."

She chuckled, then continued, "I believe I have a way to destroy your connection to the tombstone. Once it's in my possession, I'll do that and become its new owner."

Shock jumped to Qin Lie's face.

The rest of his group, who also knew the secrets of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, were shocked into silence upon hearing the girl's declaration.

When Luo Chen gained possession of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, he hadn't been able to figure out its secrets, resulting in it returning to Qin Lie.

Just like that instance, they believed that Qin Lie was only handing it over temporarily, and that when the white barbarian girl took it out again, it would return to Qin Lie once more.

However, the white barbarian girl's words informed them that such a hopeful scenario wouldn't come to pass. They realized that, once Qin Lie handed the Demon Sealing Tombstone over, it might actually be gone for good.

"So? Have you decided?" the girl asked. "Do you still want to exchange the Demon Sealing Tombstone for his life?"

"I do!" Qin Lie replied without hesitation.

"Good."

The white barbarian girl stepped forward, extending one of her porcelain fingers toward the Demon Sealing Tombstone. On that finger was a spatial ring..

The instant she touched the tombstone, if disappeared into the ring like a puff of smoke.

"The eastern barbarians behind us are about to arrive!" Xie Jingxuan yelled.

“Qin Lie! Get Gao Yu so we can leave!” Song Tingyu exclaimed nervously.

“Release him!” Qin Lie glared at the white barbarian girl.

The white barbarian girl pursed her lips into a smile, nodding as she said, “There’s no need to be in such a rush.”

These words brought looks of realization to everyone’s faces.

The barbarian girl never intended to let them go.

—She only offered this exchange to delay them.

Fighting Qin Lie’s group until the other eastern barbarians caught up was most likely her real goal.

Upon realizing this, the hearts of Qin Lie’s companions sunk.

“Whoosh whoosh!”

The sound of cloth fluttering in the cold wind began to resonate from off in the distance, signifying that the eastern barbarians behind them would arrive soon.

“Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang gritted his teeth and shouted. “The

thought of allowing us to leave this place alive has never crossed her mind! Quick! Let's get out of here before the other savages arrive. Forget about this Gao Yu and help us kill this girl! We need to leave as soon as possible!"

Everyone could see just how urgent the situation had become.

This white barbarian had only appeared to hinder their progress, delaying them long enough for the other white barbarians to catch up and kill them.

Looking at it now, it was clear that Gao Yu probably wouldn't have lived regardless of whether or not Qin Lie relinquished the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

At this point, the most sensible thing to do was to stop caring about Gao Yu and kill the girl, leaving the area before the more powerful eastern barbarians could get here.

Otherwise, once the eastern barbarians surrounded them, it would be hard for even a single one of them to survive.

"Qin Lie!" everyone yelled in unison, staring at him.

Qin Lie understood the situation. Taking a deep breath, he prepared to take desperate measures.

Yet, at that moment, a voice suddenly spoke up.

“Jia Yue, return the Demon Sealing Tombstone to Qin Lie and let them go.”

The voice made everyone, especially Qin Lie, go deathly still.

And they all looked at Gao Yu in astonishment.

Hadn’t a seal been placed on Gao Yu, preventing him from speaking?

How did Gao Yu know the white barbarian girl’s name, and why did he speak to her in such a familiar tone?

What kind of relationship did they have that he could tell her to give the Demon Sealing Tombstone back and let them go?

Just what in Spirit Realm was going on?

The white barbarian girl furrowed her brow.

“I can let them go, Gao Yu, but the Demon Sealing Tombstone is too important,” she said in a pleading tone. “It wouldn’t matter if we were dealing with the martial practitioners of the Land of Chaos, the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe, or the Black Barbarian Tribe. With it, we’d have an absolute advantage in the Forbidden Land of Ice.”

“Bang!”

The silver pillory binding Gao Yu’s neck and hands shattered and crumbled to pieces, instantly giving Gao Yu his freedom.

“Do you want to keep the Demon Sealing Tombstone and… lose me in the process?” Gao Yu asked, glaring at the girl with a ghastly expression.

After hesitating for a moment, the white barbarian girl named Jia Yue took the tombstone out of her spatial ring with a helpless sigh.

“I’ll give it back.”

Before the tombstone could fly away, Qin Lie grabbed it and shoved it into his spatial ring.

He then looked at Gao Yu and said, “You better give me an explanation.”

“Jia Yue, take your people and leave first,” Gao Yu said, turning to look at Qin Lie.

“What about you? You aren’t leaving me, are you?” Jia Yue asked, clearly anxious.

“I’ll come find you.” A look of annoyance emerged on Gao Yu’s

face.

“Alright then!” Jia Yue said in a cute manner, her expression softening. Then she left in the direction that Qin Lie’s group had come from, took out a horn, then blew it.

“Bwoooowooooooooo!”

A moment later, Du Xiangyang checked the token at his waist and cried out.

“Th-the eastern barbarians that were chasing us... they’ve stopped!”

Chapter 519: We Will Be Enemies When We Meet Again!

Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Pang Qianqian, and Xue Moyan used their mind consciousnesses to examine the tokens at their waists.

“All of the eastern barbarians have come to a halt!”

Pan Qianqian exclaimed as she turned to look behind them, astonishment clear on her face.

The rest of Qin Lie’s group looked at Gao Yu, with strange expressions on their faces.

It was obvious to everyone present that the eastern barbarians stopped approaching because the girl named Jia Yue had blown the horn. They were obeying her command.

That same Jia Yue had listened to Gao Yu and given up on threatening them.

“What exactly is going on here, Gao Yu?” Song Tingyu sighed softly, some of the tension flowing out of her.

However, Gao Yu ignored her and only looked at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie frowned at him in return.

After a long period of silence, Gao Yu's sinister expression gradually softened.
"You were actually going to give the Demon Sealing Tombstone up to save me..." he said softly, his tone deep and low.

It was then that everyone realized... that this whole charade had been Gao Yu testing Qin Lie.

"Why?" The expression on Qin Lie's face was so heavy that one could wring water from it.

"After everything that happened in Icestone City and the Nether Realm... we parted ways. When we met again at Sea Moon Island, you seemed to have changed a lot." Gao Yu paused for a moment, contemplating something, then continued, "I wanted to know if you were the same Qin Lie I knew many years ago.

"I wanted to know if... deep in your heart... you still considered me your friend."

Qin Lie stayed silent.

He understood that merging with a part of who he used to be had slightly changed his demeanor. He was, indeed, different.

Gao Yu did all of this just to confirm how different Qin Lie had become.

“What would have happened to us if Qin Lie hadn’t taken the Demon Sealing Tombstone out to save you?” Du Xiangyang asked cheerfully, his anxiety forgotten.

“All of you would’ve died!” Gao Yu exclaimed harshly, sweeping a glance over him.

And immediately after they thought they could relax, everyone froze up again.

“Jia Yue leads the white barbarians. A dozen or so of them were pursuing you from behind, all of which are in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm,” Gao Yu said apathetically. “In addition to that, dozens of white barbarian elites lay in wait a kilometer and a half ahead of here. You had no chance of surviving this.”

Upon hearing this, each of them felt a chill well up from the bottom of their hearts. Palpable fear leaked from their eyes.

Assuming Gao Yu wasn’t lying to them, then dozens of white barbarian elites were both right behind them as well as blocking the road ahead. Adding them to Jia Yue, who was clearly quite powerful, and Gao Yu, whose current strength was unknown… Qin Lie’s group might have really died then and there.

“The eastern barbarians have already slaughtered every single martial practitioner from the Land of Chaos who wandered into the Forbidden Lands of Earth, Water, and Metal,” Gao Yu said in a low tone. He paused, eyeing Qin Lie’s group one by one, then continued, “Several hundred black, scarlet, and white barbarians

are in the Forbidden Land of Ice right now. They possess tokens from each of the nine great Silver rank forces. They are the hunters, and all of you are just… prey."

This news made Qin Lie's group go pale.

They had guessed that there would be a lot of eastern barbarians in the area, but they didn't think that several hundred of them would enter the Graveyard of Gods. Furthermore, the barbarians swept through the other three forbidden lands and killed every Land of Chaos martial practitioner they came across.

Seeing their expressions, Gao Yu sighed deeply.

"I suggest that you get rid of your tokens as soon as possible. If you do, you might be able to keep the eastern barbarians from tracking you down and killing you."

"What is your relationship with Jia Yue?" Qin Lie asked, frowning.

After a moment of hesitation, Gao Yu answered.

"When I fell into the Forbidden Land of Metal, martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the Xiahou Family hunted me relentlessly. Jia Yue was also being hunted. She had strayed from her fellow tribesmen and gotten lost. The two of us had no choice but to work together to survive. When I suffered a grave injury, she was the one who carried me on her back and helped me

escape Black Voodoo Cult and the Xiahou Family's encirclement. She's the only reason I survived. I owe her…"

"You say you owe her…" Song Tingyu interrupted. "Yet it seems like she values your opinion quite a bit."

"She values my opinion because, once I recovered, I've helped her lead the white barbarians in killing Black Voodoo Cult and Xiahou Family martial practitioners," Gao Yu retorted coldly.

A chill ran through everyone's bodies yet again.

"Will you be staying with the white barbarians?" Qin Lie asked solemnly.

"I made a promise to Jia Yue." Gao Yu's face slowly turned grim. "I will help her keep her promise to her tribesmen, hunt her enemies in the Graveyard of Gods, and seize the remains of the elites in the Land of Buried Gods. This means that we'll be enemies the moment we part ways!"

This declaration startled Qin Lie.

"I will become your enemy!" Gao Yu yelled, looking at Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and the others. "Back in the Forbidden Land of Metal, I didn't kill just Black Voodoo Cult and Xiahou Family martial practitioners. I killed every martial practitioner I came across, including those of other forces!"

Luo Chen and Xue Moyan's eyes went cold.

"One more thing..." Gao Yu shook his head and laughed coldly. "Ye Yihao was the one who told Jia Yue where you were and that you had the Pure Soul Springs.

"The black, scarlet, and white barbarians may clash from time to time, but they are incredibly united when it comes to battling foreign enemies. Killing the martial practitioners of the Land of Chaos is the top priority of every eastern barbarian. The martial practitioners of the Land of Chaos, on the other hand, continue to fight each other. It is their destiny to be buried in the Graveyard of Gods.

"Qin Lie! Next time we meet, you and I will be enemies!"

After making this declaration, Gao Yu resolutely moved in the direction that Jia Yue had gone. His figure disappeared into the distance, ghastly shadows following in his wake.

A dense, unfathomably dark aura radiated from his body, making it look as if he had been possessed by thousands of ghosts.

A moment after Gao Yu left, Xie Jingxuan spoke up.

"Gao Yu must have had a fortuitous encounter here in the Graveyard of Gods. His biomagnetic field is incredibly strong... actually, it's slightly stronger than Yu Men's. At the very least, he must've reached the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm."

“How can he possess such a terrifying aura at just the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm?” Du Xiangyang asked grimly..

“Sometimes... strength isn’t related to one’s realm.” Luo Chen subconsciously glanced at Qin Lie.

In Luo Chen’s eyes, Qin Lie’s realm was average at best. However, he was capable of accomplishing astonishing things over and over.

“This Gao Yu is incredibly strong,” Xue Moyan said in a low voice.

“What’ll you do if we meet him again?” Du Xiangyang looked at Qin Lie.

“...that depends on the situation!”

.....

“Gao Yu has returned!”

Sixteen white barbarians were positioned behind Qin Lie’s group. Shields of light covered their bodies, and they carried giant bows on their backs. Their eyes resembled lightning against their pale white faces.

These white barbarians consisted of men and women between twenty and forty years old.

Yet all of them were in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

Jia Yue stood right in the middle of them.

When they saw Gao Yu return, relief showed on their faces as they collectively sighed.

They had been worried that Gao Yu wouldn't return after meeting Qin Lie.

Before this, the white barbarians hadn't trusted Gao Yu. They had looked down on him and scorned him. However, through his violent, ruthless slaughtering of Land of Chaos martial practitioners, he had slowly won their trust and respect.

And all of them had noticed the love that had secretly developed between him and their tribe's beloved daughter, Jia Yue.

Gao Yu's cultivation of the Nine Hell Wandering Soul Record, the Evil God inheritance he received from the Nether Realm, and his dark, ruthless personality won the recognition of all the white barbarians. All of that even helped them approve of his relationship with Jia Yue.

They all thought that the future of the White Barbarian Tribe would be bright if Gao Yu became Jia Yue's husband.

Gao Yu clearly possessed limitless potential, his heart was as firm as steel, and his methods were extremely effective. He would definitely become a firm pillar of support for Jia Yue in the future.

At the same time, Jia Yue would eventually become a tribe elder. She was, quite literally, the White Barbarian Tribe's future.

"We shall leave Qin Lie to others," Gao Yu said indifferently. "Let us head to the Land of Buried Gods first."

"Whatever you say." Jia Yue smiled faintly.

"Gao Yu!" a big barbarian yelled in a low voice. "What shall we do if we meet that group in the Land of Buried Gods?"

This question weighed upon the hearts of many of them.

"When we meet again, we will be enemies!" Gao Yu exclaimed in a low tone.

"Good!" The barbarian laughed loudly. "We trust you, Gao Yu! We can truly relax now that we have your word!"

……

"Should we do what Gao Yu suggested and throw away all of our tokens?"

Song Tingyu suddenly spoke up.

Qin Lie's group was currently using the Demon Sealing tombstone to determine their course again and start heading toward the ice spirit.

"There are several hundred eastern barbarians, and all of them have tokens they can use to track us. It is obviously disadvantageous for us to continue carrying them," Xie Jingxuan added.

"The tokens aren't only used to communicate between forces. They can also be used to determine where the passageways out of the Graveyard of Gods are once the Trial ends." Du Xiangyang smiled bitterly.

This information surprised Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan.

"You guys weren't aware of that?" Du Xiangyang asked, stunned.

The three of them shook their heads.

"The spatial passageways we used to enter the Graveyard of Gods were sealed from the outside, which is why we are currently unable to use the tokens to sense them," Du Xiangyang explained. "However, once the Trial ends, the people outside will reopen the passageways. When that time comes, every token in our possession

will be able to tell us where those passageways are. There are no other ways for us to leave the Graveyard of Gods to return to the Land of Chaos!”

“We’ve been in here for half a year. The Trial will end once another six months passes,” Pan Qianqian said. “As long as we’re still alive by then, we’ll be able to return to the Land of Chaos even if we don’t manage to get anything from the Graveyard of Gods. We’d be able to collect the rewards that all of the forces put up for grabs!”

“Does that mean we can’t just discard our tokens then?” Song Tingyu asked, her expression bitter. “They literally paint a target on our backs! We could be discovered by the eastern barbarians at any moment in the Forbidden Land of Ice!”

“We’ll only need one token if we just stay together,” Du Xiangyang said after some careful consideration. “With just one token, the probability of the eastern barbarians finding us will drop significantly. Then we’ll be able to figure out where the passageways are in half a year and leave this place.”

As the group spoke amongst each other, Qin Lie quietly examined the interior of a sword token with a wisp of mind consciousness.

He was carefully analyzing the spirit diagram inside of it.

A while later, he said, “We don’t need to throw the tokens away. I can alter the spirit diagrams inside of them and render them temporarily useless. Once we need them, I can readjust the spirit

diagrams and reactivate them.”

Chapter 520: Finally Free!

“Big Brother Qin, you even know how to forge artifacts?”

Tiny stars shone in Pan Qianqian’s eyes, her face filled with admiration. She became increasingly convinced of how amazing Qin Lie really was.

Aside from Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan, the rest of the group wore expressions of amazement. They looked as if they had discovered a new continent.

“Seriously?” Du Xiangyang exclaimed in surprise. “You know how to forge artifacts too?”

“He’s the most talented artificer that our Scarlet Tide Continent has seen in a thousand years!” Song Tingyu declared proudly. “He forged all of his Terminator Profound Bombs with his own hands!”

The Land of Chaos martial practitioners of the group grew more and more astonished.

“Master Meng, who personally forged all of the sword tokens, is Heavenly Sword Mountain’s most prolific artificer. He can forge artifacts up to Earth Grade Five or Six!” Luo Chen snorted in disdain. “Qin Lie, are you saying that you can alter a spirit diagram that Master Meng himself constructed?”

Luo Chen’s words suddenly caused Du Xiangyang to doubt Qin

Lie as well.
Du Xiangyang also came from Heavenly Sword Mountain, and he was well aware of how impressive Master Meng was.

How could the spirit diagram of such a master artificer be so easily tampered with?

“A master artificer capable of forging Earth Grade Five or Six spirit artifacts!”

This information shocked Song Tingyu. The pride on her face swiftly faded, worry clearly starting to replace it.

The number of master artificers in all of the Scarlet Tide Continent could be counted on one hand. Even Armament Sect’s Mo Hai, a publicly acknowledged master, could only forge spirit artifacts up to Profound Grade Seven.

Qin Lie may have displayed extraordinary talent at Armament Sect and triggered reactions in all twelve spirit pattern pillars, but he had started forging artifacts a bit late. He couldn’t be more skilled at artificing than Mo Hai... could he?

Song Tingyu suddenly felt that it had been kind of ridiculous for her to be proud of Qin Lie.

All of them stared at Qin Lie with doubt in their eyes.

“I can neither forge a sword token nor inscribe the spirit diagram

inside of it," Qin Lie said, a calm, confident smile on his face. "However... I don't believe that altering a few spirit strands to adjust the spirit diagram will prove to be much of a problem."

"Every single spirit strand in a spirit diagram is essential!" Luo Chen exclaimed in a low tone. "Tinkering with even one of them could cause the entire spirit diagram to collapse!"

The others were on the fence, half believing in Qin Lie and half doubting him.

Qin Lie just smiled and shook his head, staying silent. Under their anxious gazes, he pressed a finger to the sword token in his hand.

The moment he touched the sword token, his fingertip sparked with dazzling spirit light that resembled the tip of an otherworldly pen.

In the same instant, a wisp of his mind consciousness pierced into the sword token and entered the world of the spirit diagram.

All compound spirit diagrams, which were made by combining other spirits diagrams into one, normally consisted of the basic four: Spirit Storage, Spirit Gathering, Amplification, and Strengthening.

Two of the basic spirit diagrams, Spirit Storage and Amplification, could be seen in the sword token's compound spirit

diagram. At the center of the two, however, was a rather complicated spiral-shaped spirit diagram.

At first glance, the spirit diagram resembled a spiral funnel that constantly radiated strange spirit energy.

The mouth of the funnel diagram generated a suction force that seemed to be drawing something into it.

The basic Spirit Storage diagram contained sword spirit energy, which was the power source for the sword token. It had been sealed into that diagram to provide energy for all of the compound diagrams.

Traces of the sword spirit energy flowed from the Spirit Storage diagram. After being enhanced by the Amplification diagram, that energy then moved to power the funnel-shaped spirit diagram, allowing it to release fluctuations as it absorbed waves of energy from outside of the token. Whenever it did, a low, droning sound would resonate from that diagram, transmitting information to and from its owner...

With just glance, Qin Lie quickly saw through the secrets of the three spirit diagrams in the sword token, then turned his attention to the Spirit Storage diagram.

This diagram was still much simpler than the one he had learned and mastered. It paled in comparison.

Concentrating his wisp of mind consciousness, Qin Lie gathered it around three threads of the Spirit Storage diagram. With a thought, he twisted the threads with spirit energy, forcing them to become oddly tangled..

This led to an abrupt change in the entirety of the Spirit Storage diagram. The tangled knot of spirit threads instantly blocked the passage through which energy had constantly flowed.

This kept the sword spirit energy within the Spirit Storage diagram from reaching the rest of the compound spirit diagram.

All spirit diagrams needed energy to function. Without energy, the funnel-shaped spirit diagram immediately stopped transmitting and receiving information. This resulted in the most important function of the sword token forcefully shutting down.

Qin Lie's mind consciousness exited the sword token.

The sword token he held in one hand, which had originally been shining brightly, suddenly went dim.

"Give it a try," Qin Lie said to Luo Chen. "See if you can sense this with the sword token you possess."

Confused, Luo Chen grabbed the sword token at his waist, staring at Qin Lie with cold eyes. He used his soul consciousness to activate it.

“Eeeeeeeen…”

The sword tokens that hung from the waists of everyone else in the group began to ring. However, Qin Lie’s sword token didn’t respond at all.

This development left everyone stunned.

“Did you really render it useless?” Song Tingyu asked uncertainly.

Qin Lie wore a casual expression and didn’t bother trying to explain. Instead, he grabbed the other tokens at his waist and examined them just like he did with the sword token.

He discovered that the compound diagrams of all the tokens were essentially the same. Although the core diagrams differed greatly, all of them used the Spirit Storage and Amplification diagrams as a basis. In addition to that, the core diagrams did the same thing: receive and transmit information.

After giving each token a once-over, Qin Lie confidently said, “Other than the main diagram, the rest of the compound spirit diagram is mostly the same from token to token. I can alter the spirit diagram of any token and make them stop functioning for the time being.”

This time no one else doubted him. Everyone’s eyes gushed with joy.

“You’re so amazing, Big Brother Qin!” Pan Qianqian cried in admiration.

Wonder filled Xue Moyan’s eyes. She continuously found Qin Lie increasingly difficult to understand. Too many things about him couldn’t be explained in a normal way.

Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang were also inwardly surprised. Every time they looked at Qin Lie, they underestimated him less and less.

This guy possessed power in the martial way that everyone acknowledged, yet he was also amazingly skilled in forging artifacts. How in Spirit Realm did he cultivate?

An ugly expression covered Luo Chen’s face as he recalled Li Mu’s humiliating evaluation of him.

The Sixth Heavenly Sword had told Luo Chen he wasn’t qualified to become his disciple, yet the man had a great relationship with Qin Lie and wanted to take him on as his true disciple.

For the longest time, Luo Chen thought that Li Mu didn’t mean what he said, that his words were meant to purposefully humiliate him and wound his pride.

Upon learning of Qin Lie’s existence, Luo Chen had targeted him time and time again, just so that he could prove Li Mu wrong.

He also did this to prove his superiority.
However, as he continued to learn more about Qin Lie, and as Qin Lie displayed more miraculous feats, he couldn't help but think that Li Mu had been right all along!

Qin Lie seemed to be... more talented than him in every way. He was definitely more qualified than Luo Chen to become Li Mu's true disciple.

This realization struck Luo Chen across the head like the flat of a sword, putting him into a daze. A myriad of complicated feelings welled inside of his heart.

As Luo Chen stood there, stunned, Qin Lie took everybody's tokens and altered the spirit diagrams inside of them.

A few minutes later, every token that their group possessed temporarily stopped functioning.

Since the tokens could no longer transmit or receive information, this meant that, from this point onward, no one could use them to track their position!

.....

"They disappeared!"

"They were just twenty five kilometers from us. Why has their energy suddenly disappeared?"

“How strange!”

At the foot of a snow-covered mountain, the group of martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Sect, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain muttered amongst themselves, odd expressions on their faces.

“The white barbarians must have caught up to them and slaughtered them.” Ye Yihao laughed coldly. “Their tokens must have been destroyed along with them, preventing us from detecting their location.”

“That should be the case.” Xiahou Yuan smiled sinisterly.

“It’s such a shame, though!” Huang Zhuli cried, gritting her teeth. “Qin Lie had the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the Pure Soul Springs! They even had the Spring of Life!”

“Perhaps we should move in that direction?” Feng Yiyou suggested. “Maybe the white barbarians suffered huge losses in the process?”

Everyone’s eyes lit up at the prospect. After a moment of discussion, they decided on that as their next plan.

All of them moved in the direction that Qin Lie’s group had initially been. Soon enough, they detected several dozen eastern barbarians that were supposedly blocking the path to Qin Lie’s

group and swiftly charged toward them.

……

While the three forces were committing suicide, Qin Lie's group, having disappeared from everyone's radar, continued to follow the Demon Sealing Tombstone and hurry on their way.

They were completely unaware of the terrible lesson that the white barbarians were teaching the three forces as a result of Qin Lie altering the tokens.

So they continued to approach the ice spirit.

As of this moment, Qin Lie borrowed soul crystals from the others and gripped the Demon Sealing Tombstone, preparing to replenish his soul energy and his blood once the Soul Suppressing Orb drained them from him.

He sat on the snowy ground, inhaled deeply, and inwardly shouted, "Come!"

He waited for the Soul Suppressing Orb's never-ending demand for his soul energy and blood.

His companions watched him helplessly. They knew that the soul energy and the blood he had accumulated to this point would probably be completely drained from him again.

“Eh?” Qin Lie exclaimed a few minutes later, confusion filling his face.

“What is it?” Song Tingyu asked softly.

“Nothing’s been drained! Nothing’s happening!” Qin Lie said, eyes wide with surprise. “Previously, every time I managed to replenish my soul energy and blood, they would immediately be extracted. This time, however, nothing has happened.”

“Are you saying that… it’s stopped?” The notion came as a pleasant surprise to her.

“That seems to be the case.” Qin Lie nodded.

“I think that the amount of soul energy and blood that the thing inside you extracted from your body has probably become enough to trigger some sort of extraordinary change,” Du Xiangyang said while rubbing his chin. “In order words, after allowing it to drain you for so long, you’ve finally fulfilled its requirements.”

“So you think I’m finally free?” Qin Lie asked, joy filling his heart.

The entire time he had been subdued by the Soul Suppressing Orb, Qin Lie experienced intense fear and hopelessness.

He hadn’t the slightest clue when this cycle of constant draining and replenishing would come to an end.

He actually hadn’t expected it to ever end…

But the instant it did, he relaxed.

Chapter 521: Devious Invasion

After eight days of using the soul crystals and the immense blood aura of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, Qin Lie finally made a complete recovery.

His soul energy and blood finally reached the levels they had been at before the Soul Suppressing Orb initially drained them from him. His blood flowed vigorously, and his soul shone bright with energy.

As of right now, his tokens, as well as the tokens his companions possessed, had been rendered useless. Their group had completely vanished from the radars of the eastern barbarians and the three forces.

Since Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Pan Qianqian, and Xue Moyan still needed to maintain their shields of light, they were sitting and using spirit stones to replenish their spirit energy.

Qin Lie, however, stood exposed to the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Having frozen the Demon Sealing Tombstone with the power of frost, he surveyed the landscape before him, eyes narrowed.

Out of everyone in the group, he was the only one who didn’t protect himself with a shield of light, instead leaving himself vulnerable to the harsh, frigid winds.

The cold, bone-chilling air of the Forbidden Land of Ice could cut through flesh like blades of frost. This place was a nightmare for most people who entered.

But Qin Lie was an exception.

As someone who had tempered his flesh and blood with the cold of the land underneath the Arctic Mountain Range, Qin Lie was able to adapt to this environment easily. He even felt extremely comfortable.

After replenishing his soul energy and blood, Qin Lie once again had absolute control over his body and his dantian's spirit sea.

As he stood in this freezing land, he circulated his frost spirit art.

With just a thought, his aura changed in a split second, his gentle eyes abruptly becoming icy.

The frigid air of the Forbidden Land of Ice rushed toward him from every direction, entering his pores and flooding into his dantian's spirit sea at his command.

Wisps of frigid air turned into cold white mist, which then progressed into extremely cold clusters of clouds that hovered around Qin Lie's three frost natal palaces.

Since they expanded during his crisis earlier, the three frost natal palaces absorbed the cold energy on their own accord and merged it into the space within them.

All three gradually filled with frost energy…

Time slowly passed, and one hour later, the three frost natal palaces resembled translucent balls of ice that had been completely filled with frost energy.

Rays of icy light shone from Qin Lie’s cold, narrowed eyes.

He raised his eyebrows involuntarily.

Although his frost natal palaces were full to the brim with frost energy, they continued to absorb more.

The absorption process wasn’t stopping!

Three wisps of soul consciousness entered Qin Lie’s frost natal palaces, writhing around like ethereal tentacles.

He could see freezing wisps of white light flowing throughout the spaces within his natal palaces like snakes. They appeared to be devouring the frost energy that had been gathered from the outside, opening and closing their bloody maws.

These frigid snakes seemed to be streams of clouds formed from

frost energy. One end of each snake seemed to stretch out of Qin Lie's body, connecting to the Forbidden Land of Ice, while the other end was greedily eating up the frost energy in his frost natal palaces.

As the snakelike streams of clouds continued to consume the stored frost energy, Qin Lie's frost natal palaces began to resonate with icy cracking noises. It seemed as if the spaces within them were expanding, freezing everything around them to turn everything into a world of ice.

At the same time, thousands of icy lights burst from Qin Lie's three frost natal palaces like sharp arrows, heading in every direction.

His other six natal palaces, three thunder and three earth, underwent an abrupt change in response, discharging the power of thunder, lightning, and earth.

As a result, his spirit sea became chaotic once more, embroiled in intense conflict.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh!"

Qin Lie's wisp of consciousness split into several pieces, each spreading to different positions of his spirit sea like shadows.

All of a sudden, it was as if countless eyes were closely watching the world within Qin Lie's spirit sea. They hovered deep within the

nine sun-like natal palaces and examined every miniscule change inside of them, trying to figure out what was making them behave so strangely.

This time, Qin Lie had plenty of soul energy, and his blood thrived with life. He had plenty of power to support his spirit sea and make sure it endured the fighting.

“Bang!”

While Qin Lie focused on the world of his spirit sea, the ice surrounding the Demon Sealing Tombstone exploded without warning.

Before he could react, the seven divine lights within it blossomed and transformed into seven divine chains that actually writhed toward him.

In an instant, the Demon Sealing Tombstone flew over to hover above his head.

Divine light shone down upon him like a colorful shield of light that enveloped his entire body.

Qin Lie opened his eyes, instantly discovering that all of the frost energy that had converged on him from all over the Forbidden Land of Ice and surged into his spirit sea... had completely vanished.

The intense conflict within his dantian's spirit sea came to an abrupt halt. The powers of earth and thunder withdrew into their respective natal palaces, and the three frost natal palaces no longer unleashed icy beams of light.

Even the frigid clouds shaped like snakes no longer greedily devoured the frost energy within the icy worlds of each frost natal palace.

Everything had returned to normal.

Just before they shackled Qin Lie, the seven divine chains came to a stuttering stop and withdrew back into the Demon Sealing Tombstone hovering above him, quick as lightning.

All of the frost energy that had rushed into his spirit sea dissipated after the Demon Sealing Tombstone arrived, exiting Qin Lie's body and flowing in a specific direction.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone emitted a shrill noise, as if it wanted to chase after that energy and prevent it from escaping.

Before it could fly away, Qin Lie reacted instantly and grabbed hold of it, restraining it despite his astonishment.

It was then that he realized what had been going on.

The strange things occurring in his spirit sea... how his frost natal palaces were behaving aggressively and his thunder and

earth natal palaces acted in retaliation… none of that was his fault.

—He had actually been invaded by a foreign entity!

The frost energy that had flooded his spirit sea contained the aura of the ice spirit! It may have even possessed a tiny amount of its consciousness!

The ice spirit had secretly entered Qin Lie's spirit sea as he cultivated his frost spirit art, attempting to use the frost energy as a vessel and alter his frost natal palaces.

The ice spirit tried to use the frost energy to secretly gain control over him!

Qin Lie's six other natal palaces had detected that the aura inside of his three frost natal palaces didn't belong to him, which was why they fought against it!

The aura and consciousness of the ice spirit existed within all of the frigid air in the Forbidden Land of Ice!

Absorbing the frost energy in the air was the same voluntarily granting the ice spirit entry to his natal palaces. If Qin Lie had continued to do so, allowing his three frost natal palaces to expand unchecked, the consciousness of the ice spirit probably would've superseded his own. Even his True Soul would've been taken over!

Qin Lie took a deep breath, breaking out in a cold sweat. If the

Demon Sealing Tombstone hadn't taken action, forcing the cold air infused with the ice spirit's consciousness to retreat...

He probably would've fallen prey to the ice spirit's influence.

Then a realization occurred to Qin Lie.

"Just like how the wood spirit attempted to use Ye Yihao to escape the Graveyard of Gods... the ice spirit probably wants to leave using a martial practitioner who cultivates a frost spirit art and can endure its power!"

Ye Yihao and the wood spirit had cooperated with each other, reaching an agreement that left his soul free and independent.

They had shared a symbiotic relationship, which was relatively normal.

The ice spirit's methods, however, were far more malevolent and domineering!

It didn't seek a symbiotic relationship, it was looking for someone to outright dominate! It would quietly take over that person's body and soul without them realizing it!

The ice spirit's aura mingled with all of the frigid air that existed in the Forbidden Land of Ice. That meant it was probably even more powerful than the wood spirit and thunder spirit!

Having realized all of this, Qin Lie no longer dared to cultivate his frost spirit art. Without the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the ice spirit could've invaded him and he never would've known.

This entire situation had been an extremely close call.

"Qin Lie?" Song Tingyu said, getting to her feet and approaching him after awakening from her meditative recovery. "Why do you look so shocked? You're extremely pale! What happened?"

Her words jolted the others from their own meditative states, causing them to stare at Qin Lie out of curiosity and worry.

"Something... happened," Qin Lie said, brow deeply furrowed.

He took some time to explain his earlier predicament from beginning to end along with all of the revelations that came with it.

"The ice spirit is clearly choosing martial practitioners who cultivate frost spirit arts, possess high realms, and are able to endure its frost energy!" he eventually exclaimed. "Its methods are devious, gradually encroaching upon a person from within until it completely dominates them!"

Realizing the gravity of Qin Lie's harrowing experience, shock filled Du Xiangyang's face. "Not only is this ice spirit extremely intelligent... it might even be the most powerful of the seven

spirits!”

“The ice spirit is capable of spreading its consciousness through the frigid air of the Forbidden Land of Ice. This means that its soul is extremely powerful,” Song Tingyu said with somber eyes. “It clearly knows where the Land of Buried Gods is! Maybe the miracles in the Land of Buried Gods helped it evolve and obtain such an obscene power!”

“We definitely need to be careful!” Xie Jingxuan exclaimed softly.

“The white eastern barbarian girl we saw a few days ago, the one called Jia Yue, also cultivates a frost spirit art.” Xue Moyan frowned slightly, thinking carefully for a moment before saying, “Unlike you, she cultivates only that frost spirit art. All nine of the natal palaces in her spirit sea should be frost natal palaces.”

“Neither her body nor her ability to endure frost energy are stronger than yours,” Xie Jingxuan added. “Yet she may very well be one of the ice spirit’s targets.”

Qin Lie’s eyes shone with an odd light.

After a moment of contemplation, he spoke.

“If we encounter the white barbarians again, I’ll let them know.”

……

Atop an icy stone, Jia Yue of the White Barbarian Tribe sat with her legs crossed, her eyes closed. Wisps of cold white mist surrounded her.

Her beautiful, snow-white face flowed with an icy luster, almost like it was made of translucent crystal. The air around her grew increasingly cold.

Some time later, she opened her eyes. Rays of icy light as sharp as blades could be seen in her pupils.

“Hehe, this Forbidden Land of Ice is wonderful!” She smiled with joy. “I’ve been improving by leaps and bounds since I got here!”

She looked at Gao Yu, who was standing beside her.

“I don’t know why, but I find myself ill at ease when you cultivate using the frost energy in the air.” Whenever he was alone with Jia Yue, Gao Yu would stow away his grim expression. However, this made him look somewhat stiff and aloof instead. “I cultivate the Nine Hell Wandering Soul Record. My soul perception is extremely sensitive, and I can vaguely detect an aura in the air that isn’t yours.”

“An aura that isn’t mine?” Jia Yue asked, yet continued to smile. “Whose aura might that be?”

“It’s too weak for me to tell,” Gao Yu said with a shake of his

head. “I’m not even sure if I’m just being paranoid…”

“Don’t think about it too much!” she exclaimed excitedly. “I’m feeling fantastic! My natal palaces are magically expanding, which means that they can contain even more frost energy and I’ll grow even stronger!”

“That sounds like a good thing,” Gao Yu replied stiffly.

“Of course it’s a good thing! Sen Ye, Di Fei, and I may all be in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm, but they’re stronger than I am. This has been a source of disappointment among the elders of my tribe.” The excitement in Jia Yue’s eyes died down for a second, then she immediately grew happy again and exclaimed, “However, if my natal palaces undergo a new period of expansion and my strength increases by twenty to thirty percent, I’m confident that I won’t be at a disadvantage in a match against either Sen Ye or Di Fei.”

She paused, taking a deep breath to regain her composure.

“This is what the tribe elders expect of me!” she exclaimed seriously. “I won’t let them down!”

Gao Yu simply nodded in response, not bothering to say anything else.

He agreed with Jia Yue.

The cold air containing another aura wasn’t a big deal.

Chapter 522: Arrival!

A dragon made of blood energy roared soundlessly as it bit into a barbarian wearing bright red clothing.

This scarlet barbarian immediately felt his blood boil over, his spirit energy becoming chaotic.

“Boom!”

Qin Lie struck with the Astral Thunder Hammer, smashing that barbarian’s bones to bits.

“Splurt!”

Luo Chen stabbed his sword into the chest of another scarlet barbarian, piercing the man’s heart and ending his life.

In another part of the area, Du Xiangyang and Xue Moyan killed three other scarlet barbarians.

This battle took place halfway up a mountain with a glacier running down its length.

For the past half month, Qin Lie’s group had been running into scarlet barbarians, and they had just exterminated their third wave of them.

“How much further is the ice spirit?” Du Xiangyang crouched to the ground and searched through the remains of the scarlet barbarians, checking if any had spirit materials or spirit stones.

“We’re close,” Qin Lie answered nonchalantly.

“Scarlet barbarians are the only people we’ve encountered for the past two weeks,” Song Tingyu interjected. “It’s a good thing our tokens can’t transmit our location. Otherwise, Di Fei and the rest of his scarlet barbarians would be able to track us easily.”

Qin Lie’s group was currently moving through a part of the Forbidden Land of Ice with many scarlet barbarians. Groups of fifteen were scattered throughout the area, searching everywhere for the ice spirit.

Qin Lie’s group had run into three of these groups in a row. The boisterous mouths of every scarlet barbarian told them that their leader was Di Fei.

They weren’t sure what kind of method Di Fei had at his disposal, but he had roughly identified where the ice spirit was and brought his tribesmen over.

However, the scarlet barbarians only had a vague idea of where it was, so they split into smaller teams and spread out to search for it.

Qin Lie’s group had killed three of those teams, adding up to a total of forty-five scarlet barbarians.

“Let’s get out of here as soon as possible. This team sent a message before fighting us,” Du Xiangyang said as he stood up, having searched the bodies. “It’s likely that another team of those savages is rushing here as we speak.”

“Mn,” Xue Moyan agreed. “If we’re unlucky enough to run into that Di Fei, we may get trapped here.”

“Is Di Fei that strong?” Luo Chen asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Di Fei is… extremely capable. Like Sen Ye, he is the leader of the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe’s younger generation,” Xue Moyan said, explaining what she knew about the eastern barbarians. “Di Fei cultivates the power of earth. The eastern barbarians refer to him as ‘the Son of Earth.’. He is rumored to be quite powerful, having possessed monstrous physical strength from birth.”

“How does he compare to Sen Ye?” Du Xiangyang asked in a grim tone.

“They’re equally matched. Jia Yue, the white barbarian girl we encountered earlier, is considered weaker than the two of them. However…” Xue Moyan took a moment to think. “This is the Forbidden Land of Ice. Jia Yue shouldn’t be any weaker than them here. At any rate, we need to be careful.”

While they were speaking, Qin Lie took out the Demon Sealing Tombstone to once again confirm the direction they would move in.

“Whoosh!”

It emerged from his spatial ring like a brilliant beacon, the dazzling divine lights inside of it resembling the luminescent tail feathers of a colorful peacock.

Powerful energy radiated from the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Despite being restrained by Qin Lie, it shook and trembled, clearly having an intense reaction to something.

Everyone’s eyes lit up at the same time.

“We’re about to reach it!” Qin Lie shouted.

He shoved the Demon Sealing Tombstone back into his spatial ring and took a deep breath. An immense aura of refined blood energy emanated from him.

“Let’s go!”

Like a ray of bloody light, Qin Lie shot toward the peak of the mountain. The rest of the group grew excited as they rushed to follow him.

An hour after their departure, two groups of scarlet barbarians arrived in that same area.

“This is the third team!” a young scarlet barbarian roared in a low, raspy voice. He was clearly a head shorter than everyone else, but he had a large physique.

Although this barbarian was short, he gave off a shocking aura. He was incredibly conspicuous and only needed to stand there to seem valiant.

The thirty scarlet barbarians that made up the two teams he commanded were tall and burly. Plenty had extraordinary auras as well. In spite of this, all of them looked at the young scarlet barbarian with reverence.

“Young Master, the enemy has discarded their tokens. We are unable to track them properly,” a scarlet barbarian exclaimed in a heavy voice.

“We’ll meet them soon enough!” The scarlet barbarian tribe leader, Di Fei, gave him a savage grin. “They have the Demon Sealing Tombstone, so they’re here for the ice spirit as well. We’ll definitely encounter them in this area!”

“What should we do now?” one of his subordinates asked.

“Contact everybody!” Di Fei ordered. “Tell them to join forces with other teams so they won’t be eliminated one after another, then head in this direction!”

“Understood!”

“Relax!” Di Fei exclaimed with a cold snort. “Someone is going to help us find them...”

.....

“Wow! Everyone, look!” Pan Qianqian cried, having reached the peak of the glacial mountain. “What a huge lake! It’s so beautiful!”

Qin Lie and the others rushed up to join her, looking into the distance. The scenery brought expressions of amazement to all of their faces.

In the center of numerous mountains, nestled by clouds, sat an enormous frozen lake. The ice that made up its surface resembled a gigantic, wondrous mirror. No one could tell just how thick it actually was.

Qin Lie’s group stood at the top of a mountain, one of many that surrounded the frozen lake. Behind and around them were more snow-covered mountains and even glaciers.

Hundreds of thousands of enormous icy masses could be seen in the distance, connected to one another to form a ring with the lake at its center.

The air above the frozen lake was bone-chillingly cold. Frigid winds howled, weaving between the nearby mountains.

“The winds that can instantly freeze people to death probably originated from this lake,” Du Xiangyang said, taking a deep breath. “This icy lake... must be the very center of the Forbidden Land of Ice. The ice spirit should be inside of it as well!”

“Qin Lie, do you want use the Demon Sealing Tombstone to make sure?” Song Tingyu asked.

“No need.” Qin Lie said confidently, shaking his head. “The ice spirit should be at the bottom of this lake!”

“How about the Land of Buried Gods?” Xie Jingxuan asked, her eyes alight. “Could it be at the bottom of the lake as well? Maybe the Forbidden Land of Ice’s absolute power of frost completely froze it?”

The moment she said this, everyone’s eyes burned with excitement. They all inwardly rejoiced, realizing they had finally reached their destination: the heart of the Graveyard of Gods.

“So the ice spirit is hidden deep within this frozen lake, eh?” A voice suddenly echoed from a snowy mountain peak nearby. “I guess Di Fei wasted his efforts on the wrong area.”

Qin Lie’s group looked in the direction the voice came from.

A person could be seen atop a mountain peak to their left.

Noticing their gazes, that person grinned and said, “How long

has it been since we last saw each other, Senior Sister Xue?”

“Jiang Tianxing!” Xue Moyan’s beautiful face suddenly went cold.

“Hu!” Qin Lie exclaimed softly.

“Oh, it’s that guy!” Song Tingyu burst into laughter.

Jiang Tianxing’s gaze swept over Xue Moyan to land on Song Tingyu.

“You bitch!” he yelled. “Where’s that kid that was with you back then?”

“Are you talking about me?” Qin Lie said with a grin.

“You?” Jiang Tianxing’s eyes abruptly became a frightening crimson.

Qin Lie smiled, took out the fox skin mask, and put it on. He took a moment to adjust it and give himself a new face, then said, “Now do you recognize me?”

“So it was you… Qin Lie!!” Jiang Tianxing cried.

Half a year ago, Jiang Tianxing led a group of martial

practitioners who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art to fight the god corpse in the sea near Sea Moon Island and obtain the Demon Sealing Tombstone inside of its navel.

In the end, Qin Lie appeared out of nowhere and took the Demon Sealing Tombstone, ruining the plan that Jiang Tianxing had put so much effort into.

He and Celestial Artifact Sect's Elder Bi You then searched everywhere for Qin Lie and Song Tingyu, hoping to find them and seize the tombstone for themselves.

Unfortunately, they never did.

No one knew more about the miracles of the Demon Sealing Tombstone than Jiang Tianxing.

And no one needed it more than he did.

As a matter of fact, everything the nine great Silver rank forces knew about the Graveyard of Gods, as well as the first headless god corpse that had appeared at the bottom of the sea, had been revealed by Jiang Tianxing and his father, Jiang Zhuzhe!

Taking out a horn, his eyes overflowing with anger, Jiang Tianxing blew a long, low note that echoed through the mountains.

"Bwoooowooowooooooooo!"

Jiang Tianxing then put the horn away.

“I’ve signaled Di Fei. He and his scarlet barbarians will be here shortly.”

He laughed coldly. “I wonder how you’ll escape this time.”

……

Chapter 523: Meteor Shower

Jiang Tianxing howled into the sky and its harsh, frigid winds, his eyes flashing with bloody light.

Qin Lie and the others tensed up, immediately becoming more vigilant. They instinctively took out their spirit artifacts to prepare for any sudden changes.

They hadn't expected that Jiang Tianxing would be in cahoots with Di Fei of the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe. His actions made it seem like they were close allies.

"We've killed numerous scarlet barbarians," Du Xiangyang said, his expression grim. "That Di Fei has definitely been searching for us. It'll be difficult to escape once he arrives.

"Every barbarian in the Graveyard of Gods is in the Netherpassage Realm." Song Tingyu furrowed her brow. "If we fight all three tribes, we won't have any hope of prevailing."

"But... the ice spirit is at the bottom of that frozen lake! And the Land of Buried Gods could also be down there! We've gone through so much to get here. Are we just going to give up?" Pan Qianqian's hands were balled into fists, her face filled with frustration. "Jiang Tianxing also knows that the ice spirit is here. Once Di Fei arrives, he'll discover this as well. If we allow them to break through the ice and the Land of Buried Gods really is down there, we'll have gained absolutely nothing!"

Qin Lie was silent.

Judging by the expressions of his companions, he could see that everyone deeply yearned to enter the Land of Buried Gods. None of them wanted to give up.

Di Fei of the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe would soon arrive with his tribesmen. The black and white barbarians were probably close as well...

Qin Lie's group didn't have the power to fight against all of the eastern barbarians. Even if the other forces of the Land of Chaos—Black Voodoo Cult, the three great Families, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Celestial Artifact Sect—were thrown into the mix, they still wouldn't be able to face all of the barbarians.

"Don't count on any reinforcements," Jiang Tianxing suddenly snarled, licking his lips. "Within the Forbidden Land of Ice, only five Land of Chaos martial practitioners are left: Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli of Black Voodoo Cult, Feng Yiyou of Celestial Artifact Sect, Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Su Yan of the Su Family! We've killed everyone else, even Lin Dongxing and Xiahou Yuan!"

The smile on Jiang Tianxing's face showed how increasingly arrogant he was becoming. "They might be able to find this place, but even if they did, they'd just be courting death! Haahaha!"

Upon hearing him say this, everyone grew even more anxious.

Out of everyone from the forces in the Land of Chaos, only some of the ringers, the so-called geniuses, remained. Even Lin Dongxing and Xiahou Yuan from two of the three great families had been killed!

If that truly were the case, then who could oppose to the eastern barbarians in the Forbidden Land of Ice?

Song Tingyu subconsciously looked at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie's eyebrows were tightly knit. He didn't know what to do.

"We don't have any tokens for them to track us through. If we leave, they won't be able to pin us down." Du Xiangyang sighed. "Should we survive until the exit portals are opened, we might be able to get out of here alive."

He clearly wanted to retreat.

"With just our strength alone... we probably won't be able to steal anything from the eastern barbarians," Luo Chen said, dissatisfaction on his face.

"What do you think?" Xue Moyan looked at Qin Lie.

Everyone else turned to look at him as well.

At this moment, he had the power to decide what they would do.

The entire group had chosen to follow him.

Without hesitation, Qin Lie spoke in a solemn tone.

“I want to meet Di Fei!”

These words made everyone freeze.

“Even if two hundred scarlet barbarians entered the Graveyard of Gods... between the fighting throughout the Forbidden Lands of Metal, Earth, and Water, and freezing to death in the Forbidden Land of Ice, there should only be around half of them left.”

Qin Lie spoke in a frosty tone, his eyes calm as he continued, “We killed three teams of scarlet barbarians, forty-five barbarians in the Netherpassage Realm overall. This should leave about fifty or so scarlet barbarians.”

Everyone wore pensive expressions.

“We’ve fought these scarlet barbarians. We know that, individually, their strength isn’t much.” Qin Lie looked at each of them one by one, his eyes bright. “On our side, we have Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and you, Du Xiangyang. Out of everyone here, you three are the most outstanding. Jingxuan and Tingyu are strong as well, having cultivated to the late stages of the Netherpassage Realm. Even Pan Qianqian is in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Her individual strength is greater than that

of scarlet barbarians in the same realm…”

Qin Lie paused for a moment, then excitedly said, “As of now, our only enemies are the scarlet barbarians! Before the black and white barbarians get here, we have a chance!”

At this moment, everyone’s thoughts of retreating vanished. Their eyes shone with determination, their spirits alight once more.

“Alright! Then we’ll stay and fight!”

“I want to see what makes Di Fei so special!”

“Hmph! We’ve suppressed these eastern barbarians for years. Do they really think they can do whatever they want in the Graveyard of Gods?”

The decision was made. They weren’t going to retreat.

Ignoring Jiang Tianxing who stood at the peak of a neighboring mountain, they dug a cave out of their own icy mountain peak and settled in.

Each of them took out spirit stones and silently began to replenish their spirit energy. They tried to make the process as fast as possible, preparing for the arrival of the scarlet barbarians.

Jiang Tianxing went still at the sight of Qin Lie's group resting in plain sight. He hadn't expected them to be so audacious and choose not to escape when they knew that the strongest combatants of the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe were approaching.

"Ha! Birds die for food, and people die for wealth." Jiang Tianxing smirked as he sent a message to Di Fei. He secretly left the mountain, moving closer to Qin Lie's group. "Just for the ice spirit and the remains of elites in the Land of Buried Gods... looks like they don't want to live."

Two hours later, a barbarian dressed in scarlet carrying an enormous bow appeared. He stood at the midpoint of a mountain, the peak of which Qin Lie's group currently was.

The scarlet barbarians thought that Qin Lie's group would eventually regret their decision and attempt to retreat, so they split up to surround them.

"You were right, Qin Lie! There's only a bit more than sixty of them, most in the middle stages of the Netherpassage Realm," Du Xiangyang exclaimed, peering down the side of the mountain and taking note. "Wait for them to get closer! These icy boulders will do more damage if they're close!"

Off to the side of Qin Lie's group, dozens of icy boulders were arranged in rows, poised to be roll down and strike the barbarians below.

They had just carved these extremely large, icy boulders from the

mountain. If they rolled down from the peak and struck the scarlet barbarians, the barbarians would definitely suffer severe injuries.

"They probably rushed here from other areas, so they should be low on spirit energy." Song Tingyu smiled coldly. "In addition to that, we have the high ground! We can take advantage of that and wait because their arrows won't be effective!"

"Alright then!" Qin Lie shouted. "We wait!"

The wait ended up lasting fifteen minutes.

"Attack!"

Icy boulders the size of millstones rained down from the peak of the mountain like meteors through the sky. A dull rumble accompanied them as they traversed the glacial mountainside.

These boulders also contained the spirit energy of everyone in Qin Lie's group. Some sparked with lightning, others radiated an intimidating sword aura, and others glowed with green essence.

A shower of icy meteors hurtled downward, their world-shaking presence making the scarlet barbarians in their path go pale.

"Take cover!" Di Fei yelled.

Standing among them, Jiang Tianxing wore a shocked expression

as he rushed to find somewhere to hide.

“Boom boom!”

“Bam!”

“Aaaahh!”

The dull thud of stone against flesh, the crack of breaking bones, and pitiful wails echoed across the mountain.

An ice boulder struck a scarlet barbarian in a flash of lightning. Before he could make a sound, his head promptly exploded, and the remainder of his body fell to the bottom of the mountain.

Sharp swords seemed to pierce through the shields of light of other scarlet barbarian right before icy boulders struck them. Their exposed bodies exploded upon collision.

This shower of icy meteors resulted in eight scarlet barbarians dead, and at least ten seriously injured.

“They can’t even take a hit.”

At the peak of the mountain, Luo Chen shook his head and smirked.

“Eight dead and even more injured.” Glee filled Song Tingyu’s eyes. “Even if there are more them, they’ve used a lot of spirit energy. What is there to be afraid of?”

“Let them come!” Xie Jingxuan smiled coldly.

“Jiang Tianxing! Come on up here!” Du Xiangyang shouted, laughing. “Come on, didn’t you want to kill us all? I’m waiting for you right up here!”

From their position halfway of the mountain, the scarlet barbarians howled, eyes red with anger. Every single one resembled frenzied beasts glaring at Qin Lie’s group up on the mountain peak.

Chapter 524: The Power To Topple Mountains

“These eastern barbarians aren’t much!”

Luo Chen stood at the peak of the mountain. He radiated sword intent that felt like it could cut through anything. A harsh, seemingly tangible light shone from his eyes.

“Why don’t you come up here, Jiang Tianxing?” Du Xiangyang hollered in a mocking tone. “Weren’t you going to kill us all?”

The rest of the group was relaxed, smiles adorning their faces. They were thinking the same thing—

—The eastern barbarians weren’t much.

“Young master!”

Halfway up the mountain, all of the scarlet barbarian clansmen turned their red eyes to look at Di Fei.

Eight tribesmen had been killed by the shower of boulders and ten had been heavily injured. More importantly, the enemy was taunting them! They couldn’t endure such humiliation!

Xue Moyan frowned slightly. “Di Fei isn’t a pushover, everyone. Control yourselves.”

“What’s he gonna do, topple the mountain?” Du Xiangyang asked with a hearty laugh.

Qin Lie’s group currently stood at the peak of the mountain. If the scarlet barbarians tried to charge up to them, they would have to endure assaults from above.

After dealing significant damage to the eastern barbarians, Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen were brimming with confidence.

They thought they held the upper hand and looked down on the eastern barbarians below them. They relaxed.

“Everyone!” Di Fei suddenly bellowed, a vicious expression on his face. “Come down from the mountain!”

The moment Di Fei gave the order, the scarlet barbarians quickly retreated from the mountain.

“Hm? They’re retreating?” Pan Qianqian exclaimed in shock.

“Di Fei hasn’t moved!” Xue Moyan shouted, her expression grave.

“Something’s not right!” Qin Lie said.

When the scarlet barbarians retreated from the mountain and

left Di Fei at the midpoint, Qin Lie started to feel earth energy radiate from him. The energy was so powerful that it made even him feel nervous.

Haloes of bright golden light emerged from Di Fei's body.

These haloes, which seemed to carry an earth-shaking power that disrupted the gravity around it, suddenly charged deep into the ground.

"Boom boom boom—!"

The mountain and the glacier that covered it began to shake furiously. Di Fei continued to release haloes carrying the power of earth, warping the gravity in the area and making rocks tumble down the ice.

From their high vantage point, the faces of everyone in Qin Lie's group went pale at the sight of other mountains moving back and forth.

Did Di Fei really possess the power to topple a mountain?

"You really guessed it, you blabbermouth!" Pan Qianqian glared at Du Xiangyang, her face riddled with shock and anxiety. "Is Di Fei really this strong? Can his control over the power of earth truly cause earthquakes and make mountains collapse? This is too terrifying!"

Xue Moyan sighed softly. “The eastern barbarians call Di Fei the Son of the Earth. He could apparently feel earth power not long after he was born, and is supposedly capable of connecting to it with his heartbeat.”

“Boom boom boom—!”

The earth continued to shake. At the peak of the mountain where Qin Lie’s group stood atop the ice of the thousand-meter-long glacier, enormous pieces of it broke away and fell with huge amounts of snow.

The intense earthquake shook the icy mountain on which they stood, and it seemed like it would collapse at any moment.

This development brought shock to the faces of Qin Lie and the others. Only now did they realize just how scary Di Fei was.

“No, that isn’t right!” Qin Lie yelled, examining the situation with his mind consciousness. The second he did, his expression went slack. “He didn’t cause the earthquake with his own power… the spirit of the Forbidden Land of Earth did! The earth spirit formed a bond with Di Fei. It should be in his body at this very moment!”

As soon as he said that, everyone felt even more anxious, their opinion of Di Fei skyrocketing.

“It’s just like how the wood spirit wanted to use Ye Yihao to free

itself from the Forbidden Land of Wood, break out of the Graveyard of Gods, and escape into the outside world," Qin Lie said, a serious expression on his face. "The spirit of the Forbidden Land of Earth has bound itself to Di Fei to do that very same thing. The earth spirit is inside of him. It's causing the earthquake!"

"You're right!" Di Fei turned to glare at the people on the mountain threatening to collapse. "The earth spirit is helping me!"

Two slits suddenly appeared above his eyes, and two gray-yellow eyes shot open.

It seemed as if these new eyes had replaced Di Fei's eyebrows, making it look like he had four. It gave him a strange, frightening appearance.

Everyone instinctively looked at the pair of gray-yellow eyes.

"Whoosh!"

Dozens of gray and yellow rays of light shot from both eyes and smashed into the mountain peak.

"Boom boom boom!"

Enormous boulders cracked, and the glacier fell apart at its center.

The ice at the peak of the mountain could no longer hold up and began to collapse as well. After the explosions caused by the rays of light, the bulk of the mountain slowly started tilting.

Pan Qianqian screamed, her shrill voice echoing from the top of the mountain.

“Jump!” Qin Lie shouted.

Just as the glacier collapsed, and right before the mountain peak hurtled to the ground, Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian… jumped.

Their figures, each of them surrounded by shields of light, fell toward a nearby valley. They crashed into the snow that had accumulated there, creating deep, person-shaped holes.

“Pfft!”

Pan Qianqian’s shield shattered upon impact, leaving her dazed and completely exposed to the cold winds. She spat out a mouthful of blood, and her face turned pale.

“It’s… s-so cold!” She stuttered, trembling as her eyes grew dim.

“Bang!”

Luo Chen smashed into a piece of ice that had fallen earlier on,

shattering it. He groaned as blood seeped from the corner of his mouth.

Everyone else suffered in similar ways, ending up dazed upon landing.

Qin Lie endured a similar crash landing. He fell like a human hammer, slamming straight into an enormous, three-meter-tall piece of ice. It crumbled to pieces as he leaped to his feet with a grunt.

Having a strong body finally showed its benefits.

Since Qin Lie was as tough as stone even without the protection of a shield of light, falling from such a height had no effect on him.

When the others landed, their shields of light either shattered or badly warped.

Every person's shield of light required pure spirit energy to take shape. The destruction of such a shield meant a large expenditure of spirit energy.

When this happened to the rest of Qin Lie's group, one-tenth of each person's spirit energy was lost.

This didn't even take their wounds into account.

“Incoming!” Qin Lie shouted. He took a deep breath, clenching and unclenching his hands.

Blue bolts of lightning shot from his fingers like spirit snakes, each one to two meters long and filled with the pure, ferocious energy of thunder and lightning.

“There!” Jiang Tianxing pointed them out to other scarlet barbarians.

Just outside the valley, ten scarlet barbarians nocked their bows, preparing to shoot at Qin Lie’s group. An intense cold filled their eyes.

Lines of blue, dark green, scarlet, and translucent spirit energy coursed along the length of their arms, flooding into their enormous bows.

The arrows nocked into their bows ignited like torches and released bright, colorful lights.

“Fire!”

Arrows filled with pure spirit energy shot through the air like rain. The terrifying power they carried was capable of destroying the valley like the careless movement of a gargantuan being.

“Explode!”

Ten streaks of blue lightning twisted through the air like vicious snakes, shooting toward the arrows.

“Papapapa!”

The snakes clashed with the arrows in midair, filling the sky with bright flames and sparks of light. It resembled a beautiful fireworks show.

The moment the arrows collided with the blue lightning, the spirit energy they contained released a shockwave that struck Qin Lie.

The force flung Qin Lie to the mouth of the valley. He trembled uncontrollably, feeling as if he had taken a heavy punch.

He eventually got his body under control and stopped trembling. The lightning in his eyes looked slightly weaker, but he still wore his usual, relaxed expression.

Despite the fact that he blocked a majority of the arrows, three got past him. However, these three suddenly exploded when they approached Xue Moyan.

Xue Moyan’s Illusory Demon Orb was capable of releasing wondrous illusions. It emitted an ethereal light that gradually enveloped her figure, making her seem like an immortal goddess descending to the mortal realm.

She had been the one to block the last three arrows.

“Jiang Tianxing… haven’t you and your father spent many years trying to find an opportunity to kill me?” she asked, walking forward.

Her bright eyes swept across Qin Lie and settled Jiang Tianxing, who stood in the midst of the scarlet barbarians.

“After today, we’ll have one less target.” Jiang Tianxing’s eyes went a bloody crimson, like those of a savage ghost. In a low voice, he said, “Senior Sister Xue, you should not have lived. If it weren’t for you, your mother wouldn’t have been stuck with a fate worse than death…”

Upon hearing his words, Xue Moyan’s eyes slowly became tinged with blood.

The thick odor of blood gradually emanated from her body as she channeled the Blood Spirit Art.

Chapter 525: Bloodthirsty Dragon!

Dense, bloody light gushed from the palm of Xue Moyan's left hand with an angry, earthshaking roar.

A bone dragon dripping with blood winked into existence, its entire body sparkling with translucent, bloody light. Every single one of its bones exuded waves of blood energy.

Qin Lie's eyes suddenly lit up in realization.

Although this dragon reminded him of Blood Dragon's Roar, a spirit art executed with the power of blood, it was actually a genuine dragon's skeleton.

With its sanguine skeleton as the frame and Xue Moyan's blood spirit energy as its flesh, the bloody bone dragon looked as large as the entrance to a mine around twenty meters wide. Its eyes shone with intimidating bloody light.

"Aooooooooo!"

The bloody bone dragon roared, the sanguine flames covering its body erupting skyward. It seemed as if the dragon's burning, earthshaking might had surged into existence amidst a sea of blood.

Qin Lie raised his head to watch as the bloody bone dragon soared above him, charging straight for the group of scarlet

barbarians wielding giant bows. An angry roar tore through the air as the dragon's bloody tail swept across three of the barbarians, flinging them to the other end of the snowy valley with a bone-shattering crunch.

"Pfft!"

As if they had been pierced with sharp weapons, broken bones protruded from the stomachs of two of the barbarians.

The third one hadn't even hit the ground before unleashing a bloodcurdling scream. He immediately died a terrible death as all of the blood in his blood vessels exploded.

"You have the Bloodthirsty Dragon!?" Jiang Tianxing screamed.

"Aoooo!!"

The bloody bone dragon turned its bloody gaze to Jiang Tianxing, locking onto him with a roar. Its sanguine bones twisted and convulsed before it rushed toward him, a sinister expression on its bloody face.

An expression of horror came over Jiang Tianxing, and he instinctively turned to flee.

He was well aware of the terror that was the "Bloodthirsty Dragon," Blood Fiend Sect's greatest spirit artifact. Back when Blood Fiend Sect fell to ruin, Mo Lingye and the Bloodthirsty

Dragon had mysteriously disappeared. Jiang Tianxing and his father, Jiang Zhuzhe, had expended enormous amounts of effort searching for it.

According to the rumors, the Blood Progenitor once killed a huge dragon. Using his own blood and several hundred rare spirit materials to temper the dragon's corpse, he created the Bloodthirsty Dragon. It then went on to become Blood Fiend Sect's most famous spirit artifact.

As a Heaven Grade spirit artifact, the Bloodthirsty Dragon had always been the ultimate treasure that represented and protected Blood Fiend Sect. Only disciples of the sect who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art could control this powerful spirit artifact.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon had originally been in Xue Li's possession. However, after Jiang Zhuzhe set him up and imprisoned him within the twelve spirit pattern pillars... it mysteriously disappeared.

This was the reason why Jiang Zhuzhe hadn't killed Xue Li, instead deciding to torture, interrogate, and search him again and again. He sought to obtain the Bloodthirsty Dragon, a Heaven Grade spirit artifact.

Yet, after so many years, Jiang Zhuzhe hadn't been able to discover its whereabouts. He eventually gave up on it.

No one could have foreseen the event that, after coming to an agreement with Xue Li, Blood Fiend Sect's former sect master, Mo

Yunwu, would personally pass the Bloodthirsty Dragon down to his daughter instead of the current sect master.

After Blood Fiend Sect fell, Mo Lingye took the Bloodthirsty Dragon and fled far from the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Then she passed it down to Xue Moyan.

No one realized that Xue Moyan, who had always fought others using Illusory Demon Sect's spirit arts and spirit artifacts, possessed the Bloodthirsty Dragon. She never dared to use it because doing so would expose it, and by extension, her own identity.

However, Jiang Tianxing's taunts had truly infuriated her. Unable to suppress her anger, she actually summoned the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon, which was made using a dragon's corpse, nurtured with the blood of the Blood Progenitor, and tempered with several hundred rare spirit materials, now displayed its terrifying might.

Upon focusing on and examining the Bloodthirsty Dragon, Qin Lie noticed that Blood Fiend Sect's spirit art, "Blood Dragon's Roar," had been created using the Heaven Grade spirit artifact as a basis.

At Xue Moyan's command, this unusually large, dragon-shaped spirit artifact roared and rushed at Jiang Tianxing.

All of the scarlet barbarians below the bloody bone dragon were in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm. They had formidable realms and abundant energy.

However, when the Bloodthirsty Dragon flew overhead, the extraordinary patterns on its bones blossomed with terrifying blood energy..

“Bang bang bang!”

—And the scarlet barbarians beneath it suddenly exploded, their blood having boiled up and expanded beyond what their bodies could contain.

The scarlet barbarian martial practitioners outside the valley burst into showers of blood one after another.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Bloody lights shot from the remains of everyone who died such horrible deaths, flying into the sky and streaming into the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

The dragon roared angrily as it absorbed all of the light into its body of blood and bone. The bloody light in its pupils grew increasingly terrifying.

“Di Fei! Help me!” Jiang Tianxing screamed over and over.

He fled into the distance like a ray of sanguine light, using everything he had in an attempt to reach Di Fei. He hoped that the scarlet barbarian leader would be able to assist him.

Having rushed from the toppled mountain, Di Fei was in the process of leading his men toward the entrance to the valley when the hysteric Jiang Tianxing came into view.

Relentlessly chasing him from behind was the bloody bone dragon. It burned with sanguine flames and radiated a fiendish aura of blood that reached the sky.

This sight left Di Fei, who moved with anger and extraordinary might, speechless. He hadn't even made it to the valley yet.

"Stop!" Di Fei commanded his tribesmen, hastily raising a hand. His expression changed from anger to disbelief as he yelled, "Jiang Tianxing! What is that thing behind you?"

"It's Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure, the Bloodthirsty Dragon!" Jiang Tianxing screamed in horror. "Di Fei! Command the earth spirit to create a wall of earth and block it! Xue Moyan is controlling the Bloodthirsty Dragon, but her life force is weak! She definitely won't be able to keep it up for long!"

"Alright!" Di Fei shouted. He furrowed his brow in concentration as a new pair of eyes appeared on his face once more.

“Seismic Mountain Uprising!” he yelled, injecting an immense amount of earth power into the ground.

The earth behind Jiang Tianxing released a terrifying rumble as the ground split, barriers of ice and stone jutting into the air.

“Boom!”

The Bloodthirsty Dragon rammed into one of the walls, shattering the barrier that resembled a small hill. It continued to charge forward, scattering shards and boulders of ice and stone everywhere.

Thick barriers burst into pieces one after another.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon roared angrily as it continued its violent pursuit of Jiang Tianxing.

“Again! Again!” Jiang Tiangxing yelled in fear.

Seeing that the situation was just as bad as before, Di Fei had no choice but to concentrate and join forces with the earth spirit once more, building new earthen barriers to block the dragon’s path.

Back in the valley, Xue Moyan’s beautiful, blood-soaked figure flew past Qin Lie into the distance. She followed the Bloodthirsty Dragon closely, directing it to attack Jiang Tianxing.

Her entire body brimmed with killing intent!

“Ssister Xue…” Pan Qianqian said in a soft voice. “She looks so fearless.”

The sight stunned everyone in Qin Lie’s group.

“She’s killed more than a dozen scarlet barbarians using just the power of blood and that spirit artifact, the Bloodthirsty Dragon. She has yet to call upon even an ounce of the illusory power of Illusory Demon Sect,” Du Xiangyang said, his lips forming a bitter smile as he shook his head. “All of her enemies are in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm too!”

“A thousand years ago… if internal strife hadn’t erupted within Blood Fiend Sect… if the three great families hadn’t betrayed them… if the nine great Silver rank forces hadn’t come together and attacked them…” A sense of respect welled up inside of Luo Chen. “If none of these things had come to pass, Blood Fiend Sect probably would’ve continued to be the most terrifying force in the Land of Chaos!”

As a newly ascended Silver rank force, Heavenly Sword Mountain was young like Luo Chen. They didn’t have much admiration for Blood Fiend Sect, a force that once dominated the Land of Chaos.

Although it was once powerful, Blood Fiend Sect hadn’t left much of an impression on Luo Chen because it ultimately fell to ruin.

He had always thought that stories of Blood Fiend Sect's might were just rumors. He believed that, if such a sect truly was strong, it wouldn't have been eliminated..

Yet at this moment, after Xue Moyan summoned the Bloodthirsty Dragon and instantly killed a dozen or so scarlet barbarians in the same realm as her, he finally understood just how terrifying Blood Fiend Sect had been. He truly acknowledged the powerful force that once dominated the Land of Chaos.

"She won't be able to sustain it," Xie Jingxuan suddenly said. "This terrifying Heaven Grade spirit artifact needs incredible amounts of blood and energy to sustain it. Xue Moyan may possess a considerable amount of both, but she doesn't have enough. She definitely won't hold on much longer."

Xie Jingxuan could keenly sense life force. She noticed Xue Moyan's plight a long time ago and knew there was no way she'd be able to control the Bloodthirsty Dragon much longer.

A Heaven Grade spirit artifact like the Bloodthirsty Dragon was suitable for Nirvana Realm and Imperishable Realm martial practitioners. Only elites in these realms could skillfully wield such a spirit artifact.

Xue Moyan was only at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. The fact that she could summon the Bloodthirsty Dragon and unleash a small fraction of its might was already a feat to be proud of.

She clearly couldn't keep this up for long.

"This spirit artifact's terrifying power is the only reason she could instantly kill around a dozen barbarians in the same realm as her," Xie Jingxuan said, calmly revealing the truth. "She wouldn't have such an overwhelming advantage on her own."

"Does that mean she'll have to withdraw the Bloodthirsty Dragon if Di Fei is able to fend it off for a little while longer?" Qin Lie asked with a frown.

"Not only would she have to withdraw it, she'd even grow weak from using up too much of her blood and energy," Xie Jingxuan explained. "We shouldn't just watch from the sidelines. We need to stay by her side and wait for the moment that she exhausts all of her strength. We need to protect her when that happens. We'll need to keep the scarlet barbarians from injuring or killing her."

A grim expression covered Qin Lie's face. Without another word, he rushed from the valley in Xue Moyan's direction.

"Bang!"

Another wall of icy stone rose from the ground, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon burst straight through it. It roared madly and was about to reach Di Fei and Jiang Tianxing.

"Pwack!"

A mouthful of blood erupted from Di Fei's mouth. His eyes grew dim as he ignored Jiang Tianxing's cries and yelled, "Retreat! Retreat from this place! Now!"

Di Fei was actually the first to give in.

"The bloody bone dragon has been withdrawn!" a scarlet barbarian cried out in surprise.

Xue Moyan's face was pale, the glittering bloody light in her eyes gradually dimming as well.

Di Fei, who had been ready to turn tail and run, regained his composure upon hearing the cry of his tribesman, a pleased expression returning to his face.

"Someone who's about to die doesn't deserve Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure!" Jiang Tianxing yelled, insane with excitement. He shot toward Xue Moyan, almost dancing with joy.

He was about to seize the Bloodthirsty Dragon from Xue Moyan and fulfill one of his father's dreams.

Chapter 526: Intense Battle!

The moment he saw the Bloodthirsty Dragon fly back to Xue Moyan, Jiang Tianxing immediately charged at her. His eyes were bloodshot and his body shimmered with bloody light. It seemed as if he had been injected with chicken blood.

“You are not worthy of wielding the Bloodthirsty Dragon!” he cried.

An illusory dragon made of bloody light flew out of Jiang Tianxing’s forehead. This dragon contained Jiang Tianxing’s soul consciousness and wrapped around the Bloodthirsty Dragon in an attempt to rob Blood Fiend Sect of its ultimate treasure, turning it into a powerful tool for him and his father.

A Heaven Grade spirit artifact was one of the most valuable objects in the Land of Chaos. Every single one of them held infinite might and could unleash earth-shattering power.

Not all of the nine great Silver rank forces’ elite martial practitioners wielded a Heaven Grade spirit artifact of their own.

For a Blood Fiend Sect disciple who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and possessed a tremendous amount of blood energy within their blood, the Bloodthirsty Dragon was literally the ultimate treasure. When activating it with the Blood Spirit Art, this spirit artifact was truly capable of turning the sky upside down.

Jiang Tianxing stared at the Bloodthirsty Dragon with bloodshot

eyes, his face filled with extreme desire.

"Back off!"

A thunderous rumbling rang out, and ten bolts of dark blue lightning struck toward Jiang Tianxing like ten brilliant chains.

Upon being struck by the lightning bolts, the illusory dragon that emerged from Jiang Tianxing's forehead instantly became listless, its bloody luster growing dim.

Jiang Tianxing came to an abrupt halt, his expression twisting in anger.

"Qin Lie!" he roared.

"Scram!" Qin Lie yelled, his hand forming a grasping motion and thrusting in Jiang Tianxing's direction. A ball of thick, bloody light instantly gushed from his palm.

"Blood Dragon's Roar!"

Another bloody dragon rammed into Jiang Tianxing's chest. The terrifying, fiendish energy struck Jiang Tianxing like a tidal wave, the power of thunder and lightning coursing through it as well.

This single strike sent Jiang Tianxing flying.

“Boom!” Jiang Tianxing hurtled to the ground, falling amidst the scarlet barbarians. His face flushed red as a series of cracks echoed from his chest.

“Blood Dragon’s Roar! You cultivate the Blood Spirit Art too!?” he screamed, his eyes shining with a shockingly harsh light. He was clearly bewildered by the constantly turning events. “Just who are you? Who ordered you to snatch the Demon Sealing Tombstone from my grasp?”

Only a Blood Fiend Sect disciple could cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and learn how to execute Blood Dragon’s Roar.

From Jiang Tianxing’s perspective, Qin Lie unleashing Blood Dragon’s Roar clearly meant that he was a disciple of a certain Blood Fiend Sect elder’s descendant. He took that thought a step further and assumed that Qin Lie had planned to steal the Demon Sealing Tombstone from him all along. He surmised that him and his father working with the scarlet barbarians had long since been discovered by the enemy.

“My father taught Qin Lie the Blood Spirit Art!” Xue Moyan exclaimed softly.

It was at this moment that the rampaging Bloodthirsty Dragon turned back into a ray of bloody light and miraculously withdrew into Xue Moyan’s snow-white arm.

A small tattoo of a bloody dragon materialized on her arm for a moment, then faded until it disappeared.

Qin Lie had ruined Jiang Tianxing's plan to seize the Bloodthirsty Dragon from Xue Moyan. Unless Jiang Tianxing killed Xue Moyan and tore off her arm, there was an extremely small possibility that the Bloodthirsty Dragon would be summoned once more.

"That's impossible!" Jiang Tianxing cried out. "My father trapped him at the Heavenly Fissure Continent and refined him alive, completely destroying his soul!"

Xue Moyan's eyes became a deep red once again. However, it didn't go red because she circulated the Blood Spirit Art, but because Jiang Tianxing brought up Xue Li's terrible experience.

"Only half of Senior Xue Li's soul was refined at that time. The other half of his soul still lives on! Not only is he alive and well even now, he has even reunited with his wife!" Qin Lie said in a calm, serious tone. "When I leave the Graveyard of Gods, he'll be able to reform his body and recover from the severe damage to his soul. It won't take long for him to regain his strength, lead Blood Fiend Sect, and reestablish it in the Land of Chaos!"

"What nonsense!" Jiang Tanxing laughed, his frustration reaching its peak. "Xue Li, Xue Moyan, and Mo Lingye who is on her deathbed will only meet one another on the way to the Yellow Springs! Hahaha!"

"Kill them!" Di Fei ordered. "Kill them all!"

At this moment, about thirty scarlet barbarians were gathered

around Di Fei. At his command, they fired the arrows that they had nocked.

These arrows shot toward Qin Lie and the others at the entrance to the valley, resembling a meteor shower as different colors of light trailed behind each one. Every arrow carried a terrifying amount of energy within.

“Kill them!”

Qin Lie and the others reacted to Di Fei’s commands and took out their respective spirit artifacts, immediately charging out of the valley and toward the scarlet barbarians while enduring the rain of arrows.

A sharp, crescent-bladed scythe flew out of Xie Jingxuan’s hands. Numerous infernal purple flowers made of flames blossomed on the scythe and floated toward the scarlet barbarians like harmless bubbles.

Motes of green starlight rich with refreshing, natural life energy radiated from the flower-shaped flames.

“Bang!”

The purple flowers erupted, and the green starlight dots that accompanied them suddenly transformed into tendrils of tenacious vines that swiftly stretched toward two scarlet barbarians at the front of Di Fei’s group.

Tiny thorns adorned the entire length of every vine. Each of them possessed shocking strength and agility. Like strange snakes, they instantly wrapped around a barbarian's neck.

"Crack!"

The vines constricted, breaking that barbarian's neck. His eyes bulged, and he died without even being able to scream.

Luo Chen snorted coldly as he unleashed a harsh sword beam into the sky. It shot through the rain of arrows falling toward him, cutting all of them to pieces..

He fired multiple beams of crescent-shaped rainbow sword light at the scarlet barbarians, causing all sorts of strange, pain-filled cries to ring through the air.

Du Xiangyang chuckled as two scarlet flames burned in each of his hands. He ran straight for the scarlet barbarians, glowing as brightly as a blazing sun.

Everyone in Qin Lie's group attacked in unison!

Most of the scarlet barbarians present were at the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Some of them were in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Overall, they numbered around thirty or so people.

However, their fatigue immediately began to show as Qin Lie and the other surprised them by charging into their midst and starting a slaughter.

“Break!”

Like a ray of bloody light weaving through the scarlet barbarians, Qin Lie endured the cold winds of the Forbidden Land of Ice while constantly condensing thunder and lightning energy.

The Astral Thunder Hammer in his hands enhanced his violent thunder and lightning energy, turning it into dazzling dots of blue light that flew straight into scarlet barbarians.

Although all of them maintained shields of light of varying colors, the scarlet barbarians immediately discovered that the astral lights would blast straight through their shields, shattering them like egg shells.

The second their shields of light exploded and their bodies were exposed to the harsh, cold winds, the barbarians immediately began to shiver uncontrollably.

As soon as the scarlet barbarians lost the protection of their shields of light, the attacks of Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Xie Jingxuan shot from behind Qin Lie and assaulted them.

Many of them immediately suffered severe injuries or died on the spot. Screams constantly echoed from among them.

“Young master!”

“Save us, young master!”

“We can’t handle them!”

The scarlet barbarians subconsciously retreated as they screamed. The second that Qin Lie’s group charged them, their formation began to crumble.

Di Fei, the renowned “Son of Earth,” had joined forces with the earth spirit earlier and created walls of icy stone to block the Bloodthirsty Dragon. This resulted in him expending too much spirit energy and suffering a blow to his psyche.

His strength had fallen significantly, and he couldn’t do anything about his tribesmen being at a disadvantage.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon was a Heaven Grade spirit artifact and Blood Fiend Sect’s ultimate treasure. Xue Moyan had spent tremendous amounts of spirit energy and blood energy to control it, using its terrifying might to kill over a dozen scarlet barbarian elites in an instant.

If Di Fei hadn’t borrowed the earth spirit’s strength, there wouldn’t have been any way for him to oppose the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

Now, just like Xue Moyan, he had exhausted too much strength during the first intense clash. He couldn't gather any strength to launch a new wave of attacks.

Seeing that his tribesmen were at a disadvantage and that Jiang Tianxing couldn't do anything with Qin Lie keeping him busy, Di Fei finally grew nervous.

"Contact Sen Ye and Jia Yue!" Di Fei suddenly yelled.

Understanding showed on the face of a scarlet barbarian who had retreated to the rear of the group, temporarily taking refuge from the danger. He pulled out a horn and used his soul consciousness to send a message, accurately transmitting their location.

The white barbarians and black barbarians who were searching for the ice spirit nearby would immediately rush over once they received this message.

The eastern barbarians were united when facing a common enemy. They prioritized the slaughter of all Land of Chaos martial practitioners above everything else.

"Sen Ye replied! He said that he's only ten kilometers away from here. He should arrive immediately!"

"Jia Yue also replied! She said that she'll be here soon!"

The barbarian holding the horn had a sinister look in his eyes as

he laughed harshly.

This news lifted the spirit of every scarlet barbarian within earshot. Their morale visibly went up a notch.

“Hold on just a bit longer!” Di Fei exclaimed. “Once Sen Ye arrives, none of our enemies will be left alive!”

Word spread among the scarlet barbarians that Sen Ye and Jia Yue were coming, and every barbarian that was about to retreat immediately regained their wits. They readjusted their formation and began carrying out plans to deal with and delay Qin Lie’s group.

Chapter 527: Soul Curse

The scarlet barbarians that were just about to fall apart regained their fighting spirit after Sen Ye and Jia Yue sent word that they would reinforce them soon.

Di Fei snorted indifferently and sat down behind his tribesmen. The earth spirit's eyes opened above his own and shone with a grim, ruthless light.

Three scarlet barbarians instantly moved behind Di Fei. After taking a moment to look each other in the eyes, they each brandished a dagger, gritted their teeth, and slashed at their fingers.

Fresh red blood welled from the cuts at their fingertips.

Eyes filled with intense ferocity, the three barbarians smeared blood against the tattoos on their necks, shoulders, and chests. This made their tattoos seem thicker, causing them to glow with bloody traces of evil and terror.

Each of the barbarians had their own tattoo. All three grew brighter and more distinct on their bodies. One was a dancing butterfly, one was a porcupine-like spirit beast, and the last one looked like blossoming spirit grass.

"Sacrifice!" the three scarlet barbarians exclaimed in unison.

The moment they did, their blood, spirit energy, soul energy, and mind consciousnesses combined into a formless current of energy that flooded their tattoos.

A bizarre light erupted from the trio's eyes as they suddenly looked at Luo Chen with strange, grim smiles.

Luo Chen stood in the middle of the scarlet barbarians, sword at the ready. He radiated a sword aura that seemed capable of rending the sky. Wherever he pointed his sword, mighty beams of sword light would stream out like rushing rivers.

None of the barbarians nearby could match him. All of them fell back, not daring to get close to him.

However, the moment the three distinctly tattooed barbarians looked at Luo Chen, pain appeared on his proud, indifferent face.

In the very next moment, Luo Chen grunted as if he had suffered a heavy blow. The sword in his hand went dim as well.

"Ugh!" Luo Chen exclaimed painfully. He fell to his knees, seemingly battered, and instantly lost his ability to fight.

"Well done!" Di Fei shouted, praising the three men behind him.

His praise encouraged them, and they turned their sharp eyes to Du Xiangyang.

As soon as they locked onto him, the scarlet flames around his body died out all at once.

In the next instant, traces of blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. He had clearly suffered some sort of backlash.

Du Xiangyang had no idea who had secretly struck him. He shuddered and surveyed the scarlet barbarians around him, eyes full of murderous intent.

“Next!” Di Fei said as he found another target. “Him! That Qin Lie!”

The three tattooed barbarians laughed sinisterly, then sucked in a deep breath. Gathering their strength once more, they directed their eerie gazes toward Qin Lie.

Qin Lie was currently rampaging throughout the scarlet barbarians, laughing continuously. With every swing of his arms, he threw out rays of bloody light and thunderous bolts of lightning.

“Jiang Tianxing!” Qin Lie shouted in a mocking tone, passing through the throng of fighting and heading straight for Jiang Tianxing. “Do you dare fight me?”

Back in the sea around Spirit Eagle Island, Qin Lie hadn’t been able to gain the upper hand against Jiang Tianxing, and had even

been at a disadvantage when Jiang Tianxing executed his Blood Spirit Art.

More than half a year later, Qin Lie encountered Jiang Tianxing again in the Graveyard of Gods. Qin Lie's realm had risen to the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, and the strength of his body had increased to a new level. He no longer shied away from fighting Jiang Tianxing.

On the other hand, Jiang Tianxing actually didn't dare to fight Qin Lie. He could only constantly retreat in face of Qin Lie's aggressiveness.

However, at this very moment, a butterfly, a porcupine, and blossoming spirit grass suddenly appeared within Qin Lie's mind.

As soon as these foreign elements appeared in his mind, Qin Lie's True Soul shook as he turned all of his attention to them.

The blossoming spirit grass abruptly released a bewitching scent that intoxicated Qin Lie's True Soul.

The porcupine like spirit beast let out a series of cries as the strange quills on its body pierced Qin Lie's Soul Lake like rays of golden light.

In the outside world, Qin Lie felt terrible pain in his True Soul and suddenly lost control of the spirit art he was about to unleash.

Back in his mind, the butterfly flapped its wings and caused enormous waves to develop in Qin Lie's Soul Lake, forcing his mind to lose focus.

The combined attack of these ethereal creatures had a huge effect on Qin Lie, just like it did on Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang. He instantly sat down on the ground, an expression of both shock and pain on his face.

The faces of the three barbarians next to Di Fei grew even more sinister.

"Great job! You've done very well!" Di Fei said with a nod, relaxing. Then he pointed at Song Tingyu. "Attack her next! When Sen Ye and Jia Yue arrive, none of these Land of Chaos martial practitioners will leave this place alive!"

"Understood," the trio said.

The faces of the three were pale, but their minds were in great condition. They moved to attack Song Tingyu.

However, just as they were about to do so, Qin Lie's bloodsoaked eyes pierced through the fighting around him and locked onto them.

The three scarlet barbarians that had been secretly attacking Qin Lie's group suddenly stopped. Their faces twisted in shock, intense fear clouding their eyes.

Since Di Fei was closest to them, he felt the sudden change in their demeanor. Turning to look at them, he saw that their eyes were full of thunder and lightning.

It was as if their eyes had been struck by lightning!

“Ahhhh!” the trio screamed in pain.

They rubbed their eyes with all their might, seemingly trying to force the lightning from their eyes.

At his position in the distance, Qin Lie stood up. He wore an indifferent expression as his eyes shone with bloody light, sparks of lightning shooting around his body.

“Prak prak prak!”

Bolts of lightning struck the butterfly, porcupine, and spirit grass in his mind, destroying them.

At the same time, Qin Lie’s mind consciousness flowed through the soul connection between the three creatures and their owners, carrying the power of thunder and lightning directly into heads and eyes of the three barbarians.

Qin Lie watched the trio, softly exclaiming, “Explode!”

A dull noise resounded in the heads of the three scarlet barbarians as their eyes actually exploded.

“My eyes! My eyes!”

“I’m blind! I can’t see!”

“Ahhhh! My eyes!”

The trio clawed at their eye sockets, blood flowing through the gaps between their fingers as they screeched in pain.

This turn of events prompted Di Fei to get to his feet. He considered the situation for a few seconds, then yelled, “Retreat!”

He ended up changing his mind once more.

Upon hearing Di Fei’s command once again, all of the scarlet barbarians only hesitated for a moment before turning around and retreating.

“Follow me!” Di Fei instructed the now-blind barbarian trio before leading the way out of the valley. He didn’t turn around even once.

The barbarians that had been fighting Qin Lie’s group immediately turned around and fled.

“Don’t chase them.” Qin Lie frowned.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan stopped immediately. Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang reluctantly stopped as well, indifferent expressions on their faces.

“They’re probably retreating in the direction that Sen Ye and Jia Yue will be coming from,” Qin Lie said. “We’ll run into the main force of eastern barbarians if we give chase. That wouldn’t be very wise.”

“We should leave this place while the opponent has yet to regroup,” Song Tingyu suggested. “We don’t have any tokens they can track, and finding us again won’t be a simple matter if we find a new mountain to hide in.”

Everyone agreed with Song Tingyu’s suggestion, and no one had any other ideas. As a result, they left without even looting the corpses of the scarlet barbarians.

……

Leading the twenty-or-so scarlet barbarians that remained, Di Fei finally met up with Sen Ye’s black barbarians and Jia Yue’s white barbarians an hour later.

“Where are your tribesmen, Di Fei?” Sen Ye yelled from afar.

“Why do you only have around twenty people with you?” Jia Yue

was also puzzled. “Are the rest of your tribesmen still ahead of us attacking the Land of Chaos martial practitioners?”

They all assumed that Di Fei had left some of his tribesmen behind.

Every scarlet barbarian, including Di Fei, wore expression of defeat. Hatred filled their eyes.

One man struck an ice rock out of extreme anger shattering it and yelling, “I swear to kill all the martial practitioners of the Land of Chaos!”

“What’s going on?” Jia Yue asked, growing serious.

Gao Yu silently stood beside her, maintaining a grim, aloof expression.

“Jiang Tianxing!” Sen Ye yelled. “Tell us what happened!”

“We’re the only ones left.” Jiang Tianxing glanced at Di Fei’s grim face, then sighed. “We split up into smaller teams to search for the ice spirit. Qin Lie’s group took us out one team after another, resulting in severe losses…”

He slowly revealed the truth.

Sen Ye and Jia Yue’s faces became uglier as they quietly listened

to his account of events.

"Are they really that powerful?" A brawny white barbarian beside Jia Yue found it hard to believe Jiang Tianxing. "We fought Black Voodoo Cult, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Celestial Artifact Sect. None of them seemed all that strong. Why did you suffer so many losses?"

"That Qin Lie fellow is extremely scary!" a scarlet barbarian screamed. "He broke our tribe's soul curse!"

It was only then that everyone noticed that there were three scarlet barbarians beside Di Fei. They had been clutching their eyes and crying softly all this time.

"Qin Lie cultivates the power of thunder. He was extremely formidable in the Forbidden Land of Thunder," Sen Ye said, taking a deep breath. "However, this is the Forbidden Land of Ice. How could he overturn the heavens in here?"

"Gao Yu, you came from the Scarlet Tide Continent with that Qin Lie. You should know about him. Is he as scary as they say?" the brawny white barbarian suddenly asked.

All of the eastern barbarians, including Sen Ye and Di Fei, turned their attention to Gao Yu.

"I do not know," Gao Yu said indifferently.

Dissatisfaction could clearly be seen in the eyes of the scarlet and black barbarians as they gazed at him.

“They aren’t far from here,” Jiang Tianxing said hurriedly. “If we pursue them immediately, we may still be able to find them!”

“Then we shall give chase!” Sen Ye ordered.

“Turn back!” Di Fei yelled.

……

Qin Lie’s group found their way up another icy mountain that ringed the frozen lake. Halfway up that mountain, everyone dug out their own caves and sat inside of them, recovering their strength with spirit stones.

“You need to use the Spring of Life,” Qin Lie said within one of the caves.

The only other person in this cave was Xue Moyan. The blood had drained out of her face, leaving it deathly pale. She had used more than half the blood spirit energy in her blood.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon was a domineering killing tool. Since Xue Moyan used it despite her low realm, it had exhausted an astonishing amount of her blood energy to match its terrifyingly deadly power.

Qin Lie could sense how much blood energy she had used up. He knew that she was in extremely poor condition, which was why he purposely came over to look after her.

“My mother is the only one who should use this Spring of Life.” Xue Moyan shook her head firmly. “I need to save it for her.”

“That battle exhausted your life energy.” Qin Lie sighed. “If you don’t consume the Spring of Life as soon as possible... you might not be able to leave the Graveyard of Gods alive.”

He could already see a small clump of white hair on Xue Moyan’s head. This was a sign that her life force was running out.

At this rate, even if they didn’t get caught in any other battles, time would slowly kill her.

Chapter 528: Force Feed

Xue Moyan quietly sat inside the cave dug into the side of the icy mountain. Her eyes, which resembled clear lakes, held traces of sadness that just couldn't be hidden.

"Please keep the Spring of Life safe for me." Xue Moyan took out the bottle that held the Spring of Life. Then, after a moment of thought, she raised her left hand palm-up. Bloody light shone from it, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon floated into the air, several times smaller than its original size. "Take Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure as well. Keep it safe. Once you get out of here, please find my father and give both it and the Spring of Life to him."

After the battle with Di Fei, Jiang Tianxing, and the other scarlet barbarians, she noticed that she was in horrible condition. She tried to recover her blood energy, but her mind lacked the spirit.

She also noticed that her hair, which originally resembled a long cascade of smooth black hair, had become dry and lost its luster. Several spots sported a faint white color.

All of these strange changes pointed to one conclusion.

—Her life would soon come to an end.

The depletion of Xue Moyan's life energy or, more specifically, the sacrificing of her overall lifespan, could only be fixed with the Spring of Life. However, her mother needed the Spring of Life as badly as she did... and she decided to die for her mother's sake.

“I will not deliver the Spring of Life and Blood Fiend Sect’s ultimate treasure for you,” Qin Lie said with a heavy expression, his brow furrowed. “Either you continue to live strongly, or the Spring of Life and the Bloodthirsty Dragon die with you.”

Astonishment filled Xue Moyan’s eyes.

“How is the Spring of Life even used?” Qin Lie asked out of the blue.

“Drinking works well enough,” Xue Moyan answered without thinking.

“That seems pretty simple.” Qin Lie nodded slightly, then suddenly said, “Let me make the decision for you then!”

“What?” Xue Moyan asked in surprise. “W-what are you doing!?”

It was at this moment that Qin Lie moved as quick as lightning, grabbing the bottle that held the Spring of Life. Dense bolts of lightning shot from his fingers as Xue Moyan screamed.

The lightning bolts resembled prismatic ribbons of energy that wrapped around Xue Moyan’s supple body. They emanated a paralyzing power, firmly binding her.

Xue Moyan had exhausted too much of her blood energy in the

previous battle. She was currently at her weakest and didn't have the strength to stop Qin Lie.

She could only glare at Qin Lie in horror, hastily saying, "No!"

"It is not up to you to decide!" Qin Lie reached out with his left hand, forcefully opened Xue Moyan's lips, and poured the Spring of Life into her mouth.

"No! Noo!" Xue Moyan screamed. "Nn...!"

In the cave next to them, Luo Chen was in the process of recovering his strength using spirit stones when he suddenly opened his eyes, surprise and confusion on his face.

In another cave, Du Xiangyang shivered as he rubbed his chin, a playful smile on his face.

"You animal!" Pan Qianqian exclaimed as she rushed out of her cave and into theirs.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan sat in the same cave recovering their spirit energy. They had also heard Xue Moyan's cries.

However, the two just continued to cultivate inside the cave without even the slightest change in expressions. They knew Qin Lie well, and therefore had no intention of moving.

“Qin Lie! If you dare to harm Sister Xue, I’ll cut off that dog head of yours!” Pan Qianqian yelled as she barged in.

Upon entering the cave, she saw that Qin Lie had bound Xue Moyan with lightning, forcing her lips open with one hand while pouring some kind of liquid into her mouth with the other...

“I’ll kill you!” Pan Qianqian didn’t hesitate to unleash a deadly attack.

“Bang!”

A silver ring slammed into the center of Qin Lie’s back. The powerful force of the blow struck Qin Lie, causing his entire body to shudder. He couldn’t help but inadvertently grunt in pain.

A shocking flood of spirit energy soaked into Qin Lie’s flesh, damaging his innards.

Qin Lie’s body trembled greatly, but his hands, which were administering the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan, didn’t move at all.

It continued to steadily pour into Xue Moyan’s mouth.

The Spring of Life released a refreshing aroma and radiated potent life energy.

Xue Moyan’s body absorbed the Spring of Life like dry land

greedily sucking up rainwater. Her pallid gray skin slowly regained its lively color.

The wisps of white in her hair quickly recovered its beauty and luster. The traces of pale white that seemed to have existed in her since she was born swiftly faded as well.

Like an ancient tree once again surging with life, or a withered forest giving birth to a new sapling, a tremendous life force swelled within Xue Moyan's body.

The aura of life energy that now surrounded her felt incredibly refreshing and natural, as if they had been transported to a grove of ancient trees.

The entire cave resonated with life energy due to the changes to Xue Moyan's biomagnetic field.

"S-Sister Xue..."

Having long since withdrawn her attack, Pan Qianqian stood there with her mouth agape and stared at the extraordinary changes occurring within Xue Moyan's body.

It seemed as if Xue Moyan had shed her former shell and was instantly reborn in a blaze of flame. She emanated a robust life force as if she were a completely different person.

Pan Qianqian naturally realized what Qin Lie had really been

doing.

“Big Brother Qin, I-I’m sorry,” she hastily apologized. “I thought you were doing something bad to Sister Xue.”

Qin Lie wore a heavy expression, saying nothing.

He kept a close eye on the bottle in his hand. When he was sureconfirmed that Xue Moyan had swallowed every single drop of the Spring of Life, he finally sighed in relief..

“I’m fine,” he said, looking deeply into Xue Moyan’s eyes before turning away and leaving the cave.

The lightning that bound Xue Moyan departed at the same time, transforming back into electricity, shooting into Qin Lie’s back, and vanishing.

The wrappings that restrained Xue Moyan were gone.

A complex look appeared in her bright, yet grim eyes. She then sighed quietly, seeming to have accepted her fate.

“You can leave, Qianqian,” she said softly. “I’ll be fine.”

“Y-you’re fine now, Sister Xue!?” Excitement came over Pan Qianqian and she felt as if she could dance. “You don’t need to worry about your shortened lifespan from now on?”

“Mn.” Xue Moyan nodded slightly, her face devoid of joy. “Such a thing will no longer cause me trouble. Please leave first. I need to do my best to recover and absorb all the power of the Spring of Life.”

“Alright!” Pan Qianqian headed out joyfully. “Alright, I’ll leave right away!”

……

“If I had refined and absorbed that Spring of Life, I would have been able to smoothly enter the Fulfillment Realm,” Xie Jingxuan calmly said in a nearby cave. She wore an indifferent expression.

Xie Jingxuan’s words surprised Song Tingyu.

“Why didn’t you tell anyone when we were in that village in the Forbidden Land of Wood?”

“Because I didn’t need it to save my life,” she replied.

“Xue Moyan is Senior Xue Li’s only daughter. For their family to go through so much… it’s terrible.” Song Tingyu sighed. She pitied Xue Li’s family from the bottom of her heart, inwardly lamenting everything that had happened to them.

“The fact that Qin Lie was willing to give up the Spring of Life

and even requested everyone else to give it up as well…" Xie Jingxuan paused for a moment, then softly said, "He was right to do so."

"I wouldn't have followed him so shamelessly if he were truly heartless." Song Tingyu flashed a beautiful smile. "If he were… I wouldn't have persisted in pursuing him in spite of his relationship with Ling Yushi."

"And what about in the future?" Xie Jingxuan asked, a calm expression on her face. "What will you do if he meets Ling Yushi again?"

"A good man needs to be taken with your own hands!" Song Tingyu's eyes sparkled brightly. "As long as he hasn't married Ling Yushi, I will have the chance to snatch him out from under her!"

"I wish you luck," Xie Jingxuan said indifferently.

"Heh… Speaking of which, you're the one who knew him first." Song Tingyu changed the topic, her eyes shining with a strange light. "Jingxuan, we're the only ones here, so please tell me honestly… have you ever felt anything for him?"

"Felt anything for him?" Xie Jingxuan lips curled into a snarl, disdain covering her exquisite face. She snorted sternly. "When I first met him, he was just an apprentice artificer at Li's Shop that belonged to Nebula Pavilion. How could I have possibly felt anything for him?""

“Ah, I see… that’s good. I can rest easy if that’s the case.” Song Tingyu’s eyes were practically smiling for her.

……

“Where are they? Why have they disappeared?”

At the entrance of the valley where the previous battle had occurred, the leaders of the three barbarian tribes, Sen Ye, Jia Yue, and Di Fei, led their men in a search throughout the area. However, they had yet to find anything.

“There’s no point in thinking about it. They must have gone ahead of us already.” Jiang Tianxing snorted.

“Form up in teams of thirty and make sure to stay close to other teams!” Sen Ye ordered. “We’ll search the mountains one by one! If you discover them, do not rush into battle. Your top priority is to notify everyone else!”

“Understood!” the eastern barbarians shouted in unison.

All of them moved to start combing through the mountains, determined to find and kill Qin Lie’s group before looking for the ice spirit.

“We don’t need to spread out and search,” Jia Yue suddenly said. “I… I think I know where they are.”

She pointed at an icy mountain in the distance.

“They’re halfway up that mountain, recovering their spirit energy in caves they made.”

Everyone looked at her in surprise.

Chapter 529: Ice Storm!

Jia Yue felt just as perplexed as everyone else.

Since the moment she entered the Forbidden Land of Ice, every time Jia Yue tried to condense her spirit energy, calm her mind, or adjust her breathing, she felt strange. Frost energy would fill her body and make it seem as if she had become one with the heavens and the earth. She would then feel an obvious increase in the power of her soul.

Every time Jia Yue cultivated within the Forbidden Land of Ice, she clearly felt the changes occurring inside of her.

Her cultivation quickly increased by leaps and bounds.

She attributed all of this to the mystical secrets of the Forbidden Land of Ice. She believed that the spirit art that she cultivated worked in perfect harmony with these secrets, allowing her to experience such godly abilities.

“I can vaguely sense them,” Jia Yue whispered.

Her mind consciousness moved swiftly, her mind’s eye acting as a bright spotlight, and accurately determined the position of Qin Lie’s group halfway up the icy mountain in the distance.

“There’s no way I could be wrong!” Jia Yue exclaimed, becoming more and more confident.

This declaration amazed all of the eastern barbarians.

After spending a moment in a daze, all of them regained their senses and couldn't help but excitedly praise Jia Yue. Her divination made them jump for joy.

Gao Yu, however, stood off to the side, aloof and silent. Traces of confusion could be seen in his eyes.

"Jia Yue, you can truly sense where they are?" Di Fei's brow furrowed as his face twisted in disbelief. "All of us have been unable to utilize our soul perception since we entered the Graveyard of Gods. Are we to believe that you are somehow able to continue using yours?"
Sen Ye was just as shocked and confused as Di Fei, similarly unable to accept this reality.

"When we were in the Forbidden Lands of Water and Metal, I also couldn't use my soul consciousness to sense my surroundings," Jia Yue said. She then took a deep, prolonged breath, as if she were trying to take in all of the frigid air of the Forbidden Land of Ice. A pleasant expression appeared on her face and she continued, "However, the Forbidden Land of Ice is a different story. Here, my soul perception hasn't been affected at all!"

"We'll obviously find out if she's telling the truth if we just go!" all of the white barbarians shouted restlessly.

“Then… let’s go,” Sen Ye ordered, filled with a mixture disbelief and confusion.

……

Halfway up an icy mountain, inside of a small cave that could only accommodate two people, Song Tingyu sat beside Qin Lie, back pressed up against the wall as she questioned him out of concern.
“You’re fine, right?”

She had heard Pan Qianqian’s shouts, so she was aware of the fact that Pan Qianqian thought Qin Lie harbored evil intentions against Xue Moyan. She also knew that the Illusory Demon Sect girl tried to kill him because of that misunderstanding.

Since this knowledge prevented her from staying calm, Song Tingyu went to the cave that Qin Lie sat in to see how he was doing.

“Of course. Pan Qianqian can’t harm me to begin with,” Qin Lie said with a shake of his head.

“We fought the scarlet barbarians, and now they’ll be more wary of us in the future. They will no longer split up and allow us to defeat them one group at a time,” Song Tingyu said, clearly worried. “Before long, the scarlet, white, and black barbarians will join forces. The next time we encounter eastern barbarians… we’ll have all of them to deal with.”

Before coming over to Qin Lie's cave, Song Tingyu changed into a rose-colored dress. It clung tightly to her upper body and hung loosely below that, accentuating her already enchanting figure. It made her seem even more seductive than usual.

Song Tingyu's figure alone was already stunning enough to influence other people. After all, in the Scarlet Tide Continent, she was the most famous and beautiful woman to begin with. As a result, when she painstakingly took the time to make herself pretty for Qin Lie, she made sure to be careful and demonstrate all of her beauty. She resembled a flower in full bloom—too beautiful to be taken in all at once.

Song Tingyu felt like she had no control over the future. Maybe she felt that way because of how powerful the eastern barbarians were, but she ended up cherishing every second she spent with Qin Lie.

As they spoke, she gently cozied up against Qin Lie's chest, releasing a bright light that gradually engulfed both of them.

"Hey..." Song Tingyu said quietly. "Do you think we'll get out of the Graveyard of Gods alive?"

"We just need to find an opportunity," Qin Lie casually replied, his expression stern. "We have to wait until the eastern barbarians enter the Land of Buried Gods, separate again, and drop their guard. If we strike when they do, it won't be impossible for us to reenact the glorious events that occurred in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. Besides, the Blood Progenitor's remains lay within the Land of Buried Gods, and I won't leave until I have them."

“For Xue Li?” Song Tingyu asked.

“The Blood Progenitor’s remains will go to Xue Li, but the rest will naturally belong to me.”

“What about the six Pure Soul Springs? What happened to them?”

“The treasure inside of my body swallowed them up along with my soul energy and blood. It seems to be nurturing something… but I can only feel it. I don’t actually understand what it’s doing.”

“You still can’t remember anything about your past?”

“It’s like all of the memories that were wiped never existed. I can’t remember anything.”

“……”

The two sat in the cave together, cuddling and having an aimless, yet calming conversation about trivial things.

Fifteen minutes later, Luo Chen emerged from his cave, then Du Xiangyang exited his own. Their eyes adjusted to the brightness when they suddenly saw Qin Lie and Song Tingyu leave the same cave. Strange expressions leaped to their faces.

Du Xiangyang coughed dryly, then casually asked, “What were you uh... doing in Sister Xue’s cave earlier, Qin Lie?”

“I helped... administer... the Spring of Life,” Qin Lie answered, raising an eyebrow.

“Ha... haha!” Du Xiangyang laughed awkwardly. “So it was like that! I initially thought you were doing something else.”

“Your mind is so dirty!” Song Tingyu exclaimed, her face full of disdain.
Luo Chen’s face turned red.

“Indeed!” Xue Moyan interrupted as she also walked out and came over. Pan Qianqian followed close behind her. “Your minds certainly are quite dirty!”

Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen felt even more embarrassed.

“What’s our next move, Qin Lie?” Xie Jingxuan asked, approaching the group. “Are we still going to enter the frozen lake?”

“No,” Qin Lie responded, shaking his head. “We will wait for the eastern barbarians to enter first.”

“If the Demon Sealing Tombstone doesn’t appear, the ice spirit probably won’t make any moves. You might need to go first.” Du Xiangyang climbed atop a block of ice and looked across the

dazzling surface of the frozen lake nearby. “The ice spirit should be at the bottom of the lake... but breaking such a thick layer of ice won’t be easy.”

“Does the Demon Sealing Tombstone have a way to break through the ice?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

“Perhaps.” Du Xiangyang shrugged, not daring to make any uncertain claims.

Qin Lie hesitated for a moment.

Then he nodded, saying, “I guess I’ll lend the eastern barbarians a helping hand!”

“Whoosh!”

The Demon Sealing Tombstone emerged from Qin Lie’s spatial ring.

Seven dazzling divine lights suddenly shot out of the tombstone, merging together to form a chain that was thousands of meters long.

The resplendent chain of light soared through the sky as if it were traveling the galaxy, dragging the Demon Sealing Tombstone behind it. A trail of colorful lights were left in the tombstone’s wake as it shot toward the vast frozen lake.

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

Atop an icy mountain peak five thousand meters away, the eastern barbarians looked toward the frozen lake and broke out into a commotion.

The white barbarians began to bellow and scream.

“They’ve released the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

“We were definitely heading in the right direction!”

Some eastern barbarians, however, started getting confused.

“What should we do?”

“Should we go find them?”

“Maybe we should chase the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

The Demon Sealing Tombstone could determine the location of the seven spirits as well as seal them. Now that it appeared, all of the eastern barbarians began to feel anxious.

This was because they knew that the Demon Sealing Tombstone had definitely gone to find the ice spirit!

“Let’s forget about Qin Lie’s group, and follow the Demon Sealing Tombstone,” Sen Ye shouted. “Let’s find the ice spirit first!”

“They should be following the Demon Sealing Tombstone!” Di Fei added. “As long as we follow it too, we’ll definitely cross paths with them again!”

“Alright, let’s change directions and move toward the Demon Sealing Tombstone!” Jia Yue commanded.

With the sudden appearance of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the powerful group of eastern barbarians immediately turned their spearhead-shaped formation and began rushing toward the frozen lake.

Back on the mountain where Qin Lie’s group was, Du Xiangyang narrowed his eyes and looked at the surroundings below them. He pointed at the eastern barbarians, saying, “Well that definitely got their attention! The white, scarlet, and black barbarians are all present. More than two hundred of them were initially headed toward us!”

“Thank goodness we released the Demon Sealing Tombstone,” Song Tingyu said in amazement. “They probably would have surrounded us if we hadn’t.”

“How did they know where we were?” Xie Jingxuan asked, her expression serious.

“Because of Jia Yue!” Qin Lie took a deep breath. “My guess is... the ice spirit is corroding that white barbarian girl without her knowing. She probably possesses the perception ability of the ice spirit and will eventually gain extraordinary control over the Forbidden Land of Ice. However, she probably doesn’t even realize it.”

“You’re saying... the ice spirit has almost completely taken over her soul?” Song Tingyu exclaimed in shock.

“That should be the case,” Qin Lie replied solemnly.

“None of our business!” Du Xiangyang snarled.

As they spoke, the Demon Sealing Tombstone had already reached the air above the vast frozen lake. Rays of sacred light began streaming in every direction as the tombstone put on an impressive display of power.

Seven blinding divine lights pierced down from the heavens like ancient dragons.

Even though they were extremely far away, Qin Lie’s group could still hear the loud rumbling coming from deep within the earth. They could see the surrounding glaciers and mountains shake and crack.

The vast frozen lake’s thick layer of ice began to shatter under

the bombardment of the tombstone's seven godly lights.

"Cr-crack! Bang! Chink chink chink!"

Pieces of ice hundreds of meters long and thicker than a person shot from the surface of the frozen lake like translucent, crystalline spears. Every single spear radiated a harsh, frosty glow.

"Boom boom boom!"

These incomparably large spears of ice crashed into the surroundings icy mountains, causing them to break apart.

"Bang!"

More than a dozen of these ice spears struck a glacier that was thousands of meters tall, making it collapse instantly.

Frigid air swept up countless blade-shaped ice fragments from the wreckage of that glacier, blowing them in every direction.

"Boom!"

More gigantic spears of ice shot from the frozen lake, burying themselves deep into another glacier. They compromised its structural integrity and made it collapse as well.

“No!” Qin Lie cried.

Everyone anxiously turned to look at him, eyes filled with shock. They had no clue what was going on.

“The ice spears and ice blades! All of the ice fragments! They’re being subtly controlled by the ice spirit!”

Qin Lie’s realization stunned them all

“Quick! Look at the eastern barbarians!” Du Xiangyang cried.

They could only see the hundreds of eastern barbarians darting through the gaps between the glaciers. The barbarians were trying to escape as quickly as they could, but because they were so far away, Qin Lie’s group could only hear their faint tragic cries.

However, they could plainly see just how dangerous of a situation the eastern barbarians were in.

Several icy masses surrounding the eastern barbarians burst apart, turning into chunks of ice. As if they had eyes, icy spears and knives the size of hills flew toward them.

Numerous eastern barbarians were either flattened into meat patties, shredded into bloody pulp, or broken like ragdolls.

Others were pierced by ice spears and blades, their shields of

light broken. They were ultimately devoured by the Forbidden Land of Ice's frigid winds.

In such a short period of time, a third of the eastern barbarians died.

"Climb to the peak of this icy mountain!" Qin Lie cried, a bad feeling washing over him. "The ice spirit is targeting us as well! We're about to get hit!"

Without hesitation, Du Xiangyang and the others immediately circulated their spirit energy to the limit as they rushed to the peak as quickly as they could.

Thousands of meters away, Celestial Artifact Sect's Feng Yiyou pointed into the distance, his expression pale.

"Look over there! An ice storm has taken shape! The ice spirit must be there!"

Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Yu Men, Su Yan, and Feng Yiyou were currently at the very edge of total despair. Finally identifying the location of the ice spirit, all of them gritted their teeth and started rushing toward the ice storm, completely disregarding their own safety.

Chapter 530: Great Calamity!

In the depths of the Forbidden Land of Ice, the Demon Sealing Tombstone floated high above the surface of the frozen lake, shooting ray after ray of dazzling divine light downward.

The frozen lake's giant, reflective surface burst under the force of the barrage, sending crystalline spears of ice flying throughout the the area and crashing into nearby glaciers and mountains. Enormous chunks of ice began crashing downward as a result.

An cold sheen radiated from the countless shards of ice shooting through the sky as a bone-chilling energy soaked the area, threatening to freeze everything.

The eastern barbarians had experienced countless struggles and hardships. They managed to enter the Graveyard of Gods from the territories west of the Land of Chaos and were now looking for the remains in the Land of Buried Gods... only to become victims of this ice storm in the Forbidden Land of Ice.

The ice storm had completely besieged the hundreds of eastern barbarians traveling through a valley between two icy mountains. It was as if they had entered a freezing hell.

A spear of ice more than five hundred meters long, one that was reminiscent of a crystalline ice dragon, came soaring towards them from the frozen lake in the distance. It seemed to have a mind of its own, savagely soaring straight toward the densest group of the barbarians.

The ice spear descended from the sky, piercing the ground and engulfing the area with a frigid chill. All of the eastern barbarians trembled in fear.

“Crack! Bang bang b-bang!”

The giant ice spear abruptly fragmented into hundreds of smaller spears dozens of meters long that rained down upon them.

Numerous barbarians released tragic shrieks as the spears impaled them, dying instantly.

As all of this took place, a snow-covered mountain behind the eastern barbarians shook violently, then collapsed.

Humongous icy boulders hurtled down from that mountain and into the midst of the eastern barbarians. Those unable to get out of their paths were crushed into a bloody paste.

In an extremely short amount of time, around a hundred eastern barbarians had either died or suffered grievous injuries. They wailed and howled like ghosts or eerie wolves, trying to find a way to survive this calamity. Their thoughts of killing all Land of Chaos practitioners had disappeared, their previously high spirits completely nonexistent.

The eastern barbarians were being brutally eradicated!

Meanwhile, Qin Lie's group did everything they could to rush to the top of the icy mountain they were on. All of them had become frantic, each of them exuding spirit energy that radiated a dazzling glow and shocking, colorful light.

They tried their best to find shelter.

Having seen what was happening to the eastern barbarians, they knew that the lower they were, the more danger they were in.

Being at the peak of this icy mountain would allow them to avoid the aftermath of other mountains collapsing, the bombardments of icy boulders, and the ruthless icy assaults shooting from the frozen lake.

"This doesn't make any sense!" Du Xiangyang shouted, scared out of his wits. "The ice shooting from the frozen lake shouldn't be striking so accurately! It's almost as if it's intelligent!"

"The ice spirit is using its power to guide the ice." Qin Lie took a deep breath, his expression as tranquil as water. "The ice spirit is hidden in the depths of the frozen lake. Upon sensing the terrifying threat that is the Demon Sealing Tombstone, it began to fight back. It considers all living things in the Graveyard of Gods enemies that need to be killed."

"When the wood spirit formed a soul connection Ye Yihao, the Demon Sealing Tombstone wasn't able to seal it. It was only after that connection broke that the tombstone could do anything," Song Tingyu said. Then, her aura abruptly changed as she took

shining armor out of her spatial ring and put it on. She now seemed dignified and intimidating. “If the ice spirit has formed a similar connection to Jia Yue, the Demon Sealing Tombstone won’t be able to seal it. Doesn’t that mean we need to do the same thing here?”

Realization spread across everyone’s faces.

In the Forbidden Land of Wood, Ye Yihao had made a deal with the wood spirit, allowing it to take some of his energy. That made it impossible for the Demon Sealing Tombstone to lock onto its target.

Were it not for Xie Jingxuan’s shocking intervention during that chaotic battle, breaking the wood spirit’s guard and interrupting its connection to Ye Yihao, the Demon Sealing Tombstone might not have been able to seal the wood spirit.

“The earth spirit also formed that kind of connection with Di Fei,” Du Xiangyang said, his expression wavering slightly.

“The ice spirit is dominating everything!” Luo Chen exclaimed.

As soon as he said this, everyone stopped speaking and looked into the distance with fear in their eyes.

Between the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s position high in the sky and the enormous frozen lake below it, giant spears of ice floated into the air, controlled by some invisible power. Then, like frozen

dragons, they shot directly toward the mountain peak Qin Lie's group was at, carried by bone-chilling currents of wind.

These spears of ice flashed with a crystalline glow and contained the power of pure frost. They seemed capable of freezing everything in their vicinity.

Despair welled up in the hearts of everyone in Qin Lie's group as dozens of ice spears carrying terrifying waves of frigid air approached them.

"Good lord..." Du Xiangyang exclaimed with a grim expression on his face. "Those ice spears are clearly coming for us. There isn't the slightest error in their trajectory. The ice spirit's control over them is just too frightening!"

"This icy mountain peak is going to collapse once they hit!" Luo Chen shouted. "Those ice spears could also just slaughter us at the same time!"

"Maybe we could scatter and flee?" Pan Qianqian suggested.

"There wouldn't be any point," Qin Lie said, forcing himself to calm down. "The ice spirit controls everything in the Forbidden Land of Ice. As long as we remain within its domain, it'll be able to track us down regardless of where we go or how we try to hide. Even if we scatter, those spears of ice will adjust accordingly, firmly locking on to every single one of us!"

“Then what should we do?!” Pan Qianqian asked anxiously.

The location of Qin Lie’s group could be considered quite far from the frozen lake. Since the spears of ice were so large, they weren’t actually moving that quickly.

They still had time to prepare.

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone is in the process of breaking through the surface of the frozen lake to force the ice spirit out. Since it acts as a natural barrier, I’m afraid that the tombstone won’t be able to do anything before it’s destroyed.” Qin Lie watched the dozens of ice spears slowly approaching, his head beginning to throb painfully. “The ice spirit is definitely much stronger than the wood and thunder spirits. This strange land must have provided this guardian spirit of the Graveyard of Gods with some unexpected benefits. That explains why it dares to oppose the Demon Sealing Tombstone.”

“You’re saying that… before the surface of the frozen lake is destroyed, all of the Forbidden Land of Ice is under ice spirit’s control?” Du Xiangyang summarized.

“That’s one way to put it.” Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment, but couldn’t come up with a good plan. “We need to hold on until the Demon Sealing Tombstone has destroyed that barrier of ice, entered the frozen lake, and forced the ice spirit to flee. We will only be able to avoid those ice spears when the tombstone has suppressed the ice spirit to the point that it can no longer focus on targeting us.”

Du Xiangyang laughed bitterly. “I’m afraid we won’t last until then.”

Everyone’s expressions were grim.

Looking at their present situation, it was clear that the the ice spirit wanted to take advantage of the time it took the Demon Sealing Tombstone to break through the frozen lake. It sought to first kill all living things that had entered its domain.

Perhaps it also knew that, of the people who were present, one had bonded with the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

As long as the ice spirit killed all of the martial practitioners it could find, it will have killed the one bonded to the Demon Sealing Tombstone and diminished its power. It would then have nothing to fear.

The ice spirit of the Forbidden Land of Ice was definitely the strongest and smartest of the seven spirits. It was also the easiest one to enrage!

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Dozens of ice spears whistled across the frost filled sky, gradually approaching the ice mountain peak where Qin Lie’s group stood.

All of them went pale at the sight.

It didn't matter how much they wracked their brains. In the face of those ice spears, which seemed able to exterminate everything in the Forbidden Land of Ice, none of them could think of a way to deal with them.

They had watched as a great calamity fell upon the eastern barbarians...

The eastern barbarians, originally numbering over two hundred, could not hold on for even half an hour as more than half of them were killed.

The more powerful Sen Ye, Di Fei, and Jia Yue also didn't have any way to deal with the icy assault and could only continue to dodge.

Of the ice spears flying through the sky, only a few had actually gone toward the barbarians.

Just those few ice spears had already contributed to taking the lives of over half the eastern barbarians, causing them to despair at the terrifying hell they found themselves in.

As for Qin Lie's group, they were facing dozens of ice spears, more than ten times the number that attacked the eastern barbarians.

Suddenly, Xue Moyan spoke up.

“I should be able to destroy several of the ice spears.”

Everyone instantly turned to look at her.

“I can destroy several of them by using Blood Fiend Sect’s ultimate treasure one more time.” Xue Moyan wore a calm expression. “However, I don’t have enough power to destroy all of them. I already exhausted a lot of my blood spirit energy in the previous battle.”

“Don’t be reckless! You can’t recklessly call upon the Bloodthirsty Dragon again!” Qin Lie shouted. “All the Spring of Life did was help you recover your vitality and break free of your short lifespan! It didn’t help you recover your blood energy, and there’s no way you could’ve recovered enough of it in so little time. You can’t keep using such a tyrannical spirit artifact!”

“Don’t you cultivate the Blood Spirit Art as well, Qin Lie?” Pan Qianqian asked. “Can’t you use your blood energy to control that Heaven Grade spirit artifact?”

Everyone’s eyes suddenly lit up at the idea.

“Me?” Qin Lie exclaimed, momentarily confused. “This is Blood Fiend Sect’s treasure and has bonded with Sister Xue’s soul. How would I be able to use its power?”

“The Bloodthirsty Dragon isn’t bonded to my soul,” Xue Moyan said quietly. “It has always refused to connect to me since my lifespan has been short since birth.”

“Then… how about letting Qin Lie try?” Pan Qianqian asked.

“That…” Xue Moyan was stunned by Pan Qianqian’s proposal. She thought to herself for a while, then said, “There could be complications. The Bloodthirsty Dragon has a horrible temper, which can be seen from how I am unable to control it. I’m afraid that it may hurt Qin Lie… and even if he could use it, he’d need to use a terrifying amount of blood energy. Either way, Qin Lie would be injured…”

“Can’t he recover his blood energy using the Demon Sealing Tombstone?” Du Xiangyang interrupted.

“Let me try,” Qin Lie pleaded.

As of this moment, they didn’t have any better ideas for how to deal with the ice spirit’s attacks. He had already seen the terrifying power of Blood Fiend Sect’s Heaven Grade spirit artifact.

If he could wield the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s destructive power one or two levels stronger than the power it had demonstrated against the scarlet barbarians earlier, perhaps he’d be able to destroy the incoming spears of ice.

“… I suppose you could try it,” Xue Moyan said reluctantly,

taking out Blood Fiend Sect's great spirit artifact of slaughter. "Fine. Go ahead."

Chapter 531: The Rampaging Bloodthirsty Dragon!

As a Heaven Grade spirit artifact, the Bloodthirsty Dragon required an enormous amount of blood energy to release its terrifying power.

When Xue Moyan used it earlier, she killed ten or so late stage Netherpassage Realm scarlet barbarians with ease, displaying the incredible killing power of the Bloodthirsty Dragon while making Jiang Tianxing and Di Fei flee like the wind.

Since no one else in the group had a plan to deal with the incredibly massive spears of ice that were currently flying toward them, they could only put their hopes on Qin Lie and the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

“Let me try,” Qin Lie said.

Suddenly materializing above Xue Moyan’s snow-white arm, the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s enormous ancient bones floated in front of everyone and roared.

“Qin Lie, drip some of your blood on it so that it can familiarize itself with your blood energy!” Xue Moyan said.

“Okay!” Qin Lie took a deep breath.

A drop of scarlet blood emerged from the tip of one of his fingers like a scarlet pearl and flew over to the great mystical spirit artifact.

“Fwoooosh!”

The instant the drop of blood landed on the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s sanguine skull, the entirety of the dragon skeleton erupted in brilliant bloody flames.

“Plip… plip… plip…!”

Blood continued to emerge from Qin Lie’s finger and fly toward the bloody bone dragon, drop after drop. The intensity of the fierce bloody flames grew with each drop that splashed against the spirit artifact.

Like a sponge soaking up water, the bloody bone dragon absorbed every drop of blood, gradually releasing apocalyptic waves of fiendish blood energy.

“Circulate the Blood Spirit Art and try to connect with all of the blood within the Bloodthirsty Dragon,” Xue Moyan said. “Try to feel the energy of the spirit artifact and control it with your own blood energy!”

Qin Lie trembled.

Prior to Xue Moyan’s instructions, Qin Lie already felt the horror

lurking within this Heaven Grade spirit artifact. He could sense the potent energy disappear from his blood as soon as it touched the Bloodthirsty Dragon's sanguine skeleton!

Then, at this very instant, a mixture of emotions overwhelmed his senses. Violence, madness, bloodlust, and the desire to destroy appeared within him, threatening to drown him.

Then, Qin Lie's eyes became a shocking scarlet.

He seemed to have changed into a bloodthirsty beast that, after being imprisoned for hundreds of millions of years, had finally regained its freedom.

Fiendish blood energy erupted from Qin Lie and the Bloodthirsty Dragon at the same time, shooting toward the heavens and gathering into one mass that resembled a thick river of blood.

A deafening roar resounded from the Bloodthirsty Dragon's maw, booming forth without end. Seemingly boundless amounts of blood energy formed a sanguine stream of blood and shot forward.

A demented will, one that sought to end the world and extinguish all life, existed within that blood energy!

"Boom!"

The river of blood rushed into the cluster of ice spears in the air.

The resulting explosions created a fantastical sight.

The dozens of ice spears that had been flying toward Qin Lie's group, each of which resembled ice dragons that were several hundred meters long, originally looked extremely majestic.

Their majesty had been otherworldly!

However, the moment the river of blood shot into the midst of the ice spears, all of them exploded.

The dozens of ice spears simultaneously burst apart.

Tens of thousands of smaller ice spears hurtled down through the freezing sky like rain.

It was as if swords of ice were stabbing into the earth.

"Aaoooooo!"

The Bloodthirsty Dragon soared into the sky with a roar, a terrifying aura of destruction and slaughter radiating from its enormous body.

Under the entire group's gaze, the bloody bone dragon flew out like a bloody bolt of wild lightning, piercing through the sky and tearing its way to the frozen lake in an instant..

“Th-this…”

The jaws of Luo Chen, Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and Pan Qianqian dropped as they watched the scene above the frozen lake unfold.

Qin Lie and Xue Moyan were also stunned.

At this moment, the bloody bone dragon hovered over the frozen lake alongside the Demon Sealing Tombstone. As the Demon Sealing Tombstone continued to release its seven godly lights and bombard the lake’s thick, frozen surface, it released another bloody streak of light that contained an intense, fiendish bloody energy. This bloody light shot toward the bone dragon’s sanguine skull.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone started transferring fiendish blood energy to the Bloodthirsty Dragon!

This infusion of intense, fiendish bloody light made the bloody bone dragon’s body expand as if it were being filled with air.

In mere seconds, the Bloodthirsty Dragon actually doubled in size. The sanguine bones that made up its body began to glitter with brilliant bloody light.

It looked extremely radiant.

“Aaaaaaaaaooo!”

The bloody bone dragon unleashed another heaven-shaking roar, exuding an incomparably terrifying aura as it charged headfirst into the surface of the frozen lake.

“Krik krik kra-krak!”

The surface of the lake, which resembled a huge mirror, fractured. Cracks quickly spread across the ice, sometimes stuttering in places but continuous in others.

The ice continued to fracture under everyone’s shocked gazes, fissures spreading across the frozen lake until, several seconds later, a section of it collapsed inward.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone followed the bloody bone dragon closely, the bloody fiendish light it released resembling a long sanguine rope that tethered them to each other.

This rope continuously fed potent energy to the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

Breaking through the layer of ice, the bloody bone dragon roared once more and charged into the empty cavern below.

Immediately after the dragon skeleton entered the empty depths of the frozen lake, the Demon Sealing Tombstone remained suspended in the sky, the bloody light linking the two together.

In the next moment, the constant barrage of ice spears and continuous shaking of the mountains and glaciers in the area... all came to a stop at the same time.

With the destruction of the frozen lake's surface and the bloody bone dragon having entered its depths, a strange calm came over the originally violent, chaotic Forbidden Land of Ice.

This sudden turn of events was a godsend to the screaming eastern barbarians. Since the ice spirit had stopped attacking them, the tragic barbarians lucky enough to survive finally got some room to breathe.

Just like the surviving barbarians, Qin Lie's group fell into state of confusion and lethargy.

"This..."

No one had expected that such a heaven-defying change would occur when Blood Fiend Sect's terrifying tool of slaughter was given to Qin Lie..

Upon receiving Qin Lie's blood, the Bloodthirsty Dragon destroyed dozens of ice spears using the stream of blood energy that came from its body. It hadn't even needed to move...

Qin Lie's group thought that their deadly crisis had been resolved a bit too easily.

Without waiting for anyone to recover their wits, the Bloodthirsty Dragon roared, charged out, and formed a mysterious link with the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Then, borrowing the tombstone's fiendish blood energy, it destroyed the thick layer of ice that made up the frozen lake's surface and forcefully charged into its empty depths.

The ice spirit's control over the Forbidden Land of Ice had been broken in an instant!

"How could it be like this?" Pan Qianqian quietly asked, closing her gaping mouth. The look on her face expressed her amazement well enough without it. "B-Big Brother Qin, your control over the power of the Bloodthirsty Dragon is actually so much better than Sister Xue's! That was incredible!"

Everyone else silently thought the same thing.

From their point of view, it seemed as if... Qin Lie were the true owner of the Bloodthirsty Dragon. Only after coming into Qin Lie's possession did this terrifying killing tool of Blood Fiend Sect truly demonstrate its incredible power.

Xue Moyan, in comparison, seemed as if she had just been holding on to the spirit artifact. She had never been able to put on such a violent display.

"It seems like it... takes to you quite well..." Xue Moyan sputtered, her face bitter.

Qin Lie remained silent.

He had been in a state of total shock this entire time.

He believed that Blood Fiend Sect's terrifying killing tool could only display such frightening might under his control because he was the owner of the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

After all, ever since he got his blood on the tombstone, he had been able to use his blood to connect with the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the fiendish blood energy inside of it.

Qin Lie had similarly gotten his blood on the Bloodthirsty Dragon. Upon doing so, an unexpected yet miraculous change occurred between him, the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon and Demon Sealing Tombstone had mysteriously resonated with each other through his blood!

He never expected such a development to occur.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon required an enormous amount of blood energy to show its might, one which Qin Lie could not afford to give. This meant that it was impossible for him to fuel the Bloodthirsty Dragon and allow it to display the terrifying power of a Heaven Grade spirit artifact.

The most power he could unleash by himself was probably

around the same amount that Xue Moyan could.

Neither he nor Xue Moyan could fully display the Bloodthirsty Dragon's power.

But the Demon Sealing Tombstone could.

After all, the Demon Sealing Tombstone contained an endless amount of fiendish blood energy!

This fiendish blood energy seemed to miraculously connect with the Bloodthirsty Dragon. The Bloodthirsty Dragon had somehow reached a tacit understanding with the Demon Sealing Tombstone through Qin Lie's blood. It then received the tombstone's blood energy, enough to finally display its incredible power!

"I think I finally understand who the fiendish blood energy within the Demon Sealing Tombstone came from," Xue Moyan said all of a sudden.

Everyone looked at her simultaneously.

"Who?" Qin Lie asked.

"The Blood Progenitor!" Xue Moyan took a deep breath, an incredibly serious expression on her face. "The Bloodthirsty Dragon felt the aura of the progenitor's energy within the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and by absorbing some of that energy, it could display its true might!"

This revelation shocked Qin Lie.

After a bit of thought, he nodded in agreement, saying, “You’re probably right! The master of the Graveyard of Gods must have extracted the Blood Progenitor’s fiendish blood energy from his remains and sealed it into the Demon Sealing Tombstone as its first kind of energy! The blood energy I absorbed and converted into my own blood energy must have been the Blood Progenitor’s!”

Only the fiendish blood energy of the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s creator could truly rouse it.

A blood energy which currently existed in Qin Lie’s body.

A portion Qin Lie’s blood energy and the power within his blood came from the Blood Progenitor. Therefore, after Qin Lie received it and gave it his blood, the Bloodthirsty Dragon displayed miraculous power, much more than when Xue Moyan had been controlling it.

“Crack crack crack!”

A gargantuan fissure appeared in the remaining ice of the frozen lake’s surface. Streaks of bloody light burst through that fissure from within the vast space that made up the frozen lake, releasing terrifying waves of energy.

Since the frozen lake had fractured and collapsed, the ice spirit’s

control over the Forbidden Land of Ice had accordingly reached its lowest point.

"The Bloodthirsty Dragon is causing wanton destruction throughout the depths of the frozen lake and destroying the ice spirit's icy barrier. Based on the current situation, the barrier that makes up the surface of the lake should completely break soon enough," Du Xiangyang exclaimed, excitement growing on his face. "The Land of Buried Gods should lie directly below this frozen lake. Once the barrier has been broken, it should appear immediately."

His words caused everyone to become excited as well, their eyes bright.

"We should rush to the frozen lake since our crisis has been temporarily resolved!" Luo Chen shouted, eyes aglow.

"Go!" everyone cried in unison.

Qin Lie and the others were currently in high spirits because the eastern barbarians had suffered heavy losses and Qin Lie had managed to rouse the Bloodthirsty Dragon and cause terrifying amounts of destruction.

They no longer considered the eastern barbarians a threat.

Chapter 532: The Remains of the Blood Progenitor

“Is it finally over?”

Down in the valley between two mountains, the eastern barbarians finally stopped panicking. Shocked expressions covered their faces as they realized how peaceful the world had become.

They had lost more than a hundred people in a short time.

Over half of their original force of over two hundred eastern barbarians had died to the ice storm of the Forbidden Land of Ice. The survivors surveyed the area, corpses of their fallen comrades littering the ground around them.

“What happened?” someone asked.

“Ice came from the frozen lake in the distance, smashed into an icy mountain, and caused an avalanche of boulders… we got caught in it.”

“Blood Fiend Sect’s ultimate treasure, the Bloodthirsty Dragon, charged into the frozen lake. The Demon Sealing Tombstone is floating above it right now!” Jiang Tianxing’s eyes flashed with excitement. “The lake is about to shatter, and the Land of Buried Gods will appear very soon! Get ready to move, everyone! Try to get inside of the frozen lake!”

He didn't care about the lives of the eastern barbarians at all.

"Let's go!" Jia Yue shouted. "To the frozen lake!"

She could feel a voice coming from the depths of the frozen lake, urging her to move as quickly as possible.

A strangely enchanting voice seemed to be communicating with her through her True Soul.

"Now is not the time to argue!" Sen Ye ordered in response. "The Land of Buried Gods has always been our true goal in the Graveyard of Gods! No matter how heavy our losses are, we must complete our mission!"

"Go!"

The eastern barbarians ignored the corpses of their tribesmen and moved forward.

"Look! Above the frozen lake! What is that?"

"The Demon Sealing Tombstone! That's the Demon Sealing Tombstone!"

After a difficult journey, Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Su Yan, Yu Men, and Feng Yiyou finally reached the top of another mountain.

They had arrived at a good time.

At this point in time, the ice spirit had just finished its frenzy and the Forbidden Land of Ice had finally become calm.

The five of them stared down at the frozen lake from the top of the mountain. Seeing the Demon Sealing Tombstone hovering high above the lake, they were all but certain about the location of the Land of Buried Gods and the ice spirit.

“This is it!” Ye Yihao became excited. “We’re finally headed in the right direction!”

“The frozen lake looks like it’s about to shatter.” Feng Yiyou’s gaze grew intense. “The Land of Buried Gods is probably going to be exposed soon!”

“Let’s get to the Land of Buried Gods at the fastest speed possible!” Yu Men shouted.

All five of them were in agreement. Keeping their shields of light up, they swallowed medicinal pills first so that they could get back into fighting condition.

At almost the same time, Qin Lie and the others charged down the peak toward the frozen lake, hoping to be the first to see the Land of Buried Gods.

“Crack crack crack!”

The thick layer of ice that made up the surface of the vast frozen lake continued to fracture and break apart.

Underneath the frozen lake, bloody lights attacked the ice from below, charging about like countless swords made of blood.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone floated high in the sky and continued to use its seven prismatic lights to assault the surface of the lake that protected the ice spirit.

It was trying to seal the ice spirit as fast as possible!

The ice spirit was hiding in the depths of the frozen lake. It was strong, intelligent, and already aware of the situation. It controlled the Forbidden Land of Ice and fought back desperately.

“Aaouuuuu!”

A grief laden howl echoed from deep within the frozen lake. The bloody bone dragon flew out from the gap in the surface of the lake and shot into the sky alongside bloody lights.

Having grown to nearly two times its original massive size, the bloody bone dragon writhed in the air, howling unhappily.

The small figure of a person seemed to be sitting atop its head.

Although the more specific features of that person's appearance were indistinct, their body looked as if it were made of bloody jade. It shone with blinding bloody light like a sanguine jewel shaped like a person.

They didn't give off any soul fluctuations, but their body emanated a dense aura of blood.

"The remains of the Blood Progenitor! The Bloodthirsty Dragon charged into the frozen lake to retrieve him!" Jiang Tianxing was the first to shout. "The Land of Buried Gods is definitely at the bottom of the frozen lake! There's no doubt about it!""

"The remains of the Blood Progenitor!" Xue Moyan also shouted in shock. "Those are definitely his remains!"

Everyone could feel the bloody bone dragon's intense sorrow. This Heaven Grade spirit artifact seemed to possess simple intelligence. Upon finding out that its creator, its first owner, had died long ago... it couldn't help but grieve and howl angrily.

"Look!" Ye Yihao shouted. "That's Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure! The Heaven Grade artifact, the Bloodthirsty Dragon!"

"Aaouuuuu!" The Bloodthirsty Dragon howled toward the horizon.

The bloody lights that surrounded it formed ancient glyphs that resembled dragons. Hundreds of thousands of those glyphs hurtled

down toward the frozen lake.

“Boom boom boom!”

Earth-shaking explosions rang out from the ice below. The assault of the dragon-shaped glyphs completely shattered the thick layer of ice making up the frozen lake’s surface.

The moment the frozen lake shattered, the seven divine lights of the Demon Sealing Tombstone reached down like the hand of a giant.

The gazes of everyone remotely nearby focused on the frozen lake.

“Bang!”

The frozen lake shattered, and ice accompanied by streaming lights shot outward, carried toward the eastern barbarians like an astonishingly frigid wind.

The eastern barbarians cursed, wailing like ghouls as they scattered in every direction.

However, before many of them had the chance to flee, their blood stopped flowing. Under the influence of the extreme cold, they froze to death.

Eastern barbarians of all three tribes fled in three directions.

Thousands of icy lights headed directly for Jia Yue. The dozens of white barbarians by her side couldn't do a thing before they were frozen into statues.

Even Gao Yu was no exception.

Once the frigid winds swept over them, Gao Yu became a crystalline stature like the white barbarians.

Yet his eyes still shone with a dark, evil light.

Deep within his eyes, countless ghosts floated around to form a strange glyph. That glyph seemed like the unyielding will of the Evil God, but also radiated an evil power like the remnant soul of an Evil God.

The ghostly glyph in his eyes slowed the formation of the ice around his body.

Gao Yu was still stuck inside of the ice, but he retained his consciousness and could look around.

He saw thousands of icy lights enter Jia Yue's body, streaming into her like water flowing into the sea.

Jia Yue immediately froze as well. However, this type of freeze

differed from the one that killed everyone else. She became a person of ice, but the blood that flowed inside of her didn't freeze. Instead, an unfathomable aura appeared within her. She suddenly gave off the feeling that she had become one with the Forbidden Land of Ice and was able to control this section of the world.

Her eyes became as white as snow… and devoid of emotion.

"Something's wrong!" Gao Yu thought, a chill washing over his heart. He immediately realized that the ice spirit had taken over Jia Yue.

The Jia Yue of this moment was nothing like the Jia Yue of the past.

—She was no longer the white barbarian girl he was familiar with, but the ice spirit, the ruler of the Forbidden Land of Ice!

"Whoosh!"

The Demon Sealing Tombstone arrived, having followed the tens of thousands of icy lights through the sky.

It hovered above Jia Yue's and Gao Yu's heads, its dazzling godly lights writhing through the air like the tentacles of an octopus as if they were trying to decide which one of them was the ice spirit.

The prismatic lights roamed back and forth above their heads, yet they didn't attack Jia Yue. It seemed as if they were blind.

“Crack crack!”

All of a sudden, the frigid gusts of wind froze Di Fei, who had been fleeing in another direction.

Di Fei howled as an extremely cold power of frost entered his mind and reached his Soul Lake where his True Soul was.

Di Fei’s Soul Lake immediately froze. The power of frost sealed his True Soul, seemingly cutting off his connection to the earth spirit.

In that instant, the aura of the earth spirit radiated from Di Fei’s body, peerlessly pure and bright.

The frigid winds caught a black barbarian woman with a gentle appearance, ice encroaching on her just like Di Fei.

Her eyes shook with fear and she cried, “Don’t hurt us!”

Only a faint soul shadow could be seen in her.

The calm, pure power of water emanated from her body, making her stand out as well.

“A’Yue!” Sen Ye shouted in shock and confusion. “What’s happening to you?”

“S-she’s been possessed by the water spirit!” a black barbarian shouted in realization.

Then Di Fei noticed someone at the peak of a nearby mountain. A scarlet barbarian stood there, completely encased in ice, but his body radiated the power of metal.

“You… didn’t you die long ago?” Di Fei shouted. “Ka Deng!”

This barbarian called “Ka Deng” had been killed by Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners in the Forbidden Land of Metal. Di Fei had been the one to bury him.

Yet that Ka Deng now appeared once again, showing up in the Forbidden Land of Ice.

Chapter 533: The Remains of the Voodoo Progenitor, the Evil God, and the Arrow God

The auras of Di Fei, Ka Deng, and the woman Sen Ye called A'Yue had only been exposed because the power of frost had suddenly invaded their bodies.

Dense auras surrounded each of them. Powerful earth radiated from Di Fei, sharp metal from Ka Deng, and gentle water from A'Yue.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone had been hanging high above Jia Yue's head, searching for the ice spirit in order to seal it.

Since the ice spirit had taken over Jia Yue's body, hijacking her soul, the Demon Sealing Tombstone was confused.

At this time, the aura of the earth, metal, and water spirits were clearly exposed.

—And the Demon Sealing Tombstone suddenly had targets.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone that originally sought to seal the ice spirit immediately changed targets. It moved away from Jia Yue, turning its focus to the earth, metal, and water spirits.

A terrifying change came over Di Fei, Ka Deng, and A'Yue.

These three had been in different places, but at this time, they started moving.

These three barbarians in the Netherpassage Realm actually flew through the air, becoming gold, yellow, and white lights that shot toward the center of the frozen lake.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone followed behind them.

Above the lake, the bloody bone dragon continued to howl mournfully. The body of the Blood Progenitor still sat atop its skull, giving off an intimidating ruby light.

At this time, Qin Lie's group was approaching the frozen lake from one side. Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and Su Yan were on the side opposite to them.

Since half of them had died, the eastern barbarians had scattered and were now fleeing in every direction.

"Krik... krak!"

Jia Yue's eyes were an icy blue. She twisted her neck, and her joints resounded with satisfyingly crisp sounds.

Jia Yue, whose soul had been taken over by the ice spirit, didn't so much as glance at the tribesmen around her. Once the Demon Sealing Tombstone departed, she turned into an icy light and left for the frozen lake as well.

“Snap!”

Soon after Jia Yue left, the ice around Gao Yu exploded, and he calmly emerged from the resulting frost.

The white barbarians around him were not so fortunate.

Their souls had been frozen to death.

Gao Yu silently headed in the direction Jia Yue had gone, a frown on his face.

……

“Look!” Du Xiangyang shouted. “Down at the bottom!”

“The bottom of the lake!” Feng Yiyou shouted as well. “Look at the bottom!”

Having suppressed their earlier panic, the eastern barbarians gathered at another side of the lake. They had strange looks in their eyes as they peered into its depths.

The surface of the frozen lake had completely shattered by this point. It seemed to have been the ceiling of another world.

That ceiling had cracked, and now the Land of Buried Gods that lay within the frozen lake was exposed.

Below the cold white mist within the frozen lake, a desolate, endless plain came into view. Numerous vast, ancient palaces were strewn across that desolate plain. Some had already collapsed into ruin, leaving behind traces of a bygone era.

The bodies of enormous beings could be seen among the clusters of ancient, ruined palaces. There were giants hundreds of meters tall and skeletal remains of huge, vicious monsters of old. One could even see smaller bodies flashing with attention-grabbing lights, clearly belonging to beings that possessed high levels of intelligence when they were alive.

Long dried blood covered this desolate misty plain, forming a bizarre pattern that seemed to contain numerous mysteries.

Bodies belonging to warriors of varying races and ferocious beasts lay scattered throughout the plain, leaning against the crumbling walls of ruined palaces or half-buried in the ground. All of them looked strange.

Piled at the top of a tower of a specific palace, high up in the air, were eight enormous heads. The eyes of these heads glared at the Demon Sealing Tombstone, shocking godly light emanating from them.

“The heads of the god corpses!” Feng Yiyou shouted.

Eight headless god corpses had broken through the wards in the depths of the Land of Chaos's major oceans. Their missing heads sat at the top of that tower.

The heads of the eight god corpses resembled blazing suns that radiated blinding hot light.

Dense power shot from the eyes of these heads, forming rays of light that shone on the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

Illuminated by these rays, the Demon Sealing Tombstone gave off a terrifying, baleful presence.

All of a sudden, Ye Yihao saw the body of a man shrouded in pitch black light. It lay there silently as he examined it, and he couldn't help but shout, "The progenitor! That's the body of the progenitor!"

The voodoo insects of him and Huang Zhuli didn't bother waiting for orders, immediately flying into the air.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion howled as they shot down into the desolate plain and toward the man's body.

Gao Yu, having followed Jia Yue to one edge of the lake, also yelled out in shock. "The Evil God!?"

Deep within the desolate plain, the body of a man clearly from

another race rested in a half-crouched position. His body was around a hundred meters tall, and his skin was bluish brown. He also had a gigantic pair of wings on his back and curved horns on his head, and his body exuded a seemingly endless evil aura.

"The Sun Killing Bow! That's the Arrow God!" Sen Ye cried out, eyes shining with an intense light.

He was looking at an eastern barbarian with a relatively normal appearance. It was a man that, despite his mummified state, appeared to be about fifty years old. He silently sat in the middle of a ruined palace's round altar, holding a bow covered in complex patterns.

"As expected!" Luo Chen exclaimed, his eyes growing feverish. "This is the Land of Buried Gods!"

The desolate plain at the bottom of the frozen lake stretched across a vast area, multiple run-down palaces protruding from its earth. The bodies of the Voodoo Progenitor, the Evil God, and the Arrow God, the ancestor of the eastern barbarians, could be seen. In addition to that, the heads of the eight god corpses were visible atop the tower, and the bodies of giants and skeletons of ancient beasts littered the area.

This sight made the martial practitioners gathered around the lake become excited. They wanted to charge down immediately and gather all of these remains.

Remains of the strongest existences of bygone eras were the most

precious spirit materials in the world. They could be used to forge the strongest spirit artifacts, or one could directly absorb the potent power left within them.

In the hands of certain people, particularly special remains in perfect condition could even be made into someone's second body!

If Blood Fiend Sect or Black Voodoo Sect could obtain the remains of their respective progenitors and refined them, they would immediately become terrifyingly powerful weapons.

"Qin Lie!" Du Xiangyang screamed.

The excitement welling up inside of him made it difficult for him to control himself.

Song Tingyu, Luo Chen, Pan Qianqian, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan were excited as well, their hearts beating wildly.

Just as the rumors claimed, the Land of Buried Gods held the remains of the strongest beings from ancient times. This realization brought intense gazes to everyone's faces.

Sen Ye and the scarlet barbarians, as well as Ye Yihao, Huang Zhuli, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and Su Yan, couldn't restrain themselves any longer.

At this moment, they were already sliding down the sides of the frozen lake to the desolate plain.

Luo Chen and the others looked at Qin Lie. They desperately wanted to rush down there too.

“Wait!” Qin Lie shouted, shaking his head.

Everyone stared at him in surprise. They had no idea what he was making them wait for.

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone is currently searching for the remainder of the seven spirits, and the ice spirit has yet to show itself,” Qin Lie said. “The Land of Buried Gods… it may have other strange elements we aren’t aware of.”

Qin Lie’s group looked down into the lake and realized that Di Fei, Ka Deng, and A’Yue, all of whom had reached the lake before everyone else, were nowhere to be seen.

Even Jia Yue had disappeared without a trace.

Only the Demon Sealing Tombstone remained, floating high above the Land of Buried Gods and absorbing power from the eyes of the eight god heads. Visible waves of energy rippled between the eyes and the tombstone as it used all of its power to search for the four remaining spirits.

Something in the Land of Buried Gods seemed to prevent the Demon Sealing Tombstone from sensing the spirits.

“Over there!” Luo Chen cried. “Look at Black Voodoo Cult’s two voodoo insects!”

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion had flown to the desolate plain and now arrived at the body of the man that Ye Yihao had called the Voodoo Progenitor.

The two voodoo insects bared their sharp mandibles and bit into the body of the Voodoo Progenitor.

They sought to consume the power that remained inside of it.

Everyone watched them attentively.

Suddenly, the two voodoo insects started to struggle furiously, flapping their wings in a desperate attempt to flee.

A terrifying vacuum emanated from within the Voodoo Progenitor, aiming to suck them into it. The Eight-winged Centipede Queen had bitten into the chest of the progenitor, and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion had bitten into its neck. Both insects were sucked into the Voodoo Progenitor from these parts of the body.

Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli had been descending toward the desolate plain, mad with joy and anticipation as they waited for their voodoo insects to transmit information to them.

Yet, the moment the voodoo insects were sucked into the

progenitor’s body, extreme terror filled their eyes!

The initially robust bodies of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli quickly began to wither, their soul energy and blood visibly being drained from them. In ten short seconds, their skin and flesh disappeared, reducing them to a pair of dried out skeletons.

They didn’t even have the time to scream.

Chapter 534: Five Progenitors and Three Emperors

After a brief moment, Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli became gray skeletons, their flesh and organs disappearing without a trace.

They didn't even make a sound.

The people nearest to them, Su Yan, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men, were focused on the remains of the ancient warriors scattered throughout the desolate plain, so they didn't immediately notice what had happened to the two.

"Crack!"

Their dried bones fell to the ground and disintegrated into dust.

Only then did Su Yan notice what happened.

—And she unleashed a bloodcurdling scream.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men heard her scream, and when they looked over at the two piles of bone dust, understanding suddenly washed over them.

Terror immediately filled their eyes. They felt a chill run down their backs and swiftly spread through their body.

All three of them trembled in horror, coming to a sudden stop where they were in the desolate plain. They refused to move even a centimeter more.

This turn of events had frightened their souls out of them.

Qin Lie and the others, having paid attention to the body of the Voodoo Progenitor this entire time, saw the voodoo insects get consumed and the dismal fates of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli.

They exchanged looks and saw the terror and anxiety in each other's eyes.

Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang inhaled deeply and inwardly rejoiced.

—They rejoiced that they didn't immediately rush down into the Land of Buried Gods.

"Ahem..." Du Xiangyang licked his lips, his voice weak and hoarse. "I think... I think Qin Lie is right."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"L-let's just watch for now and... not enter recklessly," Su Tingyu said, shock on her face.

“Don’t try to take the Blood Progenitor’s body, Qin Lie! Nothing here is right!” Xue Moyan continuously took deep breaths, trying to maintain her composure. The burning light of excitement in her eyes slowly died down.

She was struggling to curb the greed within her.

“It’ll be best for us to calm down first,” Xie Jingxuan said in a relatively composed manner. “Don’t let the remains of those ancient warriors go to your heads.”

At that moment, the black barbarians that had been behind Feng Yiyou and the others charged down the side of the frozen lake to the Land of Buried Gods.

“How careless,” Sen Ye snorted, his expression full of disdain. He had witnessed the terrible fate of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli.

“They have no clue how bizarre the Land of Buried Gods is!” Jiang Tianxing laughed out loud.

“Gao Yu!” Sen Ye suddenly shouted.

Gao Yu had just slid down the icy wall that made up a part of the frozen lake’s interior. He glanced at Sen Ye and Jiang Tianxing’s group indifferently, nodded, then turned to travel toward the area the Evil God was in.

“We need to be wary of him!” Jiang Tianxing exclaimed grimly.

“I’ve never trusted him,” Sen Ye said with a frown, his eyes cold.

“Good!” Jiang Tianxing snickered.

“The same goes for you!” Sen Ye added.

Jiang Tianxing froze mid-smile.

Up to this point, the eastern barbarians were still the strongest, largest force in the Land of Buried Gods.

Although they had paid a significant price and lost half their number, more than seventy tribesmen surrounded Sen Ye.

Most were black barbarians that were completely loyal to Sen Ye.

With the deaths of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli, Black Voodoo Cult had been utterly wiped out. Only Su Yan of the Su Family, Feng Yiyou of Celestial Artifact Sect, and Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain still lived.

They were only three people.

They didn’t have the Demon Sealing Tombstone or any powerful spirit arts. They weren’t a threat.

Sen Ye had nothing to fear from them.

The ones that Sen Ye had to be concerned about were the people in Qin Lie's group!

Despite the fact that few people were in his group, they had the Demon Sealing Tombstone and Blood Fiend Sect's terrifying weapon, the Bloodthirsty Dragon, on their side.

Jiang Tianxing cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and used to be a part of Blood Fiend Sect. To Sen Ye, he didn't deserve to be trusted.

Sen Ye only believed in his tribesmen.

"You and your father brought news of the Graveyard of Gods to us, but neither of you are eastern barbarians." Sen Ye wore a somber expression. "I don't know how telling us eastern barbarians about the Graveyard of Gods fits into your plans, but I know you are using us to achieve a certain goal!"

"My only goal is the body of the Blood Progenitor," Jiang Tianxing replied, an awkward expression on his face. "It's a pity that the Bloodthirsty Dragon took it from the Land of Buried Gods. Achieving that goal now seems unlikely, so I hope to take other remains from here to make up for it... I hope that we can continue this friendly relationship since neither I nor you eastern barbarians call the Land of Chaos home."

Sen Ye snorted skeptically. “As long as we find the remains of the five progenitors and the three emperors.”

“Ah... the five great progenitors and the three great emperors...” Light flashed in Jiang Tianxing’s eyes. “I also hope to find their remains, and by extension, their inheritances. Rumor has it that all of them were laid to rest here.”

“I hope that’s the case.” Sen Ye took a deep breath and shouted, “Everyone! Stay with me as we enter, and advance slowly!”

The eastern barbarians began moving forward from one end of the Land of Buried Gods. Their first target was the ancestor of the eastern barbarians, the Arrow God.

“Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and Su Yan won’t dare to make any rash movements. The eastern barbarians are moving toward the Arrow God, and Gao Yu is heading to the Evil God...” Du Xiangyang narrowed his eyes as he peered downward from the edge of the frozen lake, taking note of what their enemies were doing.

Qin Lie didn’t make a sound. He simply watched the Voodoo Progenitor’s body and the two voodoo insects inside of it.

Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli had been connected to the voodoo insects by soul and blood. When the voodoo insects were sucked into the Voodoo Progenitor’s body, it seemed to use that connection to drain the soul energy and blood from both Black Voodoo Cult ringers..

Qin Lie had noticed that the body of the Voodoo Progenitor, which was covered in writhing threads of black light, slowly radiated a nearly imperceptible life force.

The Voodoo Progenitor's body, which had been lifeless for an interminable amount of time, resembled an ancient tree growing a tender green branch. It felt extremely strange.

Xie Jingxuan gasped.

"The Voodoo Progenitor's body is showing signs of life!" she exclaimed.

Xie Jingxuan was extremely sensitive to life fluctuations. She detected the mysterious changes occurring within the body of the Voodoo Progenitor as well.

The moment she finished speaking, everyone turned their attention to the Voodoo Progenitor.

"The voodoo insects are drinking the blood of the Voodoo Progenitor!" Xue Moyan wore an expression of disbelief.

All of the group focused on the body, and as expected, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion were feeding off of the remaining droplets of blood inside of it.

The auras of Ye Yihao's and Huang Zhuli's souls could be sensed from the bodies of both voodoo insects. This shrouded the Voodoo

Progenitor's body with multiple soul auras, making anyone who sensed it feel uncomfortable.

"It just... doesn't feel right," Du Xiangyang said, shaking his head. A strange anxiety weigh upon his mind.

"Aaaaoooouuuuu!"

In the sky above the Land of Buried Gods, the Bloodthirsty Dragon wailed mournfully once again.

Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure dove toward Qin Lie and Xue Moyan, long streams of blood trailing behind it.

The Blood Progenitor's body sat atop its skull, bloody light flashing from it as if it were a sanguine sun.

Dense, fiendish blood energy seemed to well from either the Blood Progenitor's body or the bloody bone dragon. It resembled a sea of blood that threatened swallow people up and drown them.

"Th-the Blood Progenitor!" Pan Qianqian screamed in surprise.

Terror suddenly filled Qin Lie's and Xue Moyan's faces.

Were it not for the bizarre changes occurring in the Voodoo Progenitor's body or the terrible deaths of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhulie, Qin Lie and Xue Moyan might've welcomed the body of the

Blood Progenitor with open arms.

With that cruel precedent having been set right in front of them, Qin Lie and Xue Moyan felt nothing but fright. When they saw the bloody bone dragon carrying the Blood Progenitor's body toward them, they considered fleeing.

"Ba-dump ba-dump! Ba-dump ba-dump ba-dump!

The heartbeats of Luo Chen and the others suddenly became uncontrollably fast like the deep thumping of a drum.

Their blood began boiling, their faces flushed bright red, and they felt as if their bodies were about to explode.

Everyone went pale with shock.

"I feel like I'm going to blow up!" Du Xiangyang howled.

"What's going on!?" Luo Chen shouted.

Bloody light radiated from Qin Lie and Xue Moyan. Their eyes became a deep scarlet, almost as if blood were about to gush from them.

From their perspective, a sea of blood appeared right in front of them. Sanguine fluid dripped from the enormous dragon at the center of that sea, which growled as if it wanted to devour them

and take over their souls...

Chapter 535: Soul Suppression!

Whether it was Xue Moyan who used it first or Qin Lie who used it afterward, neither of them had actually been acknowledged by the Bloodthirsty Dragon. They hadn't tamed this violent Heaven Grade spirit artifact.

The only person it would acknowledge as master was the Blood Progenitor!

The Blood Progenitor created the Bloodthirsty Dragon, tempered it with his own blood, and refined it using countless spirit materials.

To the Bloodthirsty Dragon, he was its true master!

No one could take the place of the Blood Progenitor in its heart.

Today, the Bloodthirsty Dragon found out that the Blood Progenitor's soul had perished, leaving only the man's body. It could smell its master's familiar scent, but it could no longer feel his summons.

Yet it refused to accept that as reality!

Instead, it decided that it would use the souls of these two juniors who cultivated his master's spirit art along with their tempered blood to gather its master's fragmented thoughts!

If some of its master's consciousness still remained, the Bloodthirsty Dragon would awaken it!

In the Bloodthirsty Dragon's heart, its master was the only one who was qualified enough to control it, and in doing so, reclaim their former glory.

To that end, it desired the True Souls of Qin Lie and Xue Moyan!

A seemingly endless amount of fiendish blood energy condensed to form a viscous sea of blood. The Bloodthirsty Dragon carried its master's body on its skull, roaring amidst this bloody sea thick with the smell of iron as it turned to devour Qin Lie and Xue Moyan.

A terrifying, fiendish aura covered the sky and the earth, enveloping Qin Lie's group. It locked down the area, keeping them completely confined.

Every single one of them could only watch as the bloody sea flooded toward them. They couldn't escape this area.

Even thoughts of resisting were thoroughly shattered by the impact of the fiendish blood aura. Before anyone could realize it, the Bloodthirsty Dragon's blood energy permeated their blood vessels and spread across their bodies. Its violent soul had dominated their minds.

They were helpless.

“Ba-dump ba-dump! Ba-dump ba-dump ba-dump!”

The dull, intense throbbing of a heartbeat constantly resounded like the rumbling of thunder. Everyone’s faces and skin flushed red as blood slowly dripped from their eyes.

The speed at which their blood flowed within their bodies became ten times faster than before. This sudden increase in speed made them lose all control over themselves.

In the face of the bloody bone dragon’s terrible pressure, despair reigned over them. As much as they wracked their brains, trying to think up countermeasures, they couldn’t think of any.

Having consumed a huge amount of the fiendish blood aura within the Demon Sealing Tombstone, then later finding the Blood Progenitor’s body, the Bloodthirsty Dragon emanated an invincible, sky-changing, earth-rending power.

Who could possibly compete against it?

Grim expressions dominated the faces of Qin Lie’s group, all of them losing control of their tempers. All they could do was wait to receive the order that was about to arrive.

—the order to burst into pieces and die.

Qin Lie's demeanor seemed especially grim.

He stood at the very front of the group. His had experienced the bloody bone dragon's terrible, earthshaking aura, which had flooded everyone's minds, restrained their souls, and effectively enveloped this entire area.

The color of blood had long since filled his mind consciousness. Countless bloody lights even penetrated and flooded his Soul Lake.

Before Qin Lie knew it, a thread of the Bloodthirsty Dragon's soul consciousness had seeped into his mind and polluted his Soul Lake.

His soul consciousness became a bloody red, and his Soul Lake changed into a lake of blood. Even his True Soul was slowly being corrupted, bit by bit.

His True Soul had been repeatedly tempered by the power of thunder, a power that could eliminate all traces of evil souls. In spite of that, it paled before this bloody corruption and was powerless.

It seemed as if the power of thunder couldn't eliminate the blood energy that invaded his soul consciousness.

Qin Lie's heart became heavy as blood energy gradually filled his soul, making him feel as if he were slowly sinking toward an endless sea of blood.

He was well aware of how the Bloodthirsty Dragon's blood energy was dominating his mind and soul, corrupting him.

He would ultimately lose all sense of himself and succumb, becoming the bloody bone dragon's puppet. He would no longer have his own thoughts, his own consciousness.

He would suffer a fate even worse than death.

—and he slowly gave in.

"Whoosh!"

At that moment, a powerful suction force, one which he himself wasn't sure existed, suddenly appeared in the space between his brows..

The two people closest to him, Xue Moyan and Song Tingyu, could clearly see that a ray of pitch black light had appeared there.

In the next moment, a whirlpool that resembled a black hole appeared there, consuming the seemingly endless amount of blood energy that surrounded them.

Xue Moyan instantly discovered that the blood energy that had spread into her soul consciousness rapidly decreased, as if it were some sort of paint being drained from her mind.

Like Qin Lie's soul consciousness, hers had been flooded with blood energy.

Her consciousness had initially been blurry, leaving her powerless to resist.

She had gradually given in to the despair.

Yet, when that pitch black light shone from between Qin Lie's eyebrows, everything underwent an astonishing change!

Her blood-polluted soul consciousness quickly returned to normal. The bloody haze in her mind scattered as if a strong wind had blown through, freeing her frozen thoughts and cleansing her blood-polluted soul. In this way, her consciousness became clear once more.

Even the dense fiendish blood aura that had invaded her body was quickly extracted.

Xue Moyan was dumbstruck.

She could see wisps of bloody smoke entering the black dot between Qin Lie's eyebrows.

That black dot was a deep, far-seeing eye.

—It was the Soul Suppressing Orb.

“Boom!”

Qin Lie’s mind shook, and he instantly broke free of his powerless state from earlier.

The blood that had dyed his soul consciousness had been entirely extracted, and the moment the last of it vanished, he regained his wits. Upon focusing his attention and checking his surroundings, he saw countless bloody lights being absorbed into the Soul Suppressing Orb and pulled into the vast space inside of it.

His third eye, the Soul Suppressing Orb, unleashed an absolute suppressive force capable of subduing all violent spirits and making them yield.

“Whoosh!”

A terrifying suction force erupted from the Soul Suppressing Orb.

The seemingly endless, turbulent sea of blood, the Bloodthirsty Dragon fiendishly roaring within it, and the Blood Progenitor’s body sitting on its skull... all of them transformed into rays of bloody light that Qin Lie’s third eye devoured.

—And they completely disappeared.

Only the Soul Suppressing Orb between Qin Lie's eyebrows remained. It shone with dazzling light, traces of bloody rays swimming within it.

Song Tingyu, Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xie Jingxuan, and Pan Qianqian froze where they stood.

To them, what had just happened seemed like the unlikeliest dream.

It was as if everything that had just occurred—the crazed, howling Bloodthirsty Dragon, the Blood Progenitor's body atop its skull, and the terrible aura that shook the earth and blotted out the sky—were just an illusion.

All because they suddenly disappeared in a bizarre, untraceable way.

As a result, everyone felt astonished and confused. They suspected that the Bloodthirsty Dragon's soul consciousness had created an illusion that tampered with their memories.

However, if everything that had just taken place weren't an illusion and was actually real, why would Qin Lie possess a third eye? And why was that third eye capable of devouring Blood Fiend Sect's ultimate treasure, the sea of blood, and the Blood Progenitor's body?

"Just now..."

Du Xiangyang's voice was hoarse. He looked like he wanted to say something, but didn't know where to start.

"Was all of that... real?" Pan Qianqian asked timidly, giving voice to what everyone was thinking..

"I think... that everything we saw just now was real. None of it was an illusion," Xue Moyan said, gripping the Illusory Demon Orb. Her eyes shone clearly with a strange, bright light. "At the very least... the Illusory Demon Orb tells me there weren't any."

This news startled the rest of the group.

Then everyone's eyes simultaneously fell upon Qin Lie.

Under everyone's gazes, Qin Lie's third eye slowly withdrew into his forehead. The Soul Suppressing Orb almost instantly vanished into his flesh once more.

Qin Lie had regained his normal appearance.

In the eyes of the rest of the group, however, Qin Lie was obviously different from them.

"B-Big Brother Qin... you're not... a member of a foreign race, are you?" Pan Qianqian spoke up again. "What in Spirit Realm was that eye?"

“It’s not an eye,” Qin Lie exclaimed. “It’s a spirit artifact as powerful as the Bloodthirsty Dragon.”

A spirit artifact?

One that could devour a Heaven Grade spirit artifact like the Bloodthirsty Dragon?

This revelation stunned everyone into silence for a second time.

“Don’t ask.” Qin Lie sighed. “Even I’m not entirely sure… what it is. It’s occupied the space between my brows for as long as I could remember, but I don’t know where it came from or what it’s capable of…”

“Do you feel any different now?” Song Tingyu asked worriedly. “Has anything changed after that spirit artifact devoured the Bloodthirsty Dragon, absorbed that sea of blood, and took in the Blood Progenitor’s body?”

“I have yet to sense anything,” Qin Lie said.

His words shocked everyone.

“Swoosh!”

As Qin Lie’s group was repeatedly being astonished, the Demon

Sealing Tombstone, which had been hovering above the Land of Buried Gods, whistled through the air at a surprisingly fast speed.

It arrived above Qin Lie's head, floating in the air and letting out rays of prismatic divine light as if it were searching for something.

It seemed to have been attracted here by the aura of the Soul Suppressing Orb.

Unfortunately for the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the Soul Suppressing Orb hadn't taken much time at all to devour the Bloodthirsty Dragon and everything that accompanied it.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone had detected the Soul Suppressing Orb's aura, but by the time it rushed over to Qin Lie's group from its position above the Land of Buried Gods, the orb had already vanished into the space between Qin Lie's eyebrows.

"Look! It's Di Fei!" Du Xiangyang suddenly shouted. "Di Fei has appeared!"

Di Fei, who had vanished earlier, currently sat atop the head of an ancient giant that lay flat on the ground of the Land of Buried Gods. The earth spirit's set of eyes above his own exuded the immense power of earth.

"Rrrrmb...!"

This ancient hundred-meter-tall giant, which resembled a small

hill from its prone position, suddenly sat up.

Revolving yellow rings of potent earthly energy appeared around the giant's body. It opened its gruesome maw and unleashed an inaudible roar, suddenly standing up with Di Fei still seated atop its head.

Driven by the power of the earth spirit, this giant was the first corpse in the Land of Buried Gods to stand.

"That ancient giant's body contains an immense, refined power of earth!" Luo Chen cried in surprise. "It's like its body were made with soil, as if it were born into this world from the earth itself."

The second it detected the strange events occurring in the Land of Buried Gods, the Demon Sealing Tombstone that had been hovering above Qin Lie's head flew away once again.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone shot through the air, seemingly in a hurry to suppress the earth spirit along with the earthen body of the ancient giant that stood up in the desolate plain. It seemed as though the tombstone was trying to prevent an earthshaking calamity from happening.

After a moment of contemplation, Du Xiangyang spoke up.

"I understand now!" he said. "Some of the ancient elites buried here cultivated one power, and one power alone. For the seven spirits, all of these elites... are powerful puppets at their disposal!"

“The other two eastern barbarians, that Ka Deng and that A’Yue, probably have spirits within them as well,” Song Tingyu added, having understood the situation as well. “The sharp power of metal and gentle power of water inside of those elites could temporarily prevent the Demon Sealing Tombstone from discovering them if they to possess their corpses.

And things happened exactly as she said.

The moment Song Tingyu and Du Xiangyang finished speaking, abnormal changes occurred in the bodies of two other ancient elites in the Land of Buried Gods.

One was a giant, two-hundred-meter tall ape. It seemed to have been forged from gold and steel because its body was completely golden yellow. Every hair on its body resembled a golden needle that glittered with a sharp, metallic light.

Like the ancient giant, this giant ape was a beast of a bygone era. Both were members of the Giant Spirit Race.

However, this giant golden ape was significantly stronger than the members of the Giant Spirit Race that had escaped their seals in the freezing land beneath the Arctic Mountain Range.

Even in death, the violent power of metal that emanated from the giant ape’s body seemed sharp enough to pierce the sky.

This ancient giant ape clearly must've been far stronger than Mang Wang when it was alive and in peak condition!

Along with the ancient giant and the ape, the enormous dragon that the Blood Progenitor used to create the Bloodthirsty Dragon was a member of the Giant Spirit Race. During ancient times, the Giant Spirit Race was one of the most powerful races. They were capable of causing chaos that changed the color of the sky itself.

In terms of purely physical, explosive strength and potential to wreak havoc upon all living beings in the world, the Giant Spirit Race had always been considered the best amongst all the powerful races.

"Fssshhhh... fshhhh... fssshhhh..."

The melodious sound of murmuring streams came from a graceful woman with the tail of a fish in place of her lower body.

This woman was a member of the Merfolk, a foreign Sea Race. She was nearly five meters tall and had been dead for many years.

A'Yue of the Black Barbarian Tribe currently lay on the ground beside that woman. She didn't seem to be breathing or showing any other signs of life.

The water spirit had abandoned her and instead taken over the body of this Merfolk elite who had been dead for many years, using it as its new puppet.

A’Yue had fallen, and this Sea Race elite stood, her body releasing the harmonic sound of hundreds of murmuring streams flowing at the same time.

Chapter 536: Wave of Destruction!

The earth, metal, and water spirits, which had taken over Di Fei's, Ka Deng's, and A'Yue's bodies, now possessed the corpses of ancient elites and made them stand once more.

The ancient giant, giant golden ape, and Merfolk woman radiated potent auras of earth, metal, and water. They glared at the blue sky above them and opened their mouths, soundlessly roaring.

"Boom boom boom...!"

The Land of Buried Gods resonated with a series of tremors. Fissures opened up in the ground as numerous rundown palaces collapsed or burst apart.

Sharp golden beams emanated from the giant ape's body, shooting into the sky like a fiery beacon. These beams resembled giant golden swords that pierced into and nearly shattered the mystical fabric that made up the Graveyard of Gods, creating an enormous hole.

The sound of flowing water echoed from inside the body of the graceful Merfolk woman as she suddenly began to chant in a soft tone.

Extremely far from the Forbidden Land of Ice, countless streams of water shot from the sea of the Forbidden Land of Water several hundred kilometers into the air.

The earth, metal, and water spirits unleashed all of their amazing powers, seeking to turn the Land of Buried Gods upside down and tear the Graveyard of Gods apart.

Only the ice spirit possessing Jia Yue had yet to take action. No one knew where it was hiding.

This shocking commotion made the eastern barbarians, who had arrived beside the body of the Arrow God, and Gao Yu, who had arrived next to the Evil God's body, stop what they were doing.

Off in the periphery of the desolate plain, Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and Su Yan calmly watched the situation unfold.

All of them were looking at the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh…!"

Godly chains of light spread from the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, stretching across tens of thousands of meters like strings of glittering crystals. They resembled a rainbow that connected the heavens to the earth.

The seven divine lights of the Demon Sealing Tombstone swept down from the heavens like a whip in the hands of an ancient god. They collectively released a shrill whistling noise and struck the ancient giant, giant ape, and the Merfolk woman.

“Prak prak prak!”

Sparks appeared on the bodies of the ancient elites possessed by the earth, metal, and water spirits. The overwhelming auras of the three bodies became significantly weaker upon being struck by the godly whip.

Everyone fearfully watched the situation develop. The destructive auras of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three ancient elites intimidated them, so no one dared to act recklessly.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh...!”

A wave of light rippled outward like a tide in the ocean as the Demon Sealing Tombstone fought the three spirits.

These were terrifying waves of tremendous, refined energy!

“Defend against it with everything you have!” Sen Ye roared.

Every eastern barbarian summoned their spirit energies at the same time. The shields of light that protected each of them instantly lit up, dazzling the battlefield.

All of them were able to live up to this point because their realms were strong and their spirit energies were refined.

When the shields of light brightly came to life, the eastern

barbarians prepared to defend themselves with all of their might, their teeth clenched. It seemed as if they had transformed into a thick wall of light.

Their plan was to work together and create a single shield of light, one they would use to resist the residual shock wave hurtling toward them.

However, their resistance was like a praying mantis attempting to stop a wooden cart.

It couldn't even withstand a single blow.

"Krak krak krak! Bang!"

The instant the shock wave of energy struck the eastern barbarians, one prismatic shield of light shattered after another. They were as fragile as chicken eggs.

Shields of light exploded, and the eastern barbarians hiding inside each of them broke like the yolk of an egg.

They were instantly reduced to pulp.

Aside from Sen Ye, Yan Min, Jiang Tianxing, and a few others who cultivated bizarre spirit arts or possessed extremely sturdy bodies, all of the other eastern barbarians died in droves.

“Uoooooo!”

Clusters of ghosts surrounded Gao Yu as the residual shock wave struck him. He seemed like a god commanding the vile souls of the underworld.

He unleashed dark, shrill howls, making the vile souls and ghosts around him go into a frenzy. The instant the energy waves struck him, he released an astounding amount of evil energy that pushed against them and nullified their terrifying force.

Gao Yu panted heavily, his face a pale white. He could be considered to have barely escaped death.

On the outer edge of the desolate plain, the ring-shaped shockwave spread outward to strike Su Yan, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men.

Five out of the ten spatial rings that Celestial Artifact Sect’s Feng Yiyou wore on his fingers sparkled with strange lights. A spirit artifact flew out of each one: a shield of flame, a precious set of black-scaled armor, an icy blue flag with a phoenix embroidered into it, a thick signboard, and a cold emerald.

These five spirit artifacts were defensive in nature, moving to form a line in front of Feng Yiyou. They exploded one after another, ultimately preserving his life.

At the same time, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s Yu Men

instantly took on the form of a beast. The necklace of teeth around his neck released a cold white bony light and condensed into a firm barrier. In this way, he also avoided danger.

The Su Family's Su Yan, however, wasn't as lucky as they were. She didn't have as many spirit artifacts as Feng Yiyou, nor did she have a tough body like Yu Men.

Once the three Profound Grade spirit artifacts she did have exploded, her shield of light subsequently shattered like glass.

And her body followed suit, breaking apart as well.

The terrifying energy shock wave caused by the clash between the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits spread in every direction and slaughtered more than half of the people that had rushed into the Land of Buried Gods.

Qin Lie's group looked down at the desolate plain once more and discovered that only a dozen or so people remained.

Most of the eastern barbarians had instantly shattered to pieces in the face of the shock wave.

The wave of energy that rampaged through the Land of Buried Gods killed swathes of eastern barbarians, as well as Su Yan, and passed over the countless remains of ancient elites.

However, no new marks could be seen on the remains of those

elites. The shock wave hadn't even so much as moved them.

"They truly are the bodies of ancient elites!" Du Xiangyang cried out in praise. "Even after being dead for tens of thousands of years, enduring the ravages of time, they still weren't affected by the residual shock wave caused by the clash between the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits!"

He and the rest of Qin Lie's group still stood at the edge of the frozen lake. They hadn't dared to recklessly enter the Land of Buried Gods, which was why the shock wave that swept through the desolate plain below hadn't affected them at all.

"I think it would be better for us to keep watching," Song Tingyu said bitterly.

The shocking turn of events down in the Land of Buried Gods made them even less likely to be rash.

"Sen Ye and Gao Yu are trying to take the bodies of the Arrow God and the Evil God!" Xie Jingxuan exclaimed softly.

The energy shock wave had just rampaged across the desolate plain of the Land of Buried Gods. The Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits had yet to create another shock wave with a new round of combat.

This was the best and probably only opportunity for those who had survived the shock wave.

No one dared to hesitate.

Sen Ye was the first to act!

The black barbarian climbed up to the ruined palace where the Arrow God's body was, arriving alone at the round altar where the body sat. He fell to his knees and shuffled over to the altar. Then he kowtowed with incredible devotion, using his soul to unleash his reverence and respect.

He even muttered words under his breath.

"Eastern Barbarian Disciple Sen Ye hereby kowtows and invites our progenitor to return to his homeland!"

Sen Ye held an enormous arrow with scarlet feather fletching in his arms, kowtowing every time he moved forward with his knees. Mysterious patterns shaped like a golden three-legged bird were engraved into that arrow. It radiated fiery light and exuded an ancient, mysterious feeling.

As he held the scarlet feather arrow and moved forward on his knees, Sen Ye kept a close eye on the bow that lay on the round altar. Every time he kowtowed then got back up, he stared at it.

The bow that lay there was the Sun Killing Bow!

Sen Ye expressed his devotion by kowtowing, worshipping with his very soul. Using the scarlet feather arrow, an ancient eastern barbarian treasure, as a medium for his reverence, he slowly made his way to the Arrow God.

“Whoosh!”

All of a sudden, the Sun Killing Bow sensed the aura of the scarlet feather arrow, slowly floating into the air and arriving before Sen Ye like a spirit bird.

Sen Ye was overcome with joy. Eyes aglow with the light of passion, he hastily bit his finger and dripped blood onto the Sun Killing Bow.

“Zzt!”

The moment his blood splashed against the Sun Killing Bow, it burst into scarlet flames.

A wondrous ripple of energy connected Sen Ye to the Sun Killing Bow and the Arrow God’s body. An instant later, both the bow and the body flew into the fiery ring on Sen Ye’s finger at the same time.

Frenzied glee gushed from Sen Ye’s eyes. He immediately leaped from the round altar and yelled, “We will retreat from the Land of Buried Gods for now!”

He had already achieved his goal.

In the meantime, Gao Yu also took action.

Clusters of souls floated around him, his ring radiating eerie, evil energy as he walked toward the Evil God's giant body.

When he arrived at the Evil God's body, a myriad of ancient Nether Realm runes flew from Gao Yu's eyes amidst noises that resembled the cries of wronged souls. The runes transformed into sinister, ghastly faces and streamed into the Evil God's chest where its heart would be.

"Ba-dump!"

Shockingly enough, a powerful heartbeat resounded from the Evil God's heart.

"Whoosh!"

A pitch black ray of light shot from the ebon heart of the Evil God, descending upon Gao Yu's head.

Then the hundred-meter-tall body of the Evil God actually travelled along that ray of light, gradually shrinking as it moved toward Gao Yu.

A dozen or so seconds later, the Evil God had entirely vanished

into Gao Yu’s body.

Chapter 537: Terrible Scourge

Sen Ye had welcomed the Sun Killing Bow and the Arrow God's body into his possession, whereas Gao Yu had drawn the Evil God's body into himself. Upon achieving their goals, both men started evacuating from the Land of Buried Gods as fast as they could.

"Go!" Sen Ye shouted. "Return to the edge of the frozen lake first!"

At his command, the dozen or so eastern barbarians that had been lucky enough to survive the shock wave from earlier immediately turned around and ran back the way they came.

Having taken the Evil God's body into his own, Gao Yu didn't hesitate to promptly leave the Land of Buried Gods as well.

Jiang Tianxing was the only one who remained.

In the periphery of the desolate plain that made up the Land of Buried Gods, since Celestial Artifact Sect's Feng Yiyou and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain's Yu Men managed to survive the shock wave, they now had the chance to obtain the remains of an ancient elite.

Unfortunately for them, they didn't seem to be able to retrieve any.

Seeing that even Sen Ye and Gao Yu didn't dare to be greedy,

retreating as soon as they obtained the bodies of the Arrow God and the Evil God instead of trying to obtain more remains, Feng Yiyou and Yu Men forcefully suppressed their own greed. After a brief moment of hesitation, they turned and retreated as well.

They had no choice but to retreat because the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits had clashed once again, creating a second massive shock wave that was about to spread in their direction.

As a result, Jiang Tianxing was the only one left standing in the Land of Buried Gods.

Jiang Tianxing refused to accept this outcome!

Not many people knew about it, but he and his father were the first ones to learn of the location and mysteries of the Graveyard of Gods.

Both had meticulously planned for the Graveyard of Gods, as well as the remains of the Blood Progenitor and many other ancient elites.

Unfortunately, the most crucial part of their plans, the Demon Sealing Tombstone, had accidentally been taken by Qin Lie.

Without it, the greatest flaw in Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe’s plan to dominate the Graveyard of Gods lay exposed.

The strength of the earth, metal, and water spirits, as well as the ice spirit's cunning, had greatly exceeded his expectations. They made some of his contingency plans feel hollow and useless.

Both Sen Ye and Gao Yu had managed to achieve their goals.

He, however, was still empty-handed.

How could Jiang Tianxing possibly accept this?

"Haaaaagh... haaagh...!

Jiang Tianxing heaved harsh, nasal gasps, as if a wild demon that had been imprisoned within him for so long... had finally been released.

Rays of intimidating bloody light shot from his eyes, making him appear utterly terrifying.

All of the eastern barbarians that had exploded and died as a result of the previous shock wave, leaving bloody pulp on the ground, were currently flowing toward Jiang Tianxing in an eerie fashion.

From a high vantage point, the blood flowing across the ground looked like numerous bloody snakes. They writhed and squirmed, forming a bizarre, bloody pattern.

“Using the True Soul as the medium… and blood as the fount of power…” Shock filled Xue Moyan’s voice as these words escaped her mouth. “He’s… he’s forming a blood demon!”

A serious expression surfaced on Qin Lie’s face. The Blood Demon Art Jiang Tianxing had executed was slightly different from the one he knew of.

The Blood Demon Art recorded inside of the Blood Codex allowed a martial practitioner to use the power of their own soul to gather the blood from a fresh corpse and bestow it with blood energy, giving it strength. This would make a blood demon rise from the gathered pool of blood, one that the user of the spirit art would then be able to control.

When Jiang Tianxing had executed the “Blood Demon Art,” his hands hung at his sides, blood continuously flowing from the tips of his fingers.

“Drip… drip… drip…!”

Jiang Tianxing’s blood exuded a pungent, iron stench as it dripped into the pool at his feet.

The blood of that pool looked as if it fueled intense flames that instantly became violent and crazy.

The snake-like streams of blood in the surroundings slithered over, also going crazy. They quickly gathered in the pool at Jiang

Tianxing's feet and underwent a grotesque change.

Soon enough, a fiendish blood demon that was around ten meters tall rose from the pool of blood. It unleashed a bloodthirsty roar, emanating an insane aura similar to Jiang Tianxing's.

On the other hand, Jiang Tianxing's face was pale as his condition rapidly worsened.

Yet his eyes continued to shine with excitement and madness.

The same kind of light that shone from the eyes of the blood demon.

"Whoosh!"

The blood demon opened its sanguine maw and swallowed Jiang Tianxing in a single gulp. Hi instantly vanished into the blood demon's body.

The light in the eyes of the blood demon became creepier and more frightening every moment after it swallowed Jiang Tianxing. Its entire body radiated a terrifying aura that struck fear into people's hearts.

"The Blood Demon Art gathers the blood of the dead and mingles it with soul fragments in their bodies that have yet to completely dissipate. Although blood demons created this way don't exist very long, they possess terrifying amounts of strength that can

temporarily be used to achieve its controller's goals," Xue Moyan said, her words tinged with shock."The blood demon Jiang Tianxing created isn't quite like the ones that I know of. He... seems to have formed a close connection between his soul and the blood demon in order to unleash the power of his soul and blood."

She took a deep breath.

"It looks like he's temporarily merged with the blood demon. If that is truly the case, then Jiang Tianxing has become the blood demon... and the blood demon has become Jiang Tianxing! This way, he'll be able to keep the blood demon around longer. However, once the spirit art runs its course, he'll be reduced to a weakened state for an extremely long period of time as well. The blood demon may even devour him instead! Such an outcome is a huge flaw in this altered Blood Demon Art where the blood demon continues to exist after the user's body has perished!"

"Awoooooooo!"

The blood demon looked into the sky and howled angrily.

New shock waves of energy spread from the battle between the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits. However, when they reached the blood demon, its immense murderous blood aura pushed them aside.

By forming this blood demon using unconventional methods, Jiang Tianxing actually managed to forcefully stay in the Land of Buried Gods instead of retreating at the sight of the shock waves

like Sen Yu and his barbarians, Gao Yu, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men.

However, in order to remain in the Land of Buried Gods, Jiang Tianxing forfeited his rationality and fell into a frenzied state. He was no longer sane enough to think about taking the remains of the ancient elites.

Qin Lie suddenly trembled in realization.

“Absorbing blood is instinct to a blood demon!” he yelled. “Jiang Tianxing created the blood demon in a way that it would instinctively drink as much blood as it wanted! It’ll start sucking the remaining blood from the nearest body of an ancient elite!”

The moment he said this, everyone’s faces filled with shock and terror.

“It’s going to drink the remaining blood inside the bodies of the ancient elites?” Pan Qianqian’s eyes opened wide with fear. “All of these ancient elites were existences that once dominated the world. If any blood remains in their bodies... it would definitely contain tremendous amounts of energy!”

“Here, at the bottom of the frozen lake, the Land of Buried Gods has kept these bodies from decaying.” Understanding flashed across Du Xiangyang’s face. “Their strength, and even their refined energy, may have been completely preserved. This could also mean that every single body of every single elite may still have blood inside of them!”

“What will happen if the blood demon that Jiang Tianxing created drinks all of that blood?” Luo Chen asked.

“Only god knows the answer to that question!” Xue Moyan exclaimed, a worried look in her eyes. “If that happened, Jiang Tianxing may never awaken, and an extremely ravenous blood demon seeking to drain the blood from every living thing could be born into this world!”

“Such a blood demon would ultimately tear its wear out of the Graveyard of Gods and charge into the Land of Chaos!” Qin Lie said grimly.

“That could spell the end of the Land of Chaos.” Xue Moyan smiled bitterly.

In that moment, everyone realized that, if they allowed the demonified Jiang Tianxing to continuously absorb the blood of the ancient elite corpses in the Land of Buried Gods, it could grow into a never-ending evil capable of bathing the world sanguine. Not only would it entirely consume Jiang Tianxing, it might even flood the nine great Silver rank forces and any other living thing in the Land of Chaos with a sea of blood.

“Qin Lie.” an indifferent voice suddenly rang out. “Can you help me find Jia Yue?”

Gao Yu appeared out of nowhere like a lone ghost, standing twenty meters away from Qin Lie. He didn’t take a single step closer.

“The ice spirit corrupted Jia Yue and dominated her soul. I hope that you will be able to help me expel the ice spirit from her body and get her back... if possible.”

Gao Yu didn’t say anything more. He just watched Qin Lie silently.

“I currently don’t have any idea how to go about doing that,” Qin Lie said. After a moment of thought, he asked, “How much do you know about the Land of Buried Gods?”

“The Jiang father and son pair brought news of the Graveyard of Gods to the eastern barbarians,” Gao Yu answered nonchalantly. “According to my knowledge, when Blood Fiend Sect perished thousands of years ago and those who cultivated using human blood were being hunted down, Jiang Zhuzhe and a group of trusted aides escaped to the eastern barbarians. Jiang Tianxing was born of his father’s union with a scarlet barbarian woman. Since the blood of the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe flows through him, the scarlet barbarians consider him half scarlet barbarian.

“When the hunt for Blood Fiend Sect in the Land of Chaos died down and was no longer carried out with such fervor, Jiang Zhuzhe took Jiang Tianxing back westward and they hid amongst Celestial Artifact Sect.

“Both of them know the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods and the Land of Buried Gods better than anyone. Jiang Zhuzhe was the one who told the eastern barbarians to get Thunderblitz wood in

preparation for dealing with the thunder spirit. He also told them about the Pure Soul Springs hidden inside of the thunder lagoon.

"He also revealed the fact that both the ancestor and the ultimate treasure of the eastern barbarians, the Arrow God and the Sun Killing Bow, were in the Land of Buried Gods.

"For this information alone, the eastern barbarians could not reject Jiang Zhuzhe's proposal. Not to mention the fact that the Jiang father-son duo had even told them about the Trial and how elites of the nine great Silver rank forces would be dispatched to the Graveyard of Gods as a result.

"In order for the them to obtain their ultimate treasure and the remains of their ancestor... to eliminate future leaders of the Land of Chaos... to obtain the Pure Soul Springs and the remains of ancient elites... the eastern barbarians gathered hundreds of tribesmen in the Netherpassage Realm and had them enter the Graveyard of Gods through different spatial passageways.

"Jiang Tianxing knew more about the Graveyard of Gods than anyone else in here. Every step he took probably corresponded with a plan that was already in place."

One piece of information after another, Gao Yu explained everything about Jiang Tianxing that Jia Yue had told him.

This information shocked Qin Lie and the others beyond belief. They never would have imagined that the first ones to solve the mysteries of the Graveyard of Gods would be the Jiang father-son

pair.

They hadn't expected them to be the driving force behind the entrance of the eastern barbarians.

It seemed as though Jiang Zhuzhe, the culprit of the catastrophe that turned the Land of Chaos upside down a thousand years ago, driving Blood Fiend Sect to its destruction, was the terrible scourge behind everything in the Graveyard of Gods.

"Jiang Zhuzhe is extremely terrifying," Gao Yu added. "According to Jia Yue, many elders of the eastern barbarian tribes respect him and trust him quite a bit. The eastern barbarians believe he may be the key to invading and sweeping through the Land of Chaos."

"This man vanished for more than a thousand years and has probably been cultivating with human blood in secret. His strength has probably reached the pinnacle of strength in the Land of Chaos," Qin Lie said, a serious expression on his face. "If he manages to obtain the Blood Progenitor's body, seize the Bloodthirsty Dragon, and plunder all of the remains of these ancient elites, he may turn the Land of Chaos on its head once more."

In his eyes, Xue Li's junior brother, Jiang Zhuzhe, had just become the Land of Chaos's most terrifying enemy.

Chapter 538: Blood Energy That Reached The Sky

While Gao Yu had been speaking, the demonified Jiang Tianxing began moving toward the nearest body of an ancient elite.

It was the body of a person of the Wood Race.

This person was about two and a half meters tall. This person's body resembled the trunk of a tree, had skin as brown as wood and as wrinkled as bark. His long, dark green hair looked like the foliage of a willow tree.

This Wood Race clansman had been dead for years. Its body didn't bear any traces of a soul aura.

It did, however, resemble the branches of an ancient tree that contained abundant life energy.

—An extremely refined life energy, at that!

Up above, at the edge of the frozen lake, Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan were watching Jiang Tianxing closely. When they saw him approach that particular body, light flashed through their eyes at the same time.

Both of them were especially interested in the body of this Wood Race clansman. They were both aware of the fact that it held

tremendous amounts of life energy, which was extremely beneficial to them.

Xue Jingxuan could use its life energy to enhance her own strength and bring the inheritance she received from the Wood Race to even greater heights.

Xue Moyan, on the other hand, could extract the life energy from this Wood Race clansman's body and use it to help her mother awaken and recover.

"In order to obtain the remains of these ancient elites, one must first obtain their acknowledgement." Gao Yu spoke up once more. "You can't just grab them recklessly.

"Every time an elite perishes, their juniors, relative, and comrades would bring them here. They would then apply a unique mark to these bodies to keep other people from abusing them and prevent any accidents.

"Sen Ye was able to collect the body of the Arrow God and the Sun Killing Bow because he brought an ancient eastern barbarian treasure with him. That scarlet feather arrow was a part of the Sun Killing Bow to begin with, and it contained an aura that the mark on the Arrow God's body acknowledged. That's the reason why Sen Ye succeeded.

"As for me, I already obtained the acknowledgement of a soul fragment of the Evil God at the Demon God Mountain Range prior to entering the Graveyard of the Gods."

Gao Yu looked at Xie Jingxuan, then indifferently said, “Your aura is slightly similar to that of the body of the Wood Race elite down there. You may be able to acquire it.”

He looked at Xue Moyan and shook his head. “You would probably fail.”

“How about him?” Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan asked in unison.

They were referring to Jiang Tianxing.

Right now, the demonified Jiang Tianxing had already arrived beside the body of that Wood Race elite. Since blood demons were created from blood, their appearances were normally indistinct and blurry.

This blood demon, however, was different.

It bore a great resemblance to Jiang Tianxing.

It suddenly looked at the body of the Wood Race elite with its bright red eyes.

“Him? He knows more about the Graveyard of Gods than anyone here,” Gao Yu answered.

The blood demon opened its mouth and took a deep, lengthy

breath.

“Swooooooooosh...!”

As a result of the blood demon’s actions, the rich life energy within the Wood Race clansman’s body transformed into multiple streams of emerald liquid. These streams flew from the body, mixed with blood energy and refined spirit energy, and actually shot right into the demon’s bloody maw.

“Bang!”

The body of the Wood Race clansmen, which had been brimming with life energy, rotted as all of its essences were extracted from it.

When a gust of frigid wind blew across it a few moments later, the rotted corpse crumbled to dust and spread into the air.

Without the protection of the refined spirit energy, it turned to dust as if thousands of years had gone by in an instant.

On the other hand, the body of the demonified Jiang Tianxing, which already surged with tremendous blood energy, emanated and even greater life force than before. It seemed as if its strength had skyrocketed, becoming several times stronger.

The residual shock waves of energy created by the clashes between the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirit were no longer able to affect him.

“Isn’t that Jiang Tianxing a member of your Celestial Artifact Sect?” Yu Men yelled in a grave tone.

He and Feng Yiyou currently stood at the edge of the frozen lake. They were looking down at the Land of Buried Gods, which looked so vast that it resembled an abyss.

The expression on Feng Yiyou’s face became increasingly grim as he stared at every single one of Jiang Tianxing’s movements.

“Don’t you know that he and Jiang Zhuzhe are evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect?” Yu Men asked, snorting coldly.

Feng Yiyou wore a dark expression, a complicated look in his eyes. He had yet to answer Yu Men’s questions.

“Celestial Artifact Sect exposed the secrets behind the Graveyard of Gods, the eight god corpses, and the spatial passageway we used to enter this place.” Yu Men’s brow was deeply furrowed. “So why does Jiang Tianxing know even more than you do?”

Helpless in the face of Yu Men’s interrogation, Feng Yiyou finally told him the truth.

“The information on the Graveyard of Gods that Ten Thousand Beast Mountain received did, indeed, originate from Celestial Artifact Sect. However, we got that information… from Jiang Zhuzhe and his son, Jiang Tianxing,” he explained. “The two of

them came to Celestial Artifact Sect a hundred years ago, claiming that they knew of a great secret that would influence the future of the Land of Chaos. Jiang Zhuzhe wanted to borrow our strength to force the god corpses to emerge from the bottom of the sea and find the spatial passageway into the Graveyard of Gods…”

“Everything that Celestial Artifact Sect knew about the Graveyard of Gods… you learned it from Jiang Zhuzhe?” Yu Men asked in startled disbelief.

“Correct.” Feng Yiyou smiled bitterly.

“Why has Jiang Tianxing colluded with the eastern barbarians?” Yu Men asked.

Feng Yiyou shook his head. “I don’t know.”

At this point, both Yu Men and Feng Yiyou figured out that the Jiang father-son pair had only sought out Celestial Artifact Sect to use them.

The areas in which the first god corpses surfaced were close to Celestial Artifact Sect. With the assistance of the sect’s elders, Jiang Zhuzhe used Celestial Artifact Sect’s strength to extract those first few god corpses from the bottom of the sea.

This also meant that, without Celestial Artifact Sect’s assistance, the god corpses wouldn’t have appeared one after another, and the spatial passageway into the Graveyard of Gods never would’ve

been found.

The Jiang father-son pair had used Celestial Artifact Sect to open the entrance to the Graveyard of Gods. They obviously had their own plan.

The fact that they encouraged the eastern barbarians to send the elites of the three great tribes into the Graveyard of the Gods clearly meant that their plan differed from that of the nine great Silver rank forces.

From the moment that Jiang Tianxing transformed into a blood demon and began sucking the refined blood from the bodies of ancient elites, both Feng Yiyou and the eastern barbarians understood that the father-son pair harbored sinister intentions.

At this time, the Demon Sealing Tombstone hovered above the Land of Buried Gods, continuously discharging dazzling godly lights to suppress the ancient giant, ape, and Merfolk woman that the three spirits had possessed.

Both sides were engaged in fierce battle.

The only thing the Demon Sealing Tombstone cared about was sealing the seven spirits. Regardless of how much trouble the demonified Jiang Tianxing caused, it just didn’t see him as a target.

Therefore, as soon as Jiang Tianxing became able to ignore the

residual shock waves that swept across the Land of Buried Gods, it meant that he could stay there and suck the blood from the body of one ancient elite after another.

The blood demon would continuing growing more and more terrifying.

“Someone needs to stop the Jiang Tianxing in his blood demon form!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed. “Otherwise, the remains of those ancient elites will be destroyed and he will just get stronger and stronger. Once that happens, no one will be able to stop him.”

Qin Lie’s group were the only ones who thought this.

Everyone else present, Sen Ye and his eastern barbarians, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men, had noticed the enormous threat that Jiang Tianxing posed.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men wanted to attack him, but they didn’t dare to venture into the Land of Buried Gods. Therefore, they could only watch from the periphery.

Sen Ye was hesitating.

After obtaining the Sun Killing Bow, he now had the ability to kill Jiang Tianxing from a distance. However, the eastern barbarians had an agreement with the Jiang father-son pair. The elders of the three great tribes trusted Jiang Zhuzhe trusted and planned to use him to raze the Land of Chaos.

Jiang Tianxing's attention was currently focused on the remains of the ancient elites, not the eastern barbarians. This was why Sen Ye couldn't come to a decision.

"If we don't kill Jiang Tianxing now, all of us will soon die!" Harsh light shone from Luo Chen's eyes.

He was the first to take action.

"Seven Moon Slash!"

Seven sword beams shaped like crescent moons suddenly shot into the air high above the Land of Buried Gods.

Each crescent sword beam radiated a harsh, sharp aura. They shot toward Jiang Tianxing at the bottom of the frozen lake, each prismatic sword beam growing even more dazzling than before.

At a glance, the seven crescent shaped sword beams actually made it seem as if the a cold midnight moon had come crashing toward the ground.

This was one of Luo Chen's greatest sword arts.

"Graaaaaaaaaaugh!"

The blood demon roared at the sky, terrifying bloody light

erupting from its eyes. Bloody screens of light appeared as it charged toward the incoming attack.

Bloody screens flooded over the seven cold crescents made of bright light, corrupting them with the thick fiendish aura of blood.

The sword beams went dim, their light instantly disappearing.

“Pwack!”

Luo Chen spat out a mouthful of blood as the harshness in his eyes suddenly softened.

This signified that his sword will had dissipated.
“Jiang Tianxing’s blood aura is too powerful. I can’t kill him, and he’ll only grow stronger with each passing second!”

After making this declaration, Luo Chen sat down and focused on treating his injuries.

Qin Lie and the others weren’t the only ones that had been watching Luo Chen attack. The eastern barbarians, Yu men, and Feng Yiyou had been watching as well.

They had seen everything and noticed, immediately after he attacked Jiang Tianxing, Luo Chen spat out a mouthful of blood and sat down.

Although he had initially been hesitant about what to do, an expression of wariness appeared on Sen Ye's face.

At the same time, shock filled Feng Yiyou's and Yu Men's faces.

Chapter 539: Watching From The Sidelines

The demonified Jiang Tianxing hadn't been killed.

On the contrary, Luo Chen was actually the one to suffer severe injuries.

Qin Lie, who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, could sense that multiple streams of fiendish blood energy had rushed into Luo Chen's body. This blood energy was relentless. It continued to ravage Luo Chen's nerves and internal organs even after his clash with the blood demon.

Luo Chen didn't dare to waste anymore time talking, immediately sat down, and started the recovery process.

He went through his body eliminating these refined streams of fiendish blood energy, slashing each of them apart.

"Jiang Tianxing definitely wasn't a match for Luo Chen before transforming into that blood demon!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed, his expression grim. "Yet... now his terrifying aura scares even me."

"Sen Ye and Feng Yiyou don't dare to do anything either." Xue Moyan shared his worry. "They observed Luo Chen's attack and noticed that Jiang Tianxing is difficult to deal with. They're probably worried that he'll attack them if they enrage him."

“If no one kills him, Jiang Tianxing will just continue consuming the blood of those ancient elites and get stronger and stronger,” Song Tingyu said, feeling a headache coming on. “What are we going to do?”

For a time, no one had an idea what to do about Jiang Tianxing. They felt that they couldn’t actually do anything.

It seemed as if all they could do was just watch him like this.

And, as expected, Jiang Tianxing did continue to act!

This time, the blood form he had transformed into looked at the body of an ancient spirit turtle.

This spirit turtle lay on its back, taking up hundreds of acres within the Land of Buried Gods. It resembled an enormous, four-cornered table with curved sides. Strange patterns reminiscent of the earth’s mysterious pulse were engraved onto the belly of the spirit turtle’s shell, which was turned up toward the sky. A green glow emanated from it.

This potent green energy seemed to float around the spirit turtle like fine silk. It seemed capable of protecting the spirit turtle’s body for an eternity.

However, none of this was a problem for Jiang Tianxing, who had traded his rationality for madness and an instinctive thirst for blood.

The blood demon leaped straight at the body of the ancient spirit turtle!

“Prak prak prak!”

The dense bloody light surrounding the blood demon’s body fiercely clashed with the green energy around the spirit turtle’s body.

“Bang!”

Surprisingly enough, the blood demon that was over ten meters tall suddenly exploded as soon as it collided with the green energy.

It erupted in a huge shower of bloody rain, filling the entire area with a pungent stench.

Seeing this outcome, the eyes of everyone who stood at the edge of the frozen lake, including Sen Ye, Yu Men, Du Xiangyang, and Song Tingyu, lit up with approval.

“Well done!” Pan Qianqian exclaimed.

Qin Lie, however, wasn’t even smiling.

Xue Moyan’s brow was deeply furrowed as well.

Both of them were well aware of the miracles that Blood Fiend Sect's spirit arts were capable of. They could tell from the way the blood demon erupted, as well as the shower of bloody rain, that it was in fact executing one of Blood Fiend Sect's spirit arts, Blood Arts: Explode! This was a technique that used blood containing the user's soul consciousness to corrupt a target's heart and body.

Bloody rain scattered through the air, penetrating the barrier of green energy the instant it recoiled from the clash and splashing onto the body of the ancient spirit turtle.

The second each drop of blood splashed against the spirit turtle's exposed belly, they melted into it like water soaking into a sponge.

"All of the blood droplets vanished into the spirit turtle's body!" Pan Qianqian cried.

Everyone who had just attributed the blood demon's sudden eruption to good fortune once again grew serious. They noticed that something was amiss.

"Blub... b-blub... blublub...!"

An odd, bubbling noise emanated from within the ancient spirit turtle's belly, almost as if its blood were boiling.

Realization swept across Qin Lie's face.

“The Blood Refinement Art!”

“Th-this…” Xue Moyan could barely contain her disbelief. “Even after transforming into a blood demon, Jiang Tianxing can still execute Blood Fiend Sect’s spirit arts…”

“The Jiang father-son pair may be even more difficult to deal with than we thought!” Qin Lie said, his expression so heavy that one could squeeze water from it.

According to the records of the Blood Codex, a blood demon created from the blood of a fresh corpse could only exist as a blood puppet for a short period of time. It would have no intelligence and would not be able to execute any spirit arts. It would only have an inherent desire to kill and an instinctive thirst for blood.

Back in the Nether Realm below the Scarlet Tide Continent, Xue Li had created a blood demon.

That blood demon had been a hundred times stronger than the one that Jiang Tianxing created. Its body had been tremendously large, and its fiendish blood energy overwhelmed both the heavens and the earth.

However, the blood demons that Xue Li were ultimately just puppets that couldn’t execute spirit arts, let alone carry out strategies in combat. They didn’t know how to feign exploding to bits, nor could they use Blood Arts: Explode to create a bloody rain capable of bypassing the defenses of the ancient spirit turtle’s body and directly corrupting its flesh.

The actions that Jiang Tianxing took today seemed impossible even for Xue Li.

Jiang Tianxing even surprised Qin Lie, who was familiar with the records of the Blood Codex. He knew that the Blood Demon Art recorded in the first half of the Blood Codex was nowhere near as eerie or bizarre as this one.

“Could it be that the Blood Spirit Art undergoes a qualitative change after a martial practitioner abandons themselves to evil ways, consumes human blood, and discards their rationality and conscience?” Qin Lie inwardly asked himself.

“Bang!”

The ancient spirit turtle’s body suddenly exploded. The green barrier that surrounded it dissipated since there was no longer any energy to maintain it.

Once the spirit turtle’s body burst apart, the essence within its flesh was quickly drained as well.

“Graaauuuuuugh!”

A roar resounded from the blood demon as it exited the spirit turtle’s remains and reformed itself.

The fiendish bloody aura that it exuded was so potent that it could actually compare to a vast sea of blood. Its aura was so overwhelming that even the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the three spirits noticed the threat that it now represented.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

An icy tornado appeared of nowhere and rushed toward the blood demon, imbued with a freezing frost concept that threatened to turn everything to ice.

A small figure could be seen at the center of this raging tornado, hovering amidst the frigid streams of howling wind.

It resembled a goddess of ice ruling over that icy tornado.

“Jia Yue!” Gao Yu yelled from his position at the edge of the frozen lake, his harsh eyes flashing with excitement.

With a frenzied roar, the blood demon charged toward the approaching ice spirit in its icy tornado, a shocking aura of blood surrounding its reformed body.

An instant later, it rushed into the tornado and clashed with Jia Yue, who was currently possessed by the ice spirit.

Rays of bloody light shot from the tornado and spread in every direction. Incredibly sharp blades of icy light slashed at the blood demon.

The power of absolute frost enveloped the blood demon with layer upon layer of ice like waves of water, seeking to reduce the blood demon to a bloody ice sculpture.

The blood demon howled angrily, madly struggling against the power of the ice spirit. A fiendish blood aura capable of destroying the world shone from its bloody eyes. The silhouettes of the spirit turtle and the Wood Race clansman appeared in the bloody screens of light around the blood demon, seemingly assisting it by empowering its aura and making it strong enough to resist the ice spirit's sealing power.

"This..." Du Xiangyang was dumbstruck.

When everyone else could only watch Jiang Tianxing plunder one body of an ancient elite after another, the ice spirit actually came out of hiding.

The ice spirit wanted to stop the blood demon from destroying the Land of Buried Gods!

As the master of the Forbidden Land of Ice and the guardian spirit of the Land of Buried Gods, the ice spirit seemed intent on both leaving the Graveyard of Gods and protecting it at the same time. It wanted to use the Graveyard of Gods as a future source of power!

It would never allow the blood demon to continue devouring the bodies of the ancient elites resting in the Land of Buried Gods.

—The ice spirit always believed that these remains belonged to it, and it alone!

This turn of events stunned Qin Lie.

“It looks like we don’t need to do anything,” he said.

The ice spirit had actually appeared at a critical moment to seal the blood demon that Jiang Tianxing had transformed into. It would freeze it, preventing it from further damaging the remains of the ancient elites in the Land of Buried Gods.

This sudden development turned the situation in the desolate plain of the frozen lake into two battles: one in which the Demon Sealing Tombstone fought the earth, metal, and water spirits, and one in which the ice spirit fought the blood demon. All of these combatants were equally matched and completely focused on fighting.

It was as if they had all strangers that were unconcerned with one another.

“Let’s just observe,” Du Xiangyang said, his eyes narrowed. He sat down and took out a couple of spirits stones to recover his strength. “All we need to do right now is watch.”

The rest of the group exchanged glances, then followed his lead and sat down as well. Considering the battle taking place in the

Land of Buried Gods, and bit of strength they managed to recover would better prepare them for any shocking changes that could occur in an instant.

Qin Lie also sat down as he watched the battles below with astonishment, waiting for something new to occur.

“Swoosh!”

In the next moment, a bloody light suddenly emerged from the space between Qin Lie’s eyebrows. The bloody bone dragon and the body of the Blood Progenitor, which had been sucked into the Soul Suppressing Orb, surprising flew out along with that light.

“Patak!”

The Bloodthirsty Dragon had become several times smaller than its original size and was now a concave object about half an arms length. It looked like a sanguine dragon bone and glittered with translucent, bloody light.

The Blood Progenitor’s body, on the other hand, was the same size as before, resembling a translucent, bloody ice sculpture.

Swoosh!”

The first half of the Blood Codex, which had been hidden within Qin Lie’s spatial ring, emerged without warning. With the appearance of a bloody bone fragment, it suddenly shot into the

Blood Progenitor's chest, vanishing in a flash of light.

"Whoosh!"

The moment the first half of the Blood Codex emerged the concave object that lay quietly on the ground, which was the Bloodthirsty Dragon's newest shape, transformed into an armguard. It floated into the air, firmly attaching itself to the left arm of the Blood Progenitor.

In that instant, the Blood Progenitor's body erupted with brilliant, bloody light.

……

Chapter 540: Blood Puppet

“This is…”

Qin Lie’s group stared at the Blood Progenitor’s body in shock. They watched as the body emitted bloody light, the Bloodthirsty Dragon transformed into its armguard, and the first half of the Blood Codex emerged from Qin Lie’s spatial ring as if summoned.

At this moment, it seemed as if the Blood Progenitor, although utterly soulless, was about to awaken.

No one understood what kind of breathtaking turn of events could have occurred.

Everyone simply looked to Qin Lie subconsciously, hoping that he’d be able to provide an explanation and tell them what kind of magic had taken place within the Blood Progenitor’s body.

All because his third eye had devoured the Blood Progenitor’s body and the Bloodthirsty Dragon, and had now spit them back out.

They thought that Qin Lie could explain everything..

However, Qin Lie seemed just as shocked and confused as they were.

“Prakprakprak!”

Bloody lines writhed across the Blood Progenitor’s body like bolts of lightning. Upon closer inspection, it seemed as if someone were holding a brush and painting something on the body.

Qin Lie’s eyes trembled as he suddenly cried out, surprise and realization covering his face.

He now understood what in Spirit Realm those bloody lines on the Blood Progenitor’s body were!

They were forming a spirit diagram, one of the most ancient, complicated kinds. It was a miraculous spirit diagram that Elder Mo Hai had referred to as an “ancient diagram.”

Complicated spirit diagrams covered the Blood Progenitor’s translucent skin like a densely packed, tightly woven spider web. They stretched across his neck, arms, hands, legs, chest, and abdomen...

Unfathomable spirit diagrams were engraved into every inch of the Blood Progenitor’s flesh.

The bloody lines formed the network of the spirit diagram. There were millions of them, seemingly as numerous as the starry rivers of the galaxy, and just as mysterious and vast.

Qin Lie paid close attention to the spirit diagrams, and he noticed

there were dozens of the four basic spirit diagrams: Spirit Storage, Spirit Gathering, Amplification, and Strengthening.

Each of the four basic spirit diagrams was actually incredibly complex and required several thousands of spirit threads to be drawn and portrayed.

Yet now there were actually dozens of these spirit diagrams inscribed into the Blood Progenitor's body, each having been shrunk to several times smaller than their usual size.

Aside from the four basic spirit diagrams, there were also dozens of other, larger spirit diagrams on his body. They were wondrous spirit diagrams that were at least ten times more complicated than the basic ones.

These spirit diagrams had far exceeded Qin Lie's comprehension and were way more complex and miraculous than any spirit diagram he had ever seen before. To him, every single one of them resembled a vast, boundless world that contained indescribable wonders and secrets.

Both basic spirit diagrams and extremely complex ancient diagrams had been inlaid to form numerous densely packed compound spirit diagrams. These compound spirit diagrams were branded into the Blood Progenitor's body like bloody tattoos that contained shocking amounts of wondrous power. They resembled dense spider webs that covered every part of the progenitor's body.

"Heavens!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed in disbelief. "How did so

many spirit diagrams appear on it in such a short time?”

This question was on everyone else’s minds as well.

There hadn’t been a single line of blood on the Blood Progenitor’s body when it and the Bloodthirsty Dragon were absorbed into Qin Lie’s third eye.

How long had it been since then?

The Blood Progenitor’s body had probably only been inside of it for about fifteen minutes.

How could the body change so much in so little time?

What in Spirit Realm did Qin Lie, or rather, his third eye, do?

“I...” A bitter, frustrated look on his face, Qin Lie scratched his head and tried to sort out the thoughts in his mind.

All of a sudden, a brilliant bloody light radiated from the countless bloody lines on the Blood Progenitor’s left arm. It seemed as if many of the miraculous spirit diagrams on it had been activated.

Surprisingly, the Blood Progenitor mirrored Qin Lie’s movements, scratching its head with its eyes closed.

It literally did the same thing as Qin Lie.

This sight stunned everyone.

Unable to control herself, Song Tingyu was the first to react.

“Qin Lie! Try moving in a different way!” she immediately cried out, her eyes overflowing with a shocking intensity.

“Moving in a different way...” Qin Lie frowned and casually shook his head.

The ancient diagram on the blood progenitor’s neck activated at the same time, glowing with dazzling bloody light. The Blood Progenitor’s body followed Qin Lie’s movements and shook its head as well.

It completely mirrored his movements.

At this moment, it was as if the two of them shared one mind. The Blood Progenitor’s body would move as Qin Lie did.

Not even the slightest discrepancy could be seen.

“Try it again!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed excitedly. “Try out a different movement!”

Qin Lie's eyes lit up.

Under the watchful eye of the rest of the group, he suddenly began moving, waving his arms and swinging his legs forcefully.

The Blood Progenitor's body moved in perfect sync with him, copying every one of his movements without a single mistake. Furthermore, it even kicked an enormous icy stone the size of a house as it swung its legs, reducing it to smithereens.

"Qin Lie! Try channeling the Blood Spirit Art!" Xue Moyan took a deep breath, her supple breasts jiggling noticeably.

"Quick! Hurry up and try it!" Du Xiangyang urged.

"Alright!" Qin Lie said and began channeling the Blood Spirit Art.

"Boom!"

All of the spirit diagrams on the Blood Progenitor's body began to glow like the stars in the sky, glittering with dazzling bloody light.

The Blood Progenitor's body unleashed a dense, fiendish aura of blood, making Du Xiangyang and the others feel as if their blood were surging within them. Their faces flushed completely red, and they were terrified that their blood would cause them to explode at any moment.

The last time they felt this way... was when the Bloodthirsty Dragon had charged at them earlier.

“Try executing spirit skills!” Xue Moyan’s eyes glittered with anticipation.

“W-wait a minute! Give us time to move away first!” Du Xiangyang cried loudly.

Qin Lie looked dumbfounded.

“This blood energy is too strong for us,” Song Tingyu said as she moved away, a shocked expression on her face. “You two can endure it because you cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. We don’t, so we feel like every drop of blood inside of our bodies is being triggered. We might explode at any moment.”

Du Xiangyang and the others repeatedly nodded in agreement, quickly departing before Qin Lie and Xue Moyan’s eyes.

“Try it!” Xue Moyan exclaimed.

Qin Lie attempted to channel the Blood Spirit Art and form a Blood Weeping Ghost Claw, a sinister, ghastly claw of blood slowly materializing in front of his left hand.

The Blood Progenitor’s body stood to Qin Lie’s right, whereas Xue Moyan stood in front of him. This was why, before he could see what changes occurred to the Blood Progenitor’s body, he first

saw Xue Moyan cover her mouth in complete shock.

Off in the distance, Du Xiangyang yelled, “Holy crap!”

Only then did Qin Lie look to his right.

A sinister claw of blood quietly floated before the Blood Progenitor’s body. It was as large as a mountain, looked as if it belonged to an enormous bloodthirsty demon, and contained a seemingly endless amount of violent, fiendish energy. The terrible power the claw emanated made it feel as if it could envelop the sky and bathe the world in blood.

The Blood Progenitor had mimicked Qin Lie’s movements and unleashed a Blood Weeping Ghost Claw of its own.

This ghastly claw was nearly a thousand times larger than Qin Lie’s, and the destructive aura it radiated was also a thousand times stronger!

This… was the real Blood Weeping Ghost Claw!

“C-can you put it away now!?” Pan Qianqian cried, her lips trembling non-stop.

In the face of that enormous Blood Weeping Ghost Claw, the thumping of her heart resembled an earthquake. Her heart beat so fast that she felt like she would collapse from the pressure.

Even though she was currently sitting on the ground and focusing her thoughts, trying to calm down the her chaotic heart, she couldn't stop the abnormal flow of her blood.

The pressure of the Blood Weeping Ghost Claw left her on the verge of breaking down.

Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan's faces looked flushed as well. All of them struggled to resist the pressure and looked like they might fall over at any moment.

Like Pan Qianqian, they also couldn't endure the terrifying power of the giant blood claw.

So Qin Lie hurriedly withdrew his strength.

When his Blood Weeping Ghost Claw turned into a ray of bloody light and returned to his body, the gigantic ghastly claw unleashing an endless fiendish aura of blood also vanished into the Blood Progenitor's body.

"Phew..."

The rest of the group let out a long sigh and instantly collapsed to the ground. The ghastly claw had nearly pushed them to their breaking points.

Now all of them understood what had happened.

Qin Lie's third eye had clearly executed some sort of extraordinary, secret puppet art on the Blood Progenitor's body. The myriad bloody lines that formed the miraculous spirit diagrams served as the ropes that bound it.

The binding spirit diagrams had clearly transformed the Blood Progenitor's body into a puppet that Qin Lie could control.

It had been turned into an amazing killing tool that could channel the Blood Spirit Art and even use the Bloodthirsty Dragon to wreak widespread havoc.

What in Spirit Realm was Qin Lie's third eye? How did it cause such a terrifying change in the Blood Progenitor's body in just fifteen minutes?

Everyone looked at Qin Lie once more, their gazes falling right on the space between his eyebrows. They looked like they were itching to dig into his head and find out.

Chapter 541: The First Voodoo Creature!

“Whoosh…!”

Within the Land of Buried Gods, the heads that belonged to the eight god corpses suddenly floated into the air, hovering around the Demon Sealing Tombstone like dazzling balls of light.

The godly chains that spread from the surface of the tombstone grew even more formidable and shockingly powerful.

“Prakprakprak!”

The godly chains resembled meteoric whips as they struck the body of the Merfolk woman, causing the streams of light that she summoned to burst into motes of spirit energy.

Images of the sun, the moon, and stars could be seen deep within the pupils of the eight god heads.

Their eyes instantly locked on to the Merfolk woman possessed by the water spirit. The splendor of sunlight, luster of moonlight, and scattered starlight shone down on the woman at the same time.

This long beam of light looked like a waterfall pouring directly onto the Merfolk woman’s body, causing this ancient elite to tremble uncontrollably.

Qin Lie, who clearly didn't have time to try and make sense of the Blood Progenitor's secrets, had no choice but to turn his attention to the bottom of the frozen lake once more.

He took in the latest turn of events.

"Bang!"

The godly chains of lights unleashed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone transformed into the magnificent shape of a pagoda, suddenly landing atop the Merfolk woman's head.

Numerous prismatic lights spread from the bottom of the pagoda and seeped into her head.

"Oooo!"

The water spirit whined incessantly, the sound of which emanated from the head of the Merfolk woman.

Then, as if striking a vein of clear spring water, the Demon Sealing Tombstone forcefully extracted a flowing soul from woman's body.

The soul resembled a graceful water snake that had instantly fallen into the Demon Sealing Tombstone's clutches.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone extracted the soul of the water

spirit, sealing it!

Without the water spirit controlling it, along with the fact that it used up a large amount of energy, the Merfolk woman's body dissolved into water and merged with streams nearby.

Her aura had completely vanished.

When the eight god heads floated into the air and assisted the Demon Sealing Tombstone in opposing the three spirits, they were like stars adding to the brilliance of the sun and the moon.

The first of the three spirits to collapse under the combined pressure of the god heads and the Demon Sealing Tombstone... was the water spirit.

The water spirit had been sealed. The divine lights inside of the Demon Sealing Tombstone grew even brighter, the eyes of the eight god heads also glowing with binding power capable of enveloping the world.

The tombstone and the heads changed directions, turning their attention to the earth and metal spirits that possessed the ancient giant and ape. They began a brand new round of attacks, intent on sealing the spirits.

Meanwhile, the demonified Jiang Tianxing, which had been waltzing all over the desolate plain from one body of an ancient elite to another, had been devoured by a frigid tornado. The power

of absolute frost gradually seeped into both its bones and its soul, instantly transforming it into a translucent, fiendish sculpture made of bloody ice.

The blood demon, which held Jiang Tianxing inside of it, seemed to have been frozen, temporarily rendered incapable of plundering the remains of the ancient elites.

The ice spirit, the strongest and smartest of all seven spirits, had finally taken action. After sealing the blood demon in ice, it turned to face the threat of the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The ice spirit did not seek out and possess the body of an ancient elite that cultivated the power of frost. It simply hid inside of Jia Yue's body, seemingly observing something from within the violent tornado of frigid air.

Everyone's gazes were fixed to the freezing tornado, paying close attention to its movements.

Suddenly, Yu Men cried out in surprise.

"The Voodoo Progenitor!"

He, Feng Yiyou, Qin Lie's group, and the eastern barbarians saw the streams of frosty air that had sealed the blood demon start floating toward the Voodoo Progenitor's body.

This drew everyone's attention to that single place.

“Crack! Cr-crack!”

A faint sound of something breaking resonated from the Voodoo Progenitor’s body. It seemed as though some creature were hiding in it and eating something.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion released shrill, panicked whistles from inside of the Voodoo Progenitor’s body. They seemed to be struggling madly, trying to escape.

Both struggled enough to emerge from the body, but their efforts stopped there. The number of wings that the Eight-winged Centipede Queen possessed slowly decreased, and chunk after chunk of the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion’s tail vanished.

“Something’s eating the voodoo insects!” Song Tingyu exclaimed, realization dawning on her face.

“The Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion are extremely terrifying voodoo insects that Black Voodoo Cult raised,” Xue Moyan said nervously, her pretty face marred with confusion. “The fact that they’re unable to resist being eaten means that whatever’s doing the eating must be even more powerful than both of them.”

“The Voodoo Progenitor’s eyes opened!” Du Xiangyang went pale with fright.

Gaps suddenly appeared where the Voodoo Progenitor's tightly shut eyes were. A toad could vaguely be seen wriggling in the depths of his dark green pupils, happily feasting.

Xue Moyan's eyes widened in shock.

"The Viridian Blood Toad! Th-that's the Voodoo Progenitor's lifeblood creature! According to the records of Black Voodoo Cult, the Viridian Blood Toad is known as the very first voodoo creature! It was the very first voodoo creature that the Voodoo Progenitor tamed and refined!"

"The Voodoo Progenitor perished long ago, but this Viridian Blood Toad doesn't seem like it's completely dead yet," Du Xiangyang said. "It must have been surviving inside of the Voodoo Progenitor's body all this time... and now it's drawn the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion to it so it could eat them. The Voodoo Progenitor didn't summon the voodoo insects... it did!"

"The Viridian Blood Toad is even more tenacious than the Voodoo Progenitor!" Luo Chen's eyes became unfathomably serious.

The Viridian Blood Toad was known to Black Voodoo Cult as the first voodoo creature. It was the first creature that the Voodoo Progenitor attempted to refine after figuring out the secrets of voodoo arts.

This voodoo creature was connected to the Voodoo Progenitor, having been raised on his flesh and tamed with his soul.

The records of Black Voodoo Cult hailed this voodoo creature as a special existence second only to the Voodoo Progenitor.

To this day, many Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners still prayed before its image upon refining a voodoo creature with their own body. They would pray for success in merging with their voodoo creatures.

“Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult have battled each other for many years. I once heard my master say that Black Voodoo Cult cultists often hold sacrificial ceremonies for this voodoo creature. This means that there’s someone out there capable of detecting the existence of this voodoo creature... and that it has always been alive,” Xue Moyan said in astonishment. “So it’s all real... the first voodoo creature really is still alive!”

“I can’t believe that this voodoo creature stayed alive within the Voodoo Progenitor’s body even though his soul perished,” Du Xiangyang said gravely. “However... it must be extremely weak right now. That would explain why it had to eat the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion to recover its strength.”

“Why in Spirit Realm did the ice spirit seek it out?” Qin Lie frowned.

Qin Lie’s group suddenly fell silent.

Without averting their eyes, they could only watch the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Heavenly Scorpion being slowly eaten inside the voodoo progenitor's body, until they completely disappeared.

Although the eyes of the Voodoo Progenitor were initially just closed slits, they had slowly opened until they were wide open, completely exposing his lifeless pupils. The image of the Viridian Blood Toad inside of them grew clearer and clearer.

Everyone could see that this Viridian Blood Toad, which was referred to as the first voodoo creature, had taken full control of the Voodoo Progenitor's body after countless years.

Two dense beams of pitch black light continuously writhed in and out of the Voodoo Progenitor's pupils. They resembled two ebon snakes that constantly wriggled and squirmed, making the Voodoo Progenitor look unbelievably strange and terrifying.

All of a sudden, the Progenitor sat up and looked at the Demon Sealing Tombstone floating above him. Its face twisted in extraordinary hatred.

"Zzng zzng zzng!"

A shrill ear-splitting whistle echoed from the Voodoo Progenitor's body and spread in every direction.

The resulting sound wave struck all of the observers standing at the edge of the frozen lake regardless of whether they were from the Land of Chaos or the territories east of it.

Numerous people bled from every orifice in their heads. Although they tried to stop the bleeding with their hands, the sanguine liquid still flowed through the gaps between their fingers.

Qin Lie suddenly started trembling uncontrollably, a dense bloody light erupting from his body. The light surrounded him, constantly fluctuating as it fended off the sharp impact of the sound.

Qin Lie let out a dull snort, tenaciously standing firm.

However, a line of blood still flowed down the corner of his mouth.

“Pwack!”

Blood burst from the mouth of Luo Chen who was still seated on the ground. His mind swiftly weakened as a result of the attack.

Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan bled from their eyes, nose, ears, and mouths. They collapsed one after another, continuously bleeding from every orifice in their heads.

The sound wave directly knocked Pan Qianqian out. Blood streamed from her face, and she collapsed to the floor, unmoving.

Xue Moyan gritted her teeth as blood flowed out of her ears and the corner of her mouth. Like Qin Lie, she also managed to stay standing.

Terrible screams rang out from the side of the frozen lake that the eastern barbarians were watching from. The shrill whistle of the first voodoo creature instantly killed three of them.

The rest of the barbarians looked to be in even worse shape than Du Xiangyang and Xie Jingxuan. All of them wailed miserably and looked impossibly ugly as they attempted to stem the blood flowing from their eyes, noses, and mouths.

Sen Ye and Yan Min were the only ones who managed to endure the attack. Although they were bleeding as well, they did not look much worse for the wear.

Three of Feng Yiyou's spatial rings exploded, but he succeeded in surviving yet another deadly attack. The only price he paid was the destruction of his spirit artifacts.

Blood dripped from Yu Men's nose and mouth as he panted heavily. The attack had obviously taken a huge toll on him as well.

Everyone knew that the Viridian Blood Toad controlling the body of the Voodoo Progenitor wasn't actually targeting at them.

The people currently collapsing left and right, bleeding out of the

seven orifices in their heads beside the frozen lake, were just unfortunate bystanders.

—They were just collateral damage caused by the attack.

The Viridian Blood Toad's target was the Demon Sealing Tombstone!

Hatred gushed from the Voodoo Progenitor's eyes. It seemed as if the Demon Sealing Tombstone were the reason for the first voodoo creature's current miserable state.

Long ago, when it was helpless and weak, it hid within the Voodoo Progenitor's body. It hadn't been able to move that body for countless years.

As the spirit responsible for watching over and guarding the Land of Buried Gods, the ice spirit had always been aware of the Viridian Blood Toad's existence. The ice spirit even knew about its profound hatred for the Demon Sealing Tombstone, which was why it never did anything to the voodoo creature.

Of course, the ice spirit never helped it either.

The ice spirit knew that once it helped the first voodoo creature start recovering, it would return to peak condition by feeding on the remains of ancient elites, possibly even exceeding peak condition by doing so.

That was not something the ice spirit wished to see.

However, it also didn't want the voodoo creature to die. That was why, until this moment, the ice spirit only watched the voodoo creature and preserved it. It had been waiting for an opportunity to arrive... like the one that came today.

The ice spirit had suddenly disappeared earlier so that it could make a deal with this hidden voodoo creature.

With the help of the ice spirit, the Viridian Blood Toad had been able to recover a sliver of its power and attract the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion. That's the only reason it was able to feed on both insects and quickly recover.

Now that this first voodoo creature had recovered some of its strength by devouring the voodoo insects, it was naturally time for it to fulfill its side of the bargain.

It would destroy the Demon Sealing Tombstone!

"Qin Lie!" Du Xiangyang suddenly screamed. "Hurry and use the Blood Progenitor to attack it! We won't hold out against its constant whistling attack for long!"

"Qianqian... Qianqian is going to die!" Xue Moyan burned with anxiety. "Qin Lie! Do something!"

"Alright!" Qin Lie said.

Chapter 542: Colossal Collapse

The Viridian Blood Toad released an earthshaking whistle, commanding the Voodoo Progenitor's body to fly at the Demon Sealing Tombstone!

"Zzng zzng zzng!"

Amidst the constant whistling, all of the people at the edge of the frozen lake puked blood or immediately perished upon being struck by the sound wave.

Even people as strong as Luo Chen and Yu Men nearly lost their True Souls during the first sound wave caused by the Viridian Blood Toad's earsplitting whistle.

Someone like Pan Qianqian possessed a weaker realm and even more limited endurance. At this point, she was already lying in a pool of blood, waiting to be killed by the next sound wave.

The body of the Voodoo Progenitor flew at the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the image of the Viridian Blood Toad clearly visible in both its pupils. It continued its hatred-filled whistle, which was capable of shattering one's soul and breaking one's heart.

Just as Qin Lie was about to rush down into the Land of Buried Gods, he came to a sudden stop.

He saw that the Demon Sealing Tombstone, which was clashing

against the ape and the ancient giant, suddenly started emitting an impressive, godly light as dazzling as a blazing flame. The eight god heads spun around the Demon Sealing Tombstone, mysterious ancient runes flowing from their eyes.

These mysterious runes shone with fiery light as they shot down from the eyes of each god head.

A terrifying power that seemed capable of sealing the world, freezing time, and intimidating the universe descended from the sky.

It instantly enveloped the entire Land of Buried Gods.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone's display of godly might seemed to frighten the Viridian Blood Toad inside of the Voodoo Progenitor.

It was so scared that it actually stopped whistling.

The first voodoo creature appeared to be terrified of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and it noticed that things were not going as it had expected. Just when it looked like it was going to jump into the sky, it suddenly descended—.

—and landed beside the ice spirit.

The ice spirit hidden within Jia Yue's body used the freezing tornado to hide itself. The moment it saw that the Demon Sealing

Tombstone grew even stronger after sealing the water spirit, it seemed to cower a bit as well.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Without warning, the ice spirit actually flew away from the Land of Buried Gods and escaped toward the many snow-covered mountains and frosty glaciers outside of the frozen lake.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Countless flowing lights emerged from the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s surface and shot toward the icy masses in every direction.

“Boom boom boom!”

There were many mountains and glaciers around the Land of Buried Gods. Deep, booming rumbles came from one mountain after another, countless enormous boulders hurtling down from them. Every time a boulder struck something, the force of the impact would shake the world.

Fissures resembling meandering rivers constantly appeared throughout the desolate plain inside the Land of Buried Gods.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Potent energies of metal, wood, water, fire, ice, and thunder flooded from the fissures in the ground. The gray sky of the Graveyard of Gods seemed like it was tearing apart as an immense aura of spirit energy surged into existence.

“What rich, refined spirit energies!” Xie Jingxuan gasped, her eyes glittering despite her wretched condition.

From the moment they first entered the Graveyard of Gods and traversed the forbidden lands, none of them had detected any worldly spirit energies.

Whenever they did encounter any spirit energy, it was always energy that corresponded with the forbidden land they were in. For martial practitioners who cultivated certain spirit arts, spirit energy with just one attribute could not be absorbed in any way.

However, after the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the eight god heads caused such a colossal change and made the Graveyard of Gods seem as if it would collapse, the streams of spirit energy that surged out of the ground were intoxicating.

“Bang bang!”

The eight god heads hurtled toward the giant ape like enormous boulders. They resembled dazzling suns, all eight crashing into either side of the ape in two groups of four.

At the same time, numerous mysterious runes streamed from the

Demon Sealing Tombstone, soaking up the worldly spirit energy that had suddenly appeared. The seven different types of energy swiftly consolidated within them, gathering into one.

Soon enough, the giant runes swelled up and radiated impressive rays of light, having absorbed a considerable amount of energy.

Suddenly, they shot toward the ape and the ancient giant as if they were being controlled by the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The ape and the ancient giant giant panted heavily, fear appearing in their eyes.

When the enormous runes made of light landed on the bodies of the ancient Giant Spirit Race elites, which had been possessed by the metal and earth spirits, they looked as if they had immediately been sealed once more.

The movements of both the ape and the giant slowed sharply as their hundred-meter-tall bodies came to a forceful stop, bound by the runes. They could no longer move.

Seizing the opportunity, seven godly chains extended from the Demon Sealing Tombstone and wrapped around the bodies of both Giant Spirit Race clansmen.

At the same time, the eight god heads turned to stare at the ape and the giant, wordlessly threatening them with sinister, intimidating expressions.

Seconds later, the earth and metal spirits finally realized they couldn't escape. Pure, earthy soul light and a ray of metallic, golden soul power emerged from the bodies of the ape and the giant of their own accord.

No one even had the chance to get a clear look at the two spirits before the Demon Sealing Tombstone wrapped its godly chains around them and pulled them into itself, absorbing them.

Shortly after sealing the water spirit, the Demon Sealing Tombstone sealed the metal spirit and the earth spirit after the water spirit.

As of that moment, out of the seven spirits, the only one that still evaded being sealed... was the ice spirit!

"Thump! Thump!"

Di Fei, who was still alive, and Ka Deng, who had died long ago, fell from the bodies of the ape and the giant.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone hovered high above the Land of Buried Gods, and the eight god heads floated around it. They overwhelmed the entire Graveyard of Gods with their infinite power.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh...!"

A bright silver five-meter-long snake shot from the Forbidden Land of Water to the Land of Buried Gods as if attracted by some sort of energy.

This was the water spirit's true body. After the water spirit's soul was sealed away, its body naturally couldn't escape imprisonment. It flew into the Demon Sealing Tombstone and vanished.

Before long, a dirt-brown anteater brimming with potent earth spirit energy came from the Forbidden Land of Earth, drawn by the Demon Sealing Tombstone's power as well.

As the earth spirit's true body, it was also devoured by the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

A while later, a shiny, metallic spirit beast in the shape of a porcupine flew over to the Land of Buried Gods from the Forbidden Land of Metal. It was ultimately sealed as well.

At this point in time, the souls and bodies of the water spirit, earth spirit, and metal spirit had all been sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and were no longer able to cause trouble.

"Boom boom boom!"

All of a sudden, a series of intense rumblings resounded from the Forbidden Lands of Water, Earth, and Metal. The commotion was so loud that it could be heard throughout all of the Graveyard of Gods.

The numerous icy mountains in the Forbidden Land of Ice began to collapse, the earth and the sky surged with rich spirit energy, and everyone present felt terrified.

They had a horrible feeling that the Graveyard of Gods was about to explode!

“What’s going on!?” Du Xiangyang exclaimed.

“I don’t know,” Xue Moyan replied in a daze. “With the sealing of the water, earth, and metal spirits, as well as the disappearance of and trouble caused by the ice spirit, it seems like a certain ancient barrier around the Graveyard of Gods has fallen apart.”

“Are… are you saying that the Graveyard of Gods is done for?” Qin Lie asked in shock. “Aside from the Forbidden Land of Ice, are the six other forbidden lands collapsing as well?”

“That may be the case.” Xue Moyan couldn’t give a sure answer.

As everyone muttered amongst each other, they didn’t realize that the aura of frost that surrounded the blood demon was swiftly fading.

A tiny bloody light continuously floated around the blood demon’s body, growing stronger and stronger.

If one were able to look deep inside of the blood demon, they would see Jiang Tianxing properly seated within its head, his bloody eyes staring closely at a bone fragment that glittered with bloody light.

“Swoosh!”

The Blood Progenitor’s body flew from Qin Lie’s side, uncontrollably shooting toward the blood demon.

It seemed as if the body had detected a familiar presence.

“Boom!”

A shocking, fiendish aura of blood exploded from the blood demon’s body once more, and the blood demon instantly regained its freedom.

Jiang Tianxing’s supposedly crazed, bloodthirsty eyes actually held a trace of awareness. He seemed to have actually regained his rationality in a short time.

Holding the bone fragment before him, he roared in a deep voice.

“With blood as the trigger and god as the path, let the blood bridge come into being!”

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The blood demon howled at the sky, a hole abruptly appearing in the middle of its bloody abdomen.

Everyone could feel a terrifying sensation, one where that enormous hole fractured time and threw space into chaos.

Countless dazzling lights that resembled rivers of stars or sparks caused by clashing energies streamed from the gaping hole.

As the chaotic energy inside of it began the stabilize, the hole swelled to become larger and larger.

“Why did you only connect the blood bridge now?” a deep, grim voice resounded from the hole in the blood demon. “How worthless!”

A bloody light flashed, and a handsome middle-aged man draped in a scarlet cape appeared below the blood demon. His bloody eyes glowed with demonic light.

He had traversed the blood bridge and appeared in the Land of Buried Gods.

“Jiang Zhuzhe!” Xue Moyan yelled in unfathomable hatred. She bit her lips hard enough to draw blood.

“Many unforeseen events occurred up to this point, father.”

Jiang Tianxing's voice echoed from within the blood demon's head. "I nearly failed to construct the blood bridge, but thank the heavens... I succeeded at following your instructions in the end.

"You useless fool!" Jiang Zhuzhe berated his son. "You made me wait outside for an entire seven months and nine days!"

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Chapter 543: Jiang Zhuzhe

With the blood bridge successfully formed, Jiang Zhuzhe emerged from the blood demon and appeared in the Land of Buried Gods.

Jiang Tianxing, who had sunken deep within the blood demon, finally sighed in relief the moment his father arrived. He emerged from the blood demon's head, descending to the ground to stand beside Jiang Zhuzhe.

Since six of the seven spirits that maintained the restrictive barrier that surrounded the Graveyard of Gods had been sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, that barrier had been mercilessly destroyed.

As a result, the restriction on the Graveyard of Gods was no more.

That was the reason why Jiang Tianxing was able to build the blood bridge and help his father enter the Graveyard of Gods.

Jiang Zhuzhe stood there looking calm and collected. He was a handsome man, and although he appeared middle aged, he still seemed dignified and reserved like a scholar.

Surprisingly enough, even though Jiang Tianxing was significantly younger, he was far inferior to his father. Whether it was a question of presence or poise, it seemed as if he had not inherited any of Jiang Zhuzhe's genes.

Everyone could see that, based on appearance alone, this junior brother of Xue Li was truly extraordinary.

Xue Li's demeanor, in comparison, was much poorer. Even his presence seemed a bit worse than Jiang Zhuzhe's.

In Qin Lie's opinion, out of all the higher realm martial practitioners he knew of, Li Mu was probably the only person that could compare to Jiang Zhuzhe.

Profound Heaven Alliance's Song Yu, Xie Yaoyang, and Nie Yun, and also Eight Extreme Temple's Holy Master, weren't even in the same league as this Jiang Zhuzhe.

"Swoosh!"

The Blood Progenitor's body flew down from the edge of the frozen lake and shot toward Jiang Tianxing.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon, in its armguard form attached to the Blood Progenitor's left arm, stared closely at the bloody bone fragment in Jiang Tianxing's hands.

"The Blood Codex!" Qin Lie and Xue Moyan cried at the same time.

The bloody bone fragment that Jiang Tianxing held literally

looked the same as the one that Qin Lie originally possessed.

The Blood Codex was divided into two parts: the first half and the second half. For the longest time, Blood Fiend Sect only possessed the first half of the Blood Codex. This half alone enabled Blood Fiend Sect to prosper and dominate the Land of Chaos for a period of time.

Yet despite Blood Fiend Sect's ceaseless efforts to search for the other half of the Blood Codex, they never found it.

No one could have imagined that the second half of the Blood Codex was actually in the hands of Jiang Zhuzhe and his son!

The Blood Progenitor had broken free of Qin Lie's control and charged at Jiang Tianxing because it had obviously detected the second half of the Blood Codex.

The Blood Codex was forged using a fragment of the Blood Progenitor's bone and refined using his blood. It shared a miraculous connection with the Blood Progenitor and a wondrous resonance with Bloodthirsty Dragon.

"Oh? The body of the Blood Progenitor and the Bloodthirsty Dragon, the ultimate treasure of the sect? How wonderful!"

A look of joy appeared on Jiang Zhuzhe's face when he saw the Blood Progenitor flying toward him like a ray of bloody light. He raised a hand, turning to grab the Blood Codex from Jiang

Tianxing.

The moment the second half of the codex fell into Jiang Zhuzhe's hands, a sudden surge of seemingly endless blood energy erupted from it.

"Eh!?" Jiang Zhuzhe exclaimed softly, a trace of surprise appearing in his intimidating, demonic eyes. "The first half of the Blood Codex is actually inside of the progenitor's body!"

Using the second half of the Blood Codex, Jiang Zhuzhe immediately discovered that the other half lay within the Blood Progenitor's body.

Jiang Zhuzhe had searched for the first half of the Blood Codex for many years after imprisoning Xue Li.

The Blood Progenitor's remains, the Bloodthirsty Dragon, and the Blood Codex were all treasures of Blood Fiend Sect. They were the ultimate goal that Jiang Zhuzhe had been chasing for his entire life.

Now, the moment he entered the Land of Buried Gods, he discovered that all three of these treasures were in one place. How could this not fill him with delight?

"Phew..."

Jiang Zhuzhe suddenly flew into the air and dove into the blood

demon.

“Grrrraaaaaaaaaugh!”

The blood demon unleashed a furious roar, unleashing an overflowing, fiendish blood aura. Numerous bloody tentacles reminiscent of an octopus’s limbs sprouted from its body, twisting and slipping into the remains of ancient elites like bloody pythons.

“Glug! Glug! Glug!”

The bloody pythons crazily devoured the blood that remained within those bodies.

—All of which flowed straight to the blood demon.

The fiendish blood aura emanating from the blood demon instantly became several times stronger than before.

“Boom!”

The Blood Progenitor’s body rushed to the blood demon, but the bloody pythons sticking out of the blood demon swatted it far to the side.

“Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed. “It seems like the Blood Progenitor’s body can’t channel the Blood Spirit Art and unleash its power without your control.”

The Demon Sealing Tombstone hovered high above the Land of Buried Gods, intimidating the Voodoo Progenitor, whereas the eight god heads simply rotated where they hovered.

Then, all of a sudden, all eight flew toward icy mountains in the distance.

They seemed to be searching for the ice spirit's whereabouts.

"Prakprakprak!"

Divine lights burst from the Demon Sealing Tombstone once more, streaking toward the Voodoo Progenitor and the blood demon that Jiang Zhuzhe merged with.

It was at this moment that Xue Moyan charged down the side of the frozen lake with gritted teeth, her eyes glittering with harsh light.

She leaped through the air, flying straight toward Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe, creating multiple graceful shadows.

Jiang Zhuzhe had hurt her entire family. Her father had been imprisoned for a thousand years, her mother suffered grievous wounds at his hands, and she herself was born with a short lifespan...

These were all consequences of the evils that Jiang Zhuzhe committed.

“You shouldn’t have entered the Graveyard of Gods, Niece Xue.”

Contrary to expectations, Jiang Zhuzhe sighed helplessly from within the blood demon as if he were regretting something.

A gentle bloody light shot from the blood demon’s chest, instantly wrapping around Xue Moyan’s petite body like a soft, bloody ribbon.

Bound in midair by that bloody ribbon of light, Xue Moyan swore and yelled. However, she couldn’t move at all.

“Senior Jiang!” Sen Ye cried out in surprise.

“You came here for the Arrow God’s body and the Sun Killing Bow. Have you obtained them?” Jiang Zhuzhe asked indifferently.

“We have!” Sen Ye exclaimed.

Jiang Zhuzhe laughed softly and said, “That’s good. Since you have achieved your goal, you no longer need to stay in this place. Leave using the directions I provided you as soon as possible.”

“B-but… there are still so many bodies of ancient elites here!” an eastern barbarian cried out greedily.

“You can take what you should take. You cannot touch what you should not take,” Jiang Zhuzhe said in a grave tone. “Leave!”

Sen Ye took a moment to gauge the situation, then he said, “Di Fei is hurt and Jia Yue has been possessed by the ice spirit. We…”

A blood light wrapped around Di Fei and tossed him over to where Sen Ye’s group at one edge of the frozen lake.

“Take him away,” Jiang Zhuzhe said impatiently. “But I am unable to separate the ice spirit from the white barbarian girl Jia Yue. Leave. Now!”

“What should we do, young master?” an eastern barbarian asked in a low voice.

The eyes of the remaining eastern barbarians were sparkling. They clearly still coveted the remains of the ancient elites in the Land of Buried Gods.

Sen Ye hesitated for a moment before taking a deep breath and yelling, “Let’s go!”

Just like that, the eastern barbarians turned around and left.

“Jiang Zhuzhe!” Feng Yiyou yelled angrily. “You hid in Celestial Artifact Sect, earned our trust, requested our help to search for the

Graveyard of Gods and fish all of the god corpses out of the sea to achieve your own goals, didn't you?"

"I don't need to explain anything to you." Jiang Zhuzhe's tone was cold and indifferent. "You must have gone through many hardships to survive up to this point. To give your father some face, I will remind you: don't do something that you'll regret. Question your father about the Land of Buried Gods once you return. Don't come to me for answers..."

Surprise covered Feng Yiyou's face.

"Everything I've done is a part of an agreement between your father and I. He is well aware of my goals," Jiang Zhuzhe said nonchalantly.

"H-how could he possibly know?" Feng Yiyou asked in confusion.

"Ask him yourself when you return." Jiang Zhuzhe started growing more and more impatient.

Without warning, his figure emerged from the blood demon's forehead, and he swept his gaze over the numerous remains strewn across the desolate plain below him. The moment his eyes fell upon Qin Lie, an odd light shone within them.

"Are you the one who obtained the acknowledgment of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, boy?"

Qin Lie frowned and nodded.

“Fluctuations of blood energy are coming from the Blood Progenitor’s body. Is it resonating with you?” Jiang Zhuzhe asked.

Qin Lie nodded again.

“The other half of the Blood Codex inside of the Blood Progenitor’s body… is it yours or Niece Xue’s?”

“It’s mine.”

“Oh.” Jiang Zhuzhe rubbed his chin and thought to himself for a moment, then suddenly said, “My senior brother said that a young man would help Blood Fiend Sect regain its former glory. You’re the young man he was referring to, aren’t you?”

This sudden change in topic startled Qin Lie.

“How is he doing? If I remember correctly, I should’ve only refined half of his soul back then? The other half of his soul should still be around, right?”

Shock filled Qin Lie’s face.

“So you actually knew…”

Chapter 544: Twisted Ideals

“How would I not know?” Jiang Zhuzhe asked.

He began laughing, then drew the second half of the Blood Codex into him. The moment its aura disappeared, the Blood Progenitor’s body, which had been instinctively charging toward it over and over, suddenly lost its target.

It came to a halt, not moving a muscle.

At this moment, the bloody ribbon of light wrapped around Xue Moyan’s body, immobilizing her. She could only glare at Jiang Zhuzhe hatefully.

Sen Ye had already left with the remaining eastern barbarians. It seemed as if they no longer cared about the Land of Buried Gods or the remains of the ancient elites that lay within it.

Jiang Zhuzhe’s words had perplexed Feng Yiyou into silence.

Yu Men never had anything to say to begin with.

The eight god heads had flown away in search of the ice spirit. The Demon Sealing Tombstone hovered high in the air, suppressing the Voodoo Progenitor with its divine might and preventing the blood demon, which Jiang Zhuzhe was currently in, from damaging the remains of ancient elites however it wanted.

The situation had suddenly stabilized. Only the occasional rumble or crack resounded from icy mountains beside the frozen lake.

Seven types of rich, worldly spirit energy continued to gush from the fissures in the ground.

“The only difference between my senior brother and I... is our ideals. We share the same goal, really.” Jiang Zhuzhe sighed softly, his face full of regret as he continued, “We both want to revive Blood Fiend Sect and return it to its former glory. We both want it to be the dominant sect in the Land of Chaos. In this regard, I, my senior brother, my junior sister, and even our master... we all have the same goal.”

Jiang Zhuzhe shook his head. “Unfortunately, the others are... behind the times. They don’t adapt. They, who can’t accept cultivating by absorbing human blood, are the ones that have been preventing Blood Fiend Sect’s rise to power all along.”

“How do you even have the nerve to say that?” Xue Moyan yelled, harshness filling her petite face. “Someone who sucks the blood of their own kind to cultivate is no better than an animal!”

“If we can cultivate using the blood, bones, and cores of spirit beasts, absorbing the power within them to facilitate our own cultivation and temper powerful spirit artifacts, why can’t we cultivate using human blood?” Jiang Zhuzhe retorted with a calm smile. “Many ancient elites are buried here in the Land of Buried

Gods. There are bodies of members of the Nether Realm's evil races, members of the Giant Spirit race, and members of other highly intelligent races as well. Even humans! Look at all of the people who've come here. Tell me, what did they come here for? Aren't they here to obtain the remains of these powerful beings and use them to forge spirit artifacts? To increase their own strength?"

"All trial participants that have entered this land, heed me. Are your goals truly that noble? Are your actions more humane than using human blood to cultivate? Aren't you just as despicable? Aren't you ignoring all rules and conventions in the pursuit of higher realms and more strength?" Jiang Zhuzhe wore an expression of disbelief. "The people who ordered you to come here, the sect masters of the nine great Silver rank forces, were they not planning to use the remains of the dead as well?

"You... and the people behind you... won't even leave the remains of your own kind in peace. How dare you self-righteously condemn my actions?"

Jiang Zhuzhe's words made everyone subconsciously look at each other. They found themselves unable to say anything in response.

He wasn't wrong.

Nearly everyone who entered the Land of Buried Gods sought to obtain the body of an ancient elite for their own use. The seniors that had sent them planned to do the same.

They were well aware of the fact that human ancestors had also been laid to rest here.

“After obtaining the remains of these ancient elites, bringing them out of the Graveyard of Gods and returning to your sects... what will you do with them?” Jiang Zhuzhe smiled again.

“Here’s what you would do. You would extract the remaining energy from them, use each body to forge spirit artifacts or refine a puppet body.” He paused for a moment, then continued, “I truly would like to know... how much of a difference is there between extracting the energy from a dead person’s body and me consuming the blood essence of a living person?”

“This...”

Jiang Zhuzhe’s twisted logic stunned everyone. They had to admit that he did make some sense.

Not only was he eloquent and rational, he also had his own set of ideals that wasn’t confined to the standards of society.

“See?” Jiang Zhuzhe asked, smiling. “You can’t think of anything to say in response, can you?”

“Senior brother, junior sister, and master couldn’t accept the idea of consuming human blood to cultivate. However, what they didn’t know was that this is actually the fastest way to strengthen Blood Fiend Sect and allow it to dominate the Land of Chaos.”

Jiang Zhuzhe stopped speaking for a moment and sighed, an expression of helplessness on his face. “After I failed to persuade them over and over again, I had no choice but to commit murder. Everything I did... I did for the future of Blood Fiend Sect.”

“For the future of Blood Fiend Sect?” Xue Moyan gritted her teeth. “Blood Fiend Sect has already perished! Look at what has happened to me, my father, my mother, and my grandfather! Is this what your so-called future of Blood Fiend Sect looks like!?”

“A temporary setback will not shake my determination. Soon enough, Blood Fiend Sect will once again rise to power in the Land of Chaos and surpass all existing forces!” Eerie light glittered in Jiang Zhuzhe’s eyes as he thought to himself for a moment, then sighed. “If I truly did not care for bonds I shared with others, senior brother would not have survived our last encounter. You, Niece Xue, would not be alive right now.”

“Are you telling me to thank you?” Xue Moyan’s bright eyes looked as if they could shoot fire.

“Hehe... I know you still hate me. I can understand that,” Jiang Zhuzhe said calmly. “For the future of Blood Fiend Sect, and for the ideals I hold within my heart, I will continue walking this path no matter what happens... because I believe that the path I walk is the right one!”

“This guy’s insane!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed with a frown. “His deranged obsession has driven him insane!”

“He isn’t truly evil,” Song Tingyu said. She wore a strange expression. “But he’s a hundred times more dangerous than evil fanatics!”

The look on Qin Lie’s face was just as strange.

Before meeting Jiang Zhuzhe, Xue Li’s description of the man and the rumors of the Land of Chaos convinced him that Jiang Zhuzhe was just like You Hongzhi and Blood Shadow—an evil, demonic person that thirsted for blood and enslaved his own kind.

However, upon meeting him in person, Qin Lie saw Jiang Zhuzhe’s demeanor toward Xue Moyan, the eastern barbarians, and Feng Yiyou. He realized that this man was different than he originally thought.

With his strength, Jiang Zhuzhe could have easily killed Xue Moyan, Feng Yiyou, and all of the eastern barbarians if he wanted to.

Instead, he simply restrained Xue Moyan and kept his promise with the eastern barbarians, allowing Sen Ye to lead his tribesmen out of the Graveyard of Gods. He had even helped Di Fei and gave Feng Yiyou cryptic warnings.

With his absolute strength, he could have just killed everyone who opposed him.

This was the Graveyard of Gods.

Who could stop him?

If he did kill everyone, who would know about it?

Yet… he didn’t.

Instead, he went as far as explaining to Qin Lie and Xue Moyan that the only difference between him, Xue Li, and their master, Mo Yunwu… was their ideals.

To Jiang Zhuzhe, everything he had done wasn’t for himself, but for Blood Fiend Sect.

He did it all for the Blood Fiend Sect in his heart.

He believed that sucking human blood to cultivate was the right choice.

Since he believed that his ideals and means were right, Jiang Zhuzhe ultimately walked a path separate from Mo Yunwu and Xue Li.

He would use his own methods to strengthen Blood Fiend Sect and prove himself.

“My senior brother and my master no longer acknowledge me, and every force in the Land of Chaos treats me as an evildoer that

strayed from the correct path," Jiang Zhuzhe said calmly, shaking his head. "However, this supposed evildoer will one day become stronger than any force in existence! When Blood Fiend Sect has grown so strong that not even the combined strength of the nine great Silver rank forces can stop it, I'd very much like to see what everyone thinks about my methods!"

"The forces of the Land of Chaos hunted me down for so many years. My disciples became the objects of everyone's hatred and are now afraid of showing their faces anywhere. I have to take revenge for this and make them pay their debt!" Jiang Zhuzhe took a deep breath and smiled. "They won't allow me to consume the blood of a living person? Fine! I'll just use a dead person's blood to cultivate then! I'll take all of the blood that remains in the bodies of these ancient elites and use it to facilitate my disciples' cultivation of the Blood Spirit Art. It won't take long for my Blood Fiend Sect to become a bloody tornado that envelops all of the Land of Chaos!"

The moment he finally made his true intentions known, a glint of bloody insanity shone in Jiang Zhuzhe's eyes.

"That won't be necessary." Qin Lie interrupted Jiang Zhuzhe's frenzied moment. "I'm going to take the Blood Progenitor's body away from here and give it to Senior Xue Li so he can merge with it. With the Blood Codex and the Bloodthirsty Dragon, he'll definitely become more powerful than ever before. In addition to that, Blood Fiend Sect already has a group of people that has received its inheritance. They will be the ones to ensure that Blood Fiend Sect rises in the Heavenly Calamity Continent once again."

"Senior brother's perspective is too rigid and his soul is greatly

damaged. Even if he did obtain the progenitor's body, he wouldn't be able to dominate this world." Jiang Zhuzhe snorted. "He couldn't break free from his imprisonment for a thousand years and his realm hasn't made any breakthroughs. Instead of improving, his strength has declined! He will no longer be able to catch up to this new era. His ideals will not forge a real future for Blood Fiend Sect."

"I am the only hope for Blood Fiend Sect's future! I am the only one who can lead Blood Fiend Sect to heights beyond its former glory!" Jiang Zhuzhe snorted, reaching out to grab hold of the Blood Progenitor's body, which had lost its target and was now in a daze, unmoving.

"You are not worthy!"

Qin Lie finally chose to act.

Chapter 545: Blood Web!

Jiang Zhuzhe once turned all of the Land of Chaos upside down. He and his human-bloodsucking disciples created a bloody typhoon that swept across it, causing chaos among its forces and making them feel helpless.

After more than a thousand years of silence, Jiang Zhuzhe still remained one of the most terrifying people in the Land of Chaos.

Wasn't it just a fool's dream for Qin Lie, a martial practitioner who was just in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, to try opposing this lunatic?

"You want to fight me?" Jiang Zhuzhe laughed involuntarily and shook his head. "You're not even a match for my son."

He frowned slightly at Jiang Tianxing.

"Do you seriously believe that you will become the future of Blood Fiend Sect?" Jiang Tianxing laughed coldly, his expression dark. "Foolish brat... if you hadn't been near Sea Moon Island... if you hadn't snatched the Demon Sealing Tombstone from me... our plan would have been flawless. You and Senior Uncle Xue, the one who taught you the Blood Spirit Art, are simply obstacles in the way of Blood Fiend Sect's growth!"

"Heavenly Blood Web!"

Bloody threads shot from the tips of Jiang Tianxing's fingers, forming a web several acres wide. It hurtled toward Qin Lie's position at the edge of the frozen lake like a large bloody net.

Every single bloody thread contained Jiang Tianxing's cruel soul energy.

The blood flew over to Qin Lie and was now above his head, radiating strange fluctuations capable of making a person's blood boil uncontrollably and binding one's soul.

This was a miraculous spirit art that couldn't be found in the first half of the Blood Codex.

"Break!" Qin Lie yelled, forming another Blood Weeping Ghost Claw.

It appeared above his head in a flash of demonic, bloody light, resembling a sharp, sanguine hook. It ferociously swiped at the Heavenly Blood Web descending upon him.

Two violent blood spirit energies, both of which originated from the same sect, clashed in midair.

In that instant, Qin Lie's energy and Jiang Tianxing's energy erupted at the same time.

"Papapapa!"

The bloody light of the Blood Weeping Ghost Claw was peerlessly sharp. It actually tore the Heavenly Blood Web into pieces.

The fiendish, ghastly claw struck toward Jiang Tianxing's head. A terrifying, vicious aura surrounded it, one capable of destroying all living things and returning them to deathly silence.

This was an attack that Qin Lie had formed with his own power.

Over by Jiang Zhuzhe, the Blood Progenitor's body mirrored Qin Lie's actions and channeled the Blood Spirit Art, creating a Blood Weeping Ghost Claw as well.

An enormous bloody claw thousands of meters long suddenly appeared in the air. It radiated a terrifying, fiendish blood aura that nearly enveloped the entire Land of Buried Gods, one that surprised even Jiang Zhuzhe.

"This truly is the Blood Progenitor's body..." Jiang Zhuzhe clicked his tongue in wonder. "To think that it still contained such terrifying power despite the fact that he perished so many years ago."

"Fall!" Qin Lie shouted, swinging his arm downward.

Both Blood Weeping Ghost Claws, one gigantic and one small, followed Qin Lie's movements and struck toward Jiang Zhuzhe and Jiang Tianxing respectively.

“You’re quite talented and your Blood Spirit Art is quite polished.” Jiang Zhuzhe smiled while shaking his head. “Unfortunately… your realm is too weak.”

As he spoke, the blood demon he had merged with copied Jiang Tianxing’s earlier motions and created another Heavenly Blood Web.

This bloody web blotted out the sky like an act of god.

All of this blood, which the blood demon unleashed, enveloped the Land of Buried Gods. It seemed capable of sealing the heavens themselves.

Sparkling bloody lights so dense that they might as well have been thick rivers of blood flowed through the sky in an eerie fashion. They were unspeakably wondrous and exuded a pungent stench of iron.

Then, all of a sudden, the Heavenly Blood Web constricted!

The web of blood instantly bound both the Blood Progenitor’s and Qin Lie’s Blood Weeping Ghost Claws.

The two ghastly claws resembled a whale and a tiny fish that were caught in a sanguine fisherman’s net, instantly getting immobilized.

“Your realm is weak and your understanding of Blood Fiend Sect’s spirit arts is still lacking.” Jiang Zhuzhe performed a pulling motion with both hands, making the Heavenly Blood Web drag the two ghastly claws to the blood demon’s chest. “Blood Fiend Sect was enormous… but now I’m the only one capable of unleashing the progenitor’s true power.”

His hands abruptly clenched into fists.

“Bang! Bang!”

The Blood Weeping Ghost Claws erupted like tomatoes being crushed, scattering into countless bloody lights.

The blood progenitor stood still as if it weren’t affected at all.

Qin Lie, on the other hand, looked as if he had just taken a heavy blow. He grunted softly, a trace of blood trickling from a corner of his mouth.

“Since you cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and are my senior brother’s only disciple… as long as you sever your mental connection with the progenitor’s body, I’ll spare you,” Jiang Zhuzhe said sternly, a calm expression on his face. “Furthermore, as long as you are willing, I will teach you the secrets of the second half of the Blood Codex… and help you understand the true essence of the Blood Spirit Art.”

“The true essence of the Blood Spirit Art?” Qin Lie said, his face

becoming grim. “You’re talking about sucking human blood?”

“You could say that.” Jiang Zhuzhe smiled, not bothering to deny it. “In reality… even the Blood Progenitor consumed human blood to cultivate! The Blood Refinement Art recorded in the second half of the Blood Codex, which I have in my possession, was written by the progenitor himself. The Blood Spirit Art that you consider so evil came from this half of the Blood Codex!”

Jiang Zhuzhe’s words shocked Qin Lie and Xue Moyan to their very cores.

Off in the distance, the expressions of Luo Chen and the others became even more serious. This revelation caused a strange look to appear in their eyes.

The Blood Progenitor sucked human blood to cultivate… and the second half of the Blood Codex actually had this shortcut recorded within it?

“There are only two differences between our respective Blood Spirit Arts. Both have their own advantages and flaws,” Jiang Zhuzhe explained patiently. “Those who cultivate using the blood of spirit beasts and refine them with worldly spirit energy don’t need to worry about repeated attacks from an inner demon, but their cultivation speed is slower. Meanwhile, those who consume human blood to cultivate risk being forced into a state of insanity and gradually losing themselves, but the speed of their cultivation is significantly faster.”

Jiang Zhuzhe paused, smiling softly before continuing.

"After a thousand years of research, I finally found a method to get rid of the flaws in cultivating with human blood. You could even say that consuming human blood to cultivate no longer has any drawbacks," he proudly declared. "With your talent and skill, your future will be filled with boundless opportunities... so long as you are willing to follow me and cultivate my Blood Spirit Art."

"How about it?" Jiang Zhuzhe asked. "Would you consider it?"

Like a devil trying to seduce a mortal, Jiang Zhuzhe patiently and systematically tried to tempt Qin Lie into abandoning the original Blood Spirit Art and cultivate his instead.

—He was trying to convince Qin Lie to suck human blood to cultivate.

"Allow me to look at the second half of the Blood Codex first. I would like to confirm if this method is truly recorded within it," Qin Lie said calmly, his eyes narrowed. He clearly hadn't fallen for Jiang Zhuzhe's persuasion. "If it is truly recorded inside of the Blood Codex... I may consider it."

From beginning to end, this entire story came from Jiang Zhuzhe. The supposed record of the cultivation method in the second half of the Blood Codex, his grudges against Xue Li and the others, and even his intent to revitalize Blood Fiend Sect had come from his mouth alone.

Qin Lie doubted his words. He didn't believe there was truth to everything Jiang Zhuzhe said.

"You may look at it..." Jiang Zhuzhe spoke deliberately, looking at the rest of Qin Lie's group in the distance, "as long as you are willing to consume the blood of any of those people and use the Blood Refinement Art. If you do that, I'll let you see the second half of the Blood Codex. What do you think?"

"I can only make a decision after seeing the Blood Codex," Qin Lie said indifferently.

Jiang Zhuzhe finally lost his patience. He frowned, the look in his eyes becoming grim and harsh.

"Stupid brat! You're even more long-winded and blunt than my senior brother!"

The Heavenly Blood Web that covered the sky suddenly descended and began enveloping the Blood Progenitor.

Jiang Zhuzhe ultimately desired the body of the Blood Progenitor, the Bloodthirsty Dragon, and the first half of the Blood Codex.

He wasted so much time talking because he hoped to get Qin Lie to surrender willingly. If he managed to do so, he wouldn't have had to waste even more time and energy on severing the connection between Qin Lie and the Blood Progenitor.

If Jiang Zhuzhe managed to convince Qin Lie that his path was the right one, he might have even been able to turn him against Xue Li. Such an outcome would have dealt a severe blow to Xue Li's cause.

Unfortunately, Qin Lie was a lot more difficult to deal with than he had imagined.

Qin Lie had a stronger will than expected and hadn't fallen for any of his tempting.

He no longer wanted to waste time trying.

"Blood Dragon's Roar!"

A violent bloody dragon emerged from the forehead of the blood demon with an angry roar. With the Heavenly Blood Web binding the Blood Progenitor's body, the bloody dragon turned to attack Qin Lie.

Jiang Zhuzhe sought to break the connection between Qin Lie and the Blood Progenitor as soon as possible.

To that end, he needed to hurt both of them at the same time.

At that instant, dazzling godly chains of light emerged from inside the Demon Sealing Tombstone once more.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

These chains headed toward Jiang Zhuzhe.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone had just been standing by and watching as Qin Lie attacked the Jiang father-son duo. It didn’t do anything because Qin Lie was the attacker.

However, it took action the second Jiang Zhuzhe attacked Qin Lie.

It seemed unwilling to let that happen.

Chapter 546: Soul Pagoda

The Demon Sealing Tombstone moved to interfere with Jiang Zhuzhe's assault!

Seven prismatic lights descended from the sky like starry rivers from the Ninth Heaven, immediately pouring down onto Jiang Zhuzhe.

A restrictive power ten times stronger than that of the Heavenly Blood Web rippled through the sky as the seven godly lights struck Jiang Zhuzhe's body.

Before six of the seven spirits were sealed and their respective forbidden lands exploded into smithereens, a restrictive power kept high realm martial practitioners from entering the Graveyard of Gods.

—Only beings in the Netherpassage Realm and below were allowed inside.

However, after the colossal collapse from earlier tore that restrictive power apart...

Jiang Zhuzhe was able to enter.

Yet at this moment, the Demon Sealing Tombstone unleashed its sealing power, causing its seven prismatic godly lights to fall through the sky.

The restrictive power that seemed to have vanished... appeared once more!

“Boom!”

A vast, chaotic power gushed into Jiang Zhuzhe’s body like the flood of a broken dam. He instantly felt as if he had been bound by countless chains.

Jiang Zhuzhe suddenly found himself immobilized.

“Bang!”

The fiendish, ten-meter-tall blood demon exploded upon being targeted by the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

Shock flashed across Jiang Zhuzhe’s face the moment he noticed that the situation had gone awry, and he took out the second half of the Blood Codex once again.

The fiendish blood demon, which had been scattered in every direction like a shower of blood, flew toward the sanguine bone fragment in Jiang Zhuzhe’s hands like bloody butterflies.

The blood demon had exploded, but its bloody light hadn’t gone to waste. All of it soaked into the second half of the Blood Codex.

Jiang Zhuzhe's demonic eyes shone with a bloody light as his confident, dignified temperament slowly transformed.

His body gradually unleashed a tyrannical aura that enveloped the sky, continuously condensing and becoming more potent.

Jiang Zhuzhe grew stronger with each passing second!

"Something's wrong!" Qin Lie had a strange feeling, his expression growing incredibly serious.

In his eyes, Jiang Zhuzhe currently looked like he were slowly increasing his strength in preparation for something. It was as if he were undergoing some sort of metamorphosis.

"Haaaah! Haaaaaaah!"

Jiang Zhuzhe panted heavily as his tyrannical pupils glittered with bloody light.

His fingernails grew abnormally long and became as sharp as bloody blades. His body gradually became thin, and sanguine hair began sprouting from his flesh.

He seemed to be transforming into a beast!

"He's gathering the tyrannical aura inside of the blood!" Xue Moyan screamed. "He's using it to transform his own body into a

blood demon!”

Bloody lights that resembled sanguine bolts of lightning flashed across Jiang Zhuzhe while he unleashed a sharp, frenzied howl.

A terrifying aura surged skyward like mountains or seas accompanied by bloody rays of light!

“Prakprakprak!”

The restrictive power that bound Jiang Zhuzhe like invisible chains were instantly torn apart.

Jiang Zhuzhe regained his mobility.

The dazzling prismatic lights in the Demon Sealing Tombstone shook intensely, and a strange wave that resembled burning flames spread from its surface.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The eight god heads that had been searching for the ice spirit rushed back to the Land of Buried Gods from afar and swiftly gathered around the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The god heads received the summons of the tombstone and had no choice but to temporarily give up their search for the ice spirit. They rushed over to help the Demon Sealing Tombstone suppress

Jiang Zhuzhe.

“Thud!”

Xue Moyan fell from the sky, crashing into the ground with so much force that the impact left her dazed. Blood spilled from the corners of her lips.

The instant Jiang Zhuzhe began transforming, losing his rationality, the bloody ribbon of light he bound Xue Moyan was forcibly withdrawn.

The light binding Xue Moyan dissipated, and she fell from the sky. Having regained her ability to move, she immediately flew to Qin Lie’s side.

Arriving beside Qin Lie, Xue Moyan gritted her teeth, preparing herself to oppose Jiang Zhuzhe with him.

“Go back up to the edge of the frozen lake!” Qin Lie yelled gravely.

“Why?” Xue Moyan asked in surprise.

“Because even Jiang Tianxing has retreated from here...” Qin Lie wore a grim expression.

Qin Lie had noticed that Jiang Zhuzhe suddenly going insane had

taken Jiang Tianxing by surprise. Intense fear and panic were visible in his eyes.

Immediately after that, he snuck away, retreating from the frozen lake at the first opportunity he had.

Jiang Tianxing was Jiang Zhuzhe's son. Even he retreated the moment that Jiang Zhuzhe underwent his insane transformation.

"Why don't you leave too?" Xue Moyan asked softly.

"Both the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the body of the Blood Progenitor are here," he answered.

Xue Moyan looked at Jiang Zhuzhe for a long moment, secretly examining the violent energy coming from him before turning back to Qin Lie and nodding.

"Then I'll be heading up first."

This time, Xue Moyan kept her wits about her and didn't act recklessly.

Since she had already lost control of herself, angrily charging in and getting herself captured, she now kept calm and understood that she needed to retreat.

When Xue Moyan retreated, the expressions of Luo Chen and the

others at the edge of the frozen lake twisted with shock.

They had noticed that Jiang Zhuzhe looked strange. They also sensed a terrible killing intent permeating the blood energy that enveloped the Land of Buried Gods.

“Jiang Zhuzhe’s current aura is probably no weaker than Forefather Terminator or our sect master!” Pang Qianqian exclaimed softly, her face pale. Du Xiangyang and the others had awakened and helped her some time ago.

“No one could’ve imagined this fellow would be so terrifying,” Du Xiangyang said. “Judging from the current situation, he didn’t go crazy and unleash his true strength because of Qin Lie… he did that because of the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

All of them were talking amongst each other as they retreated in explosive bursts of speed.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men had hidden themselves long ago.

Jiang Tianxing had vanished as well. He was the first one to ascertain the situation, notice that everything had gone awry, and retreat.

Aside from the massive corpses of ancient elites, only a few beings remained in the Land of Buried Gods—

—Qin Lie, Jiang Zhuzhe, the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and the

bodies of both the Blood Progenitor and the Voodoo Progenitor.

Since Jiang Zhuzhe had gone insane, the only living being that could be considered human... was Qin Lie.

Another round of clashes between the Demon Sealing Tombstone and Jiang Zhuzhe began, causing a world-shaking commotion in the Land of Buried Gods. The first voodoo creature, which had quietly hidden itself within the body of the Voodoo Progenitor, had snuck away, seemingly afraid of showing its face. However, Qin Lie had a rough idea of where it was hiding.

The Blood Progenitor's body stood beside Qin Lie and didn't move an inch. No trace of soul fluctuations could be sensed on it.

At that moment, Qin Lie suddenly sat down in front of the Blood Progenitor's Body and began examining the multitude of exquisite, complicated bloody patterns on it.

Countless spirit diagrams covered the Blood Progenitor's body.

These mysterious, unfathomable spirit diagrams were the source of the miraculous connection between Qin Lie and the Blood Progenitor's body.

Jiang Zhuzhe had actually been mistaken. Qin Lie didn't not share even the slightest of mental connections with the Blood Progenitor's body. The only thing that connected the two of them were these spirit diagrams.

Qin Lie examined these spirit diagrams closely, trying to unravel their secrets.

The moment he began doing so, he entered a meditative state where he ignored the battle between Jiang Zhuzhe and the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the Viridian Blood Toad that was in hiding, and the ice spirit that might've been scheming from the shadows.

He simply looked at the spirit diagrams on the Blood Progenitor's body.

A while later, he raised his right hand to the Blood Progenitor's body and pointed his index finger at a spirit diagram engraved on it.

His finger softly pressed against it and moved, a wisp of mind consciousness entering the Blood Progenitor's Body and following his finger's movements.

All of a sudden, Qin Lie's eyes bulged as an expression of absolute shock covered his face. His finger began trembling as well!

His soul had actually gone out of control and flowed out of him through his finger!

"Fwoosh..."

Qin Lie's soul escaped from his Soul Lake and sea of consciousness, actually journeying into the Blood Progenitor's body in an instant.

Qin Lie could clearly sense his soul shoot through the translucent, gemlike blood vessels of the Blood Progenitor's body like a meteor. In an unimaginably strange way, he eventually reached the Blood Progenitor's head.

His True Soul had actually entered the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness!

This sea of consciousness resembled a boundless sea of blood. It felt like it could have been the real world and emanated a fiendish blood aura that reached the skies.

Qin Lie's True Soul quietly floated above this vast sea of blood, and he realized that countless dense bloody lights filled the interior of this ethereal space like a spider's web. These threads of bloody light stretched to every corner of this space that he could see, from the infinite sea of blood to the boundless sanguine sky.

It was at this moment Qin Lie finally understood that the spirit diagrams and ancient diagrams hadn't been engraved on just the Blood Progenitor's skin. The rest of his body—even the depths of his sea of consciousness—had been dominated by these diagrams!

An immeasurably large sanguine pagoda quietly sat on the surface of this vast sea of blood. It seemed to be made out of a mountain of bloody bones and looked as translucent as jade.

At the top of the bloody bone pagoda sat a sparkling bone fragment.

It was none other than the first volume of the Blood Codex!

This pagoda was the same color a blood jade. Every single one of its seven levels were made of translucent bloody bones. It resembled a lofty mountain that sat atop the sea of blood, emanating a terrible, fiendish blood aura capable of dominating the world.

All of a sudden, Qin Lie's True Soul shuddered uncontrollably.

A sealed memory floated from the depths of his True Soul and appeared within his mind.

"This is a soul pagoda!" Qin Lie thought.

This sanguine seven-level soul pagoda that sat within the Blood Progenitor's head seemed to contain unfathomable wonder.

His previously sealed memory told him that this was a soul pagoda, something that he clearly knew was extraordinary.

However, when he tried to delve deeper into what a soul pagoda was, he realized that he didn't actually know what kind of wonders one contained.

Chapter 547: Shatter

Qin Lie's True Soul entered the Blood Progenitor's mind.

While the Demon Sealing Tombstone worked to intimidate and suppress Jiang Zhuzhe, Qin Lie was examining the sanguine soul pagoda within the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness.

The seven-level soul pagoda quietly sat on the surface of the boundless sea of blood. It resembled a majestic mountain glowing with dazzling bloody light.

"A soul pagoda?"

Qin Lie's soul materialized into an indistinct, floating silhouette that slowly made its way to the top of the pagoda.

A bloody bone fragment could be seen floating atop the pagoda. The moment Qin Lie's soul flew up to it, the bloody threads of light spread throughout all of the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness lit up.

Suddenly, a powerful force of attraction erupted from the top of the soul pagoda, and Qin Lie's soul miraculously entered it like a fish diving into the sea.

A miraculous feeling instantly came over him, one in which he shared an unfathomable intimate connection with the Blood Progenitor's body. However, his soul energy was also depleting at a

ridiculously fast rate!

It was as if he had put on a precious blood treasure—he could unleash its might, but he would rapidly exhaust his blood energy in order to do so.

“Boom!”

The Blood Progenitor’s eyes, which had been closed all this time, opened, glittering with bloody light.

Within them… Qin Lie’s expression took shape.

With his soul inside of the Blood Progenitor’s soul pagoda, Qin Lie took control of the Blood Progenitor’s body and appeared to the world as the Blood Progenitor himself.

Just like how the Viridian Blood Toad, the first voodoo creature, controlled the Voodoo Progenitor’s body.

Qin Lie could feel his soul energy swiftly depleting and see his own body sitting in front of him, lifeless..

This made him feel incredibly strange.

He attempted to channel the Blood Spirit Art.

Seemingly endless wisps of blood energy, so refined and potent that they felt stifling, began surging out of the sea of blood within the Blood Progenitor's dantian.

"Fwoosh!"

Like a viscous river of blood, a lengthy bloody light suddenly wrapped around Qin Lie's actual body.

The river of blood flowed toward Song Tingyu and the others like a bloody rainbow. As it did, Qin Lie yelled in a hoarse voice.

"Watch over my body for me!"

All of them were stunned.

They stared at the Blood Progenitor with shock, anxiety, and confusion in their eyes.

They had no idea what in Spirit Realm was going on.

"The Blood Progenitor... he opened his eyes and spoke? H-he told us to watch over Qin Lie's body?" Pan Qianqian exclaimed, covering her mouth in shock. "What's wrong with Qin Lie?"

"The Blood Progenitor woke up?" Du Xiangyang trembled.

“No! That isn’t the Blood Progenitor!” Xue Moyan blurted out, shaking with realization. “That’s Qin Lie! His soul has taken control of the Blood Progenitor’s body!”

“What!?” Song Tingyu cried. “Qin Lie… is currently the Blood Progenitor?”

“It’s Qin Lie!” Xue Moyan said confidently. “Just like how the ice spirit took over Jia Yue and the Viridian Blood Toad controls the Voodoo Progenitor’s body, Qin Lie is inside of the Blood Progenitor’s body right now!”

“That’s correct,” Qin Lie exclaimed through the Blood Progenitor’s body. “I’m Qin Lie. Watch over my body!”

As he spoke, the bloody rainbow gently delivered Qin Lie’s actual body to them.

Still in a sitting position, it landed in front of Song Tingyu. Aside from the fact that no soul fluctuations could be sensed from it, it looked perfectly normal.

This astounded Song Tingyu, and she hurriedly pulled Qin Lie’s body into her embrace. She enveloped it with her shield of light and kept a close eye on it.

At the same time, the bewildered gazes of the rest of the group were locked on to the Blood Progenitor’s body.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Seven godly chains whipped through the air, repeatedly striking Jiang Zhuzhe like serpentine dragons or enormous pythons.

Having transformed into a demon, Jiang Zhuzhe executed exquisite, earth-shakingly powerful secret arts of Blood Fiend Sect, constantly struggling and retaliating against the godly chains of light. Bloody lights shot from his body and rocketed into the sky.

Countless runes poured down onto Jiang Zhuzhe’s body, continuously channeling the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s terrifying restrictive power onto him.

However, it wasn’t enough to silence and bind him. He seemed a lot stronger than any of the seven spirits had been.

“Boom boom boom! Bang bang bang!”

The Graveyard of Gods continued to violently collapse as the Demon Sealing Tombstone went on its sealing rampage. Terrifying spatial rifts could be seen in the depths of the dark, gray clouds in the sky. Beautiful flowing lights of spatial energy shone from inside of them.

Seven types of potent spirit energy surged out of the fissures that kept tearing open the earth. The icy mountains in the surroundings fell apart one after another.

It was clear to everyone that since six of the seven spirits had been sealed and the six forbidden lands continued to explode, the Graveyard of Gods would soon cease to exist.

“Bloodthirsty Dragon!”

Qin Lie’s roar suddenly resounded from deep within the cold, desolate plain. The Bloodthirsty Dragon suddenly materialized in a burst of fiendish blood aura.

Qin Lie, in the Blood Progenitor’s body, sat atop the bloody bone dragon’s head as it howled and charged at Jiang Zhuzhe, a turbulent sea of blood taking shape around it.

“Blublublub!”

Bloody lights quickly shot from that bubbling sea of blood, flying high up into the air. It seemed as if thousands of bloody dragons had charged out of a bloody abyss, biting and clawing toward Jiang Zhuzhe.

Inhabiting the Blood Progenitor’s body, Qin Lie pulled at the air with both hands and conjured countless bloody lights, sending them flying downward like cutting blades.

“Zzzt zzzt zzzt!”

The surroundings grew more and more volatile as starlight gushed from bloody spatial tears that Qin Lie suddenly created.

A terrifying, fiendish bloody claw as large as a mountain grasped at Jiang Zhuzhe..

The Demon Sealing Tombstone seized the opportunity to shoot multiple dazzling godly lights down at almost the exact same time.

Qin Lie and the tombstone seemed to have an unspoken mutual understanding, acting in tandem to kill Jiang Zhuzhe as soon as possible!

“Aaooooooooo!”

Jiang Zhuzhe released an inhuman howl, every bone in his body beginning to break with resounding cracks. A giant bloody shadow filled with insanity, bloodlust, and the desire to destroy and wreak havoc emerged from Jiang Zhuzhe’s body and roared toward the sky. It exuded an aura that made it seem capable of ravaging the world.

This towering blood demon was the culmination of a thousand years of malevolent emotions, all of which belonged to the countless people whose blood Jiang Zhuzhe had devoured.

This was the physical manifestation of Jiang Zhuzhe’s inner demon, the source of his recurring bouts of insanity. This was the evil blood spirit that could take over Jiang Zhuzhe.

Qin Lie’s attack and the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s sealing

power surged to heights reminiscent of gigantic mountains, striking this blood demon that gave off an evil aura that reached the sky.

The towering figure of the blood demon ceaselessly struggled, letting out roars that threatened to tear the sky and the earth to pieces. It used its terrifying, destructive blood aura to resist the attacks. Despite the combined efforts of Qin Lie and the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the blood demon would not be easily subdued.

“Jiang Zhuzhe truly is powerful,” Xue Moyan said with a grave expression. “His body hid that blood demon, the physical manifestation of the unyielding emotions of the countless victims that died by his hand. If Jiang Zhuzhe were to completely perfect that blood demon in the future, who knows how powerful he could become?”

“Phweeeeeeeeee!”

A sharp, earsplitting whistle resonated from the Viridian Blood Toad. In the next instant, the body of the Voodoo Progenitor, which had been hiding until now, charged toward the Demon Sealing Tombstone in the form of pitch black light surrounded by waves of toxic miasma.

In this critical moment, the Viridian Blood Toad attacked the Demon Sealing Tombstone it so desperately hated.

“Krik… kr-krak!”

At nearly the same time, a power of absolute frost also appeared in the Land of Buried Gods. A series of strange cracking noises accompanied streams of frost that surged into the open, threatening to freeze space itself.

The spatial rifts that Qin Lie had created using the body of the Blood Progenitor were instantly reduced to strange strips of ice, suspended in midair like thin, long icicles.

Another icy power, both white and vast, suddenly gathered toward the body of the Blood Progenitor.

Streams of frost invaded the sea of blood formed from the fiendish blood aura of the bloody bone dragon, forcing it to quickly freeze over.

The ice spirit attacked from the shadows as well!

Jiang Zhuzhe, the Viridian Blood Toad, and the ice spirit joined forces to resist Qin Lie and the Demon Sealing Tombstone. All three unleashed their power at the same time, intent on shattering the Demon Sealing Tombstone's restrictive power and its control over the Graveyard of Gods.

"Boom boom boom!"

Thunderclaps reverberated through the air, and numerous ruined palaces in the Land of Buried Gods crumbled in succession.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone was slowly losing its grasp on the Graveyard of Gods.

The Viridian Blood Toad unleashed another sharp whistle, using the Voodoo Progenitor's body to cover the Demon Sealing Tombstone's godly light with its ink-black toxic miasma.

The ice spirit's power of frost made the sea of blood beneath the Blood Progenitor's body freeze over and forced the Blood Spirit Art that Qin Lie executed to become extremely weak.

"Zzzt zzzt zzzt!"

Long and narrow spatial rifts appeared in the air one after another, visible cracks appearing all throughout the Graveyard of Gods like a breaking mirror.

Everyone could see that with this shocking battle, the space that made up the Graveyard of Gods was on the verge of shattering.

All of the martial practitioners who were still inside of the Graveyard of Gods feared for their lives. They looked to the sky, despair filling their eyes.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

The godly lights shooting from the Demon Sealing Tombstone suddenly changed their target, striking the bodies of the ancient elites that lay around it.

All of the enormous corpses touched by the godly lights instantly turned into streams of energy that the tombstone extracted. The corpses then dissolved into dust.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone was extracting the remaining energy inside all of the ancient corpses!

“Boom!”

A clap of sky-fracturing thunder rang resounded throughout the Graveyard of Gods.

And the space that couldn’t take much more in its shattering state began to explode without end.

Chapter 548: Escape of the God Corpses

The seven forbidden lands maintained the stability of the Graveyard of Gods. They were also closely connected to the seal that restricted entry..

When the six spirits were sealed away, their respective forbidden lands exploding one after another, the balance of the Graveyard of Gods had finally been broken. This independent space within Spirit Realm began shattering to pieces.

The earth shook, and icy mountains collapsed. Spatial rifts appeared in the sky one after another.

Destruction filled every corner of the Graveyard of Gods for a time.

Even the Demon Sealing Tombstone noticed that the situation couldn’t be reversed and withdrew its restrictive power, no longer protecting the Graveyard of Gods. It instead turned its attention to the immense amounts of energy that remained within the bodies of the ancient elites, collecting them for its own use.

“Aaooooooooo!”

The giant shadow of the blood demon emerged from Jiang Zhuzhe’s body and howled angrily at the sky. It continuously attacked the eight dazzling god heads that resembled suns.

The Voodoo Progenitor's body, which the Viridian Blood Toad occupied, charged toward the Demon Sealing Tombstone, enveloping it with its dense toxic miasma . However, the dazzling godly light shining from the surface of the tombstone quickly dispelled it.

The ice spirit gathered its power of absolute frost and aimed it at Qin Lie. It froze his skyrocketing blood aura and the thick sea of blood.

"Break!" Qin Lie shouted.

His True Soul sat within the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness, crazily channeling the Blood Spirit Art in order to instantly discharge the potent blood energy stored within the Blood Progenitor's body.

The sound of ice shattering resonated from the sea of blood beneath the bloody bone dragon. Thin wisps of sanguine smoke began to rise from the frozen sea of blood,

Bloody light sparkled in Qin Lie's eyes, and he suddenly looked at Song Tingyu's group off in the distance, pondering for a brief moment. Then he gathered blood energy and formed a bloody shield of light, sending it flying toward Song Tingyu and the others like an enormous bloody sphere.

The fiendish sanguine sphere of blood enveloped Song Tingyu, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang, Xie Jingxuan, and Pan Qianqian, protecting all of them.

“Whoosh whoosh!”

A gigantic spatial rift appeared in the sky and expanded, an intense suction force coming from within it. The countless ruined palaces in the Land of Buried Gods were drawn into it.

More and more spatial rifts opened up, reducing the Graveyard of Gods to a state in which it could collapse at any moment.

At the same time, the Demon Sealing Tombstone noticed that the situation had gone awry. It abruptly sent its godly lights downward, enveloping the bodies of ancient elites that lay scattered throughout the desolate plain beneath it.

A wondrous wave of energy resonated from the Demon Sealing Tombstone as if it were calling out to Qin Lie, who shivered as it passed through him.

Qin Lie understood that the Demon Sealing Tombstone was calling out to him.

He immediately realized that the Graveyard of Gods was on the verge of collapse... and that the Demon Sealing Tombstone sought to take him away from here.

The second this realization occurred to him, Qin Lie gestured toward Song Tingyu and the others, continuously making pulling motions with both hands.

“Come!” he exclaimed.

One sphere sparkling with bloody light suddenly became many, individually enveloping Song Tingyu and the others. They shot toward Qin Lie in the Blood Progenitor’s body, gathering by his side in a flash.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone and the eight god heads instantly formed their own shields of light, wrapping them around Qin Lie and the others.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone lifted Qin Lie’s group into the air as its seven godly lights combined to form a miraculous prismatic tunnel. It threw them into the tunnel, twisting into its depths until they vanished entirely.

After Qin Lie’s group entered the tunnel of light, the few bodies of ancient elites that remained were also drawn into the tunnel. They vanished as well.

As this happened, Jiang Zhuzhe, the Viridian Blood Toad controlling the Voodoo Progenitor’s body, and the ice spirit in Jia Yue’s body furiously assaulted the Demon Sealing Tombstone in an attempt to destroy the tunnel.

However, just as the three had gathered their strength and were about to blast the tunnel with everything they had, the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the god heads disappeared into the tunnel as well.

Before the space that made up the Graveyard of Gods could collapse altogether, Qin Lie's group, the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and the eight god heads escaped.

……

At the top of a mountain deep within the seas near the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

Eight headless god corpses, each of which were hundreds of meters tall, were restrained to the top of the top of the mountain, bright silver chains wrapped all around them.

Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners were gathered within a crystal palace built into the mountain's peak.

All of them were there to watch over the god corpses.

This place was extremely close to the island where Qin Lie's group had entered the Graveyard of Gods.

"Prak!"

All of a sudden, the god corpses that seemed inert as if they were hibernating, sprang to life, struggling intensely against their restraints.

The martial practitioners in the crystal palace watched this scene indifferently. They had long since become used to this.

They had been watching over these eight headless god corpses for some time now, and they knew that these god corpses would go crazy from time to time.

Every time they did, however, their frenzy would subside before long.

“The god corpses are struggling a little longer than usual this time.”

“Mn... I believe they should be coming to a stop any time now.”

“That should be the case.”

Everyone watching from inside of the crystal palace chatted amongst each other on and off.

“Almost eight months have passed. The Trial within the Graveyard of Gods is about to conclude. I wonder who has the upper hand right now.”

“Yu Men of our Ten Thousand Beast Mountain definitely does! Who else could it be? It may seem like a lot of people of the nine great Silver rank forces participated in the Trial, but in my

opinion, not a single person can go toe to toe with Yu Men!”

“Hmph! If we’re talking about who will get the last laugh, then that person will undoubtedly be our Celestial Artifact Sect’s young sect master! He’s intelligent, wise, and possesses a full collection of spirit artifacts. How would he not be able to survive in the Graveyard of Gods? He’d be like a fish to water!”

“Him? How can a guy who only knows how to rely on external strength possibly be a match for Yu Men?”

Whenever the martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain talked about the situation within the Graveyard of Gods, they would, without exception, argue with each other. It always happened, and whenever it did, neither side would back down even the tiniest bit.

“Pak!”

A crisp noise suddenly resounded from the chains wrapped around a god corpse.

“Pak pak pak!”

Even more noise continued to come from the god corpses, and they roared madly, causing the entire mountain to shake.

All of the martial practitioners who were chatting in a relaxed manner suddenly went pale and screamed in terror. They began

evacuating the crystal palace, escaping toward the surface of the sea with all of their might.

"The god corpses have escaped their restraints!"

"The god corpses are free!"
Amidst the din of the crystal palaces collapsing atop the mountain at the bottom of the sea, all of the martial practitioners responsible for keeping watch over the god corpses fled. They headed upward to the nearest island, the one that Qin Lie's group had been on before entering the Graveyard of Gods.

"Elder Bi! Elder Bi!" A soaking wet Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner shouted loudly, gasping for breath after rushing to the island. "The god corpses had struggled free from their shackles!"

"Elder Tumou! A huge change has occurred under the sea!" the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners screamed.

Bi You, who had previously appeared at Sea Moon Island, and another elder of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, were the ones in charge of overseeing this area. News of the enormous change that occurred under the sea greatly shocked them both.

Almost without hesitation, the two informed their respective sect masters as fast as they could.

Two hours later, the sect masters of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Feng Yi and Qi Yang, arrived at

this island at the same time. They immediately entered the sea upon arrival.

They arrived at the peak of the mountain at the bottom of the sea.

The crystal palace at the top of the mountain had already been reduced to countless crystal fragments, and the eight god corpses were originally chained to the mountain... had mysteriously vanished.

Feng Yi, Qi Yang, and the many elders that came with them sat down, their auras as vast and deep as the sea. They either took out sparkling spirit artifacts or spread their all-encompassing soul consciousness outward.

Using this mountain as a starting point, they searched for the auras of the god corpses.

This group of experts was silent for a time.

A while later, the elders of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain shook their heads, indicating that they had failed to find anything.

Feng Yi and Qi Yang ultimately stood up and looked each other in the eye. Both see graveness in the eyes of the other.

“A shocking change must have occurred in the Graveyard of

Gods!” Feng Yi exclaimed with a grim voice. “There’s no other way those eight god corpses could have escaped their restraints!”

Qi Yang nodded, saying, “Should we open the spatial passageway ahead of time?”

“It’s only been eight months!” Feng Yi said, his hesitation obvious. “There’s still some time left before the Trial ends. Furthermore, we don’t have people of the other seven forces to act as witnesses. If we open the spatial passageway now… won’t it be against convention?”

“I’m afraid that, if we wait any longer, we may not see a single person return alive.” Qi Yang had a rough, square face. He looked like an animal clad in human skin, and his eyes shone with an intimidating light. “I heard that everything Celestial Artifact Sect learned about the Graveyard of Gods was given to them by Jiang Zhuzhe, the remnant evil from Blood Fiend Sect! Did you people of Celestial Artifact Sect make a secret deal with him? If there are too many casualties in this Trial… if the elite martial practitioners of each force died due to your selfish motives… be prepared for face the wrath of every force!”

“My son is participating in the Trial as well. He’s inside the Graveyard of Gods too! What selfish motives could I possible harbor?” Feng Yi spoke with a calm expression on his face. After a moment of thought, he nodded and said, “Let’s open the spatial passageway first.”

An elderly man from Celestial Artifact Sect obeyed his command and prepared to open the passageway.

However, when he took out a jade token and prepared to unleash the tremendous amount of spatial energy it contained, the wrinkles on his face pressed together in shock.

“I can’t locate the spatial coordinates!” he yelled.

Panic and confusion filled everyone’s faces the moment he said this.

“Why can’t you find the spatial coordinates, Uncle Luo?” Feng Yi shuddered.

“Spatial coordinates don’t just disappear.” Luo Han, who was well-versed in the secrets of space, enjoyed a prominent status in Celestial Artifact Sect. Even Feng Yi had to treat him with respect. At this moment, he rubbed the jade token and carefully examined it from top to bottom.. “I can’t even sense the Graveyard of Gods...”

“You can’t even sense the Graveyard of Gods? W-what do you mean, Elder Luo?” Bi You asked respectfully.

Luo Han sighed. “The Graveyard of Gods had probably suffered a spatial collapse.”

His words made everyone turn pale with terror.

Everyone knew what a spatial collapse was.

Energy caused by a spatial collapse could make even a Fragmentation Realm or Nirvana Realm martial practitioner's body to shatter to pieces, extinguishing both their mind and soul, much less juniors in the Netherpassage Realm.

"My son... my son..." Feng Yi muttered to himself. An odd light continuously flashed through his eyes, his expression changing again and again.

After a while, Feng Yi gritted his teeth and yelled, "Send word to the other seven forces and clearly explain what happened the Graveyard of God. Tell them that the god corpses broke free of their restraints and escaped!"

"Brother Feng?" Qi Yang exclaimed in surprise.

"I can't hide this anymore. The changes in the Graveyard of Gods may lead to an even bigger incident in the future." Feng Yi took a deep breath. "We must inform all forces to get ready as soon as possible."

"What in Spirit Realm have you hidden from us?" Qi Yang snorted coldly.

"The Heaven Fighting Race created the Graveyard of Gods." Bitterness filled Feng Yi's face. "I'm afraid the the changes that occurred within the Graveyard of Gods may have attracted their

attention.”

“The Heaven Fighting Race? The most powerful ancient race that considers themselves gods?!” Qi Yang suddenly went pale.

Feng Yi sighed and nodded helplessly.

“The Graveyard of Gods isn’t a public space used to bury the bodies of ancient elites at all. It is a divine altar that the Heaven Fighting Race uses to trap the remains and soul fragments of ancient beings for the sole purpose of raising their next generation.”

Chapter 549: Ruling for a Hundred Thousand Years!

“The Graveyard of Gods is actually a divine altar for nurturing descendants of the Heaven Fighting Race?!” Qi Yang went pale. “Why have you kept this from everyone, Feng Yi!?”

“For the remains of those ancient elites, of course!” Feng Yi grimaced. “Wouldn’t you have done the same?”

The elders and other martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had been silently listening in on the conversation between Feng Yi and Qi Yang.

Upon hearing these words, solemn expressions appeared on their faces.

All of the people present held power in their respective force. They all knew about the Heaven Fighting Race of ancient times.

“The Heaven Fighting Race... a race that fights against the heavens...” Luo Han murmured softly, his expression becoming stern. “How could this be a divine altar of the Heaven Fighting Race?”

“In ancient times, the Heaven Fighting Race was the absolute strongest race. They ruled worlds, suppressed other races, and enslaved billions. They were undisputed overlords.” Qi Yang took a deep breath. “The Human Race, Giant Spirit Race, Asura Race,

and Wood Race... all of them lived in the shadow of the Heaven Fighting Race. They joined forces to overthrow the Heaven Fighting Race. Through countless bloody battles, and by paying an unfathomable price, they defeated this race that had conquered the world and prospered for a hundred thousand years. The Heaven Fighting Race was driven to the brink of extinction. The few survivors disappeared and fled amongst the vast stars."

Everyone from Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain continued to listen in somber silence.

"The Heaven Fighting Race suffered a horrible defeat. All other major races, including the Giant Spirit Race, the Asura Race, the Wood Race, and the races of the Nether Realm, sustained considerable losses as well. Many races that were smaller in number... died out." Qi Yang's brow was tightly furrowed as he continued speaking. "After losing too many powerful practitioners, many races declined. We humans relied on our vigorous reproductive capabilities to rebuild our population and birth one martial practitioner after another. Other races do not match us in that regard.

"The Giant Spirit Race, Asura Race, and Nether Races, all of which were once strong and numerous, were unable to do the same. Their physiologies make it difficult for them to reproduce. Even now, they are still in their long resting phases.

"In the end, we were the winners! Our power surpasses that of every other race! The human race, which wasn't even counted among the top ten powerful races before that ancient battle, became number one! That battle allowed us to reach the pinnacle

of strength and become the true rulers of the universe!

Qi Yang said all of this with a look of pride.

However, in the next moment, a somber expression came over him.

“Even if humanity currently rules the universe, we still remember the terror that is the Heaven Fighting Race. We have always been prepared for their inevitable retaliation.”

Qi Yang glared at Feng Yi and shouted, “If the Graveyard of Gods is a divine altar that the Heaven Fighting Race uses to train their next generation, its destruction will definitely attract their attention! What you’ve done may have caused the deaths of everyone in the Land of Chaos!”

“The members of the Heaven Fighting Race may not necessarily be paying attention to the Graveyard of Gods.” Feng Yi smiled uncertainly. “So many years have passed without them ever returning. They may have died out.”

“The strongest race of ancient times, the one that didn’t die even under the combined assault of every race and was only exiled…” Qi Yang smiled in cold disbelief. “You believe that such a powerful race that ruled the universe would die amongst the stars? Really?”

Feng Yi was silent.

After some time, he nodded and said, “Since the event has already occurred… speaking of other things is already pointless. We’ll send word immediately and explain the situation.”

“What deal did you make with Jiang Zhuzhe? I think you should tell everyone about it!” Qi Yang snorted. “Jiang Zhuzhe turned the Land of Chaos upside down a thousand years ago. For you to actually interact with him… you truly are stupid!”

“You don’t get to meddle in the affairs of our Celestial Artifact Sect, Qi Yang.” Feng Yi snorted. “Just mind your Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.”

“I hope members of the Heaven Fighting Race weren’t paying attention to the Graveyard of Gods. If they were… and they end up coming to investigate…” Qi Yang shook his head gravely.

“Sect master!” Bi You exclaimed. “You said that the Heaven Fighting Race kept the remains of ancient elites within the Graveyard of Gods as a sort of training for their descendants?”

Feng Yi nodded. “According to the information I obtained, that should be the case.”

“Then why did the Graveyard of Gods experience a spatial collapse? Could a descendant of the Heaven Fighting Race have entered?” Bi You asked, voicing his suspicions.

“Unlikely.” Feng Yi frowned. “Maybe something else happened.

We'll have to wait for the Trial participants to exit the Graveyard of Gods and then ask them.

"Send word to the other great Silver rank forces!" Qi Yang urged.

And Feng Yi did.

Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain sent word to the seven other Silver rank forces. Messages journeyed to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, Heavenly Calamity Continent, Heavenly Wither Continent, and Heavenly Silence Continent, directly into the hands of other forces.

The other seven forces received these messages and learned about the great change that occurred in the Graveyard of Gods.

The other Silver rank forces reacted immediately, sending martial practitioners directly to the Heavenly Fissure Continent to demand an explanation from Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

……

Desolate islands sat on the surface of one of the bright blue seas south of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. There was no soul presence of highly intelligent beings on any of these islands. Only bugs and sea birds could be found here.

All of a sudden, in the clear sky above these desolate islands, thin

cracks came into existence.

Resembling a piece of ice that had been struck by a hammer, these cracks formed in empty space and expanded.

The cracks slowly grew larger and larger, and from deep within them, a resounding boom echoed throughout the sky.

The cracks started bursting at the seams, light streaming from within. One could feel the cold, desolate presence of spatial energy coming from inside of them.

These cracks were spatial rifts. One particularly small, red one exuded an aura of blood. This aura of blood was initially extremely weak, but it quickly grew stronger and more intense.

“Bang!”

All of a sudden, that small rift broke apart! A beam of bloody light wrapped in dense bloody energy shot out of it.

“Boom!”

That beam of bloody light crashed into the surface of the water between the islands with a resounding boom, creating enormous tidal waves that flowed outward from the point of impact.

Almost at the same exact time, blinding lights poured from the

other spatial rifts in the air.

Enormous heads hurtled from the cracks, spinning through the air. They either fell into the sea or crash-landed on the islands, creating gigantic craters.

A tombstone and giant corpses wrapped in chains emerged from the rifts as well, shining with dazzling light.

They also fell into the sea and onto the islands.

This desolate part of the sea suddenly started to boil.

Bright beams of light shout of the sea, and explosions resounded from just below its surface.

A long while later, once all of the corpses fell into the sea or landed on the islands, the spatial rifts that came into existence in the sky above... disappeared.

The clear blue sky returned to its original appearance, and the noise under the sea calmed down as time went on.

At the beach of a particular island, people emerged from the water and climbed onto the sand, their faces pale. Among their number were Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Luo Chen, Pan Qianqian, and further away from them, Gao Yu. They collapsed on the beach, dazed looks in their eyes.

“Where’s Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang shouted.

“I have him!” Song Tingyu exclaimed, her arms wrapped around Qin Lie’s body. Her dress was soaked through and through, revealing her beautiful, shapely body.

“No, not that body,” Du Xiangyang explained. “I meant the one he possessed. The body of the Blood Progenitor!”

“I don’t see it.” Pan Qianqian looked around. “I only remember him lifting us from the bottom of the ocean using the Blood Progenitor’s power. It seems like he’s still down there... his soul seems very weak...”

“That’s bad!” Du Xiangyang cried, anxiety taking over his face. “If martial practitioners with low realms or weak souls possess the body of a stronger being, they’ll quickly consume their soul energy whenever they use that being’s power. He probably used all of his soul energy!”

“I’ll go find him!” Song Tingyu laid Qin Lie’s body down on the beach, then turned to rush into the sea.

She was determined to get him back.

“No need,” Xue Moyan’s voice rang out. “I got him.”

Everyone turned in the direction Xue Moyan's voice had come from and saw her struggling to walk up the beach, the body of the Blood Progenitor in tow.

Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and the others saw her locked brow and hurried over to help.

"So heavy!" Luo Chen shouted.

"It's like trying to move a mountain!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed in astonishment.

With everyone gritting their teeth and working together, they carried the Blood Progenitor's body by its arms, legs, and waist. By the time they managed to get it onto the beach, they collapsed in a heap.

"The Blood Progenitor was an expert of ancient times," Xue Moyan said in her sweaty state. "His body probably weighs tens of thousands of kilograms. Were it not for the water's natural buoyancy and the fact that Qin Lie was conscious earlier, I wouldn't have been able to carry him by myself."

At this time, Song Tingyu reached out with her soul consciousness, trying to examine the body of the Blood Progenitor and find out how Qin Lie was faring.

Without warning, a dense fiendish blood aura exploded from the Blood Progenitor's body. Song Tingyu's hand was on its forehead

and had just formed a wisp of soul consciousness when it forced her back.

Even her body was pushed away.

“You don’t cultivate the Blood Spirit Art, so your consciousness cannot enter the body,” Xue Moyan explained. “Qin Lie is fine. He just used up too much soul energy. He should be able to come out after he spends some time recovering.”

“Where are we?” Xie Jingxuan asked.

Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Pan Qianqian all took out disc-shaped spirit artifacts and used them to find out their position.

After a while, Du Xiangyang reported to the group. “We are south of the Heavenly Calamity Continent... not far from Heavenly Slaughter Continent. Aside from these islands, this region is empty.”

“What do we do now?” Luo Chen asked, his brow furrowed. “I see that, aside from the Demon Sealing Tombstone and the eight god heads, even the remains of numerous ancient elites from the Land of Buried Gods came with us.”

“We wait,” Du Xiangyang said. “We wait for Qin Lie to recover and come back. Only he knows what happened. He’s also the only one that can communicate with the Demon Sealing Tombstone.”

Everyone agreed with him.

Chapter 550: Return

Eight people lay on the beach of a lone island. Breathing in salty, yet refreshing air, they rejoiced at their close escape from disaster, celebrating their new lease on life.

Within the seven-level soul pagoda in the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness, Qin Lie's True Soul was almost completely empty of soul energy.

Time passed by slowly.

Qin Lie stopped moving and did not attempt to control the Blood Progenitor's body. He stayed, unmoving, for an interminable amount of time, recovering his soul energy bit by bit.

Before even thinking about leaving the Blood Progenitor's body and returning to his own, he waited until he regained some soul energy.

"Fwoosh..."

The moment the thought appeared in his mind, Qin Lie's True Soul abruptly floated away from the soul pagoda as an indistinct bloody figure. It flowed along the Blood Progenitor's translucent blood vessels and emerged from the space between his eyebrows.

Hidden deep within the space between Qin Lie's own eyebrows, the Soul Suppressing Orb suddenly generated a powerful vacuum.

A strong summons resonated from his Soul Lake.

His True Soul instantly entered the sea of consciousness of his actual body, returning to his Soul Lake.

A loud rumble echoed throughout Qin Lie's mind, and he suddenly opened his eyes. They shone with a strange light.

"You're awake?" Song Tingyu cried in surprise.

She hadn't been able to get close to the Blood Progenitor's body, so she could only watch over Qin Lie's body. The second he opened his eyes, she noticed.

Her right hand had been grasping Qin Lie's left hand this entire time. She could feel the strong, powerful beat of his heart.

Upon hearing her cry out in surprise, everyone nearby looked over to them.

Gao Yu, who sat by himself far from the others, also subconsciously looked in that direction.

"Mn. I'm fine now. How is everyone else?" Qin Lie tried to sit up, but he quickly discovered that he was out of soul energy.

His soul didn't have the strength to even control his own body.

“You almost depleted all of your soul energy. For the time being, it would be wise not to make any careless movements. You need time to recuperate.” As she spoke, Song Tingyu took out multiple soul crystals and gave them to Qin Lie. “Use these soul crystals to replenish your power as soon as possible.”

“Mn.” Qin Lie didn’t even try pretending he was fine. Gripping a soul crystal, he immediately released his mind consciousness and extracted the soul energy inside of it.

At the other end of their group, Xue Moyan was staring at the Blood Progenitor’s body. She discovered that the potent blood energy that it originally radiated had instantly vanished. It was as if the Blood Progenitor had fallen asleep as soon as Qin Lie’s soul left it.

She examined the body with her soul consciousness and discovered that no trace of blood energy remained within.

The Blood Progenitor’s body seemed to possess some kind of strange, secret way to withdraw and conceal its aura, one that allowed it to avoid the soul perception of experts.

This discovery left Xue Moyan inwardly surprised.

“All of you may relax and recover,” Qin Lie said as he replenished his soul energy using the soul crystals. He made sure to remember to inform them of the situation. “When I was still inside of the Blood Progenitor’s body, I used the his power to scan the area. I didn’t find any sign of activity belonging to intelligent beings

within two hundred and fifty kilometers of this region of the sea. We can take it easy."

"This is a remote, desolate area. Of course they wouldn't be any experts around," Du Xiangyang interjected. Then his face took on a serious expression as he said, "Qin Lie. A lot of bodies of ancient elites escaped the Graveyard of Gods with us, right?"

"That's right," Qin Lie answered.

"And they're..." Du Xiangyang started speaking, but he stopped. He looked like he really wanted to say something.

Realizing what Du Xiangyang was getting at, Luo Chen, Xie Jingxuan, and Pan Qianqian grew excited. Their eyes sparkled with bright light.

"All of the bodies that made the trip with us are scattered across these islands and throughout this region of the sea. Searching for them will take time." Qin Lie sighed, then continued, "I know you guys plan on looking for them, but it'd be best for us to wait until I find the Demon Sealing Tombstone and make sense of the situation."

"O-of course..." Du Xiangyang chuckled foolishly.

At this point, all of them knew that the Graveyard of Gods was completely gone. This Trial would also end in a very strange fashion...

The deadline of the Trial hadn't arrived yet, but almost all of the participants were dead since the Graveyard of Gods had collapsed. Qin Lie's group hadn't returned using normal means either. In light of all of this, how would the outcome of the Trial be determined?

In Du Xiangyang's opinion, the fates of Feng Yiyou and Yu Men weren't auspicious. In that case, they would be the only martial practitioners of the nine great Silver rank forces who participated in the Trial and succeeded in surviving.

The most valuable precious treasures of the Graveyard of Gods were undoubtedly the Pure Soul Springs, the soul crystals, the Spring of Life, and the remains of ancient elites.

Qin Lie had taken all of the Pure Soul Springs, and the other had obtained large amounts of soul crystals. It could be said that the rest of them benefited from just associating with him.

If they were able to obtain one or two bodies of ancient elites and bring them back to their sects, or even use them to improve their own cultivation, they would be considered the ones who profited the most.

At this moment, the numerous bodies of ancient elites scattered across the islands and deep within the sea presented them with an opportunity that only came around once in a blue moon.

They naturally wouldn't want to miss out on such an

opportunity.

“Think about how the ringers of Black Voodoo Cult met their ends!”

Gao Yu, who was sitting a distance away from everyone else, unexpectedly spoke up.

“Recklessly approaching those ancient remains without the proper way to obtain them is suicide!”

The moment he said this, everyone’s excited eyes abruptly froze over.

Puzzled looks appeared on the faces of Du Xiangyang and the others. Recalling the horrific ends of Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli, all of them calmed down, growing increasingly wary.

“Let us think about our next move after I am able to move again,” Qin Lie said with a frown.

With that, everyone went silent and sat down on the beach in spots of their choosing. All of them closed their eyes and kept quiet.

After a moment of thought, Qin Lie spoke up again, a serious expression on his face.

“For now... I hope that none of you make contact with anyone and expose our location.”

He threw a heavy glance at Pan Qianqian.

Pan Qianqian currently gripped a translucent, fist-sized blue gemstone with her petite hands. Her bright eyes sparkled with a strange light. She seemed to be preparing to contact someone.

The Heavenly Slaughter Continent happened to be near the islands they were currently at. Illusory Demon Sect resided in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. This meant that, of the nine great Silver rank forces, they were closest to Illusory Demon Sect.

The transmission stone that Pan Qianqian held in her hand sparkled with a bright, blue light. This meant that she could use this gemstone to communicate with her sect and inform them of the current situation.

She seemed prepared to do just that.

After being scolded by Qin Lie, Pan Qianqian stuck out her tongue and reluctantly put away the transmission stone. She then pouted and muttered in a soft voice. “Fine, I won’t use the transmission stone. You know, our sect master is actually a good person. She would never...”

“Qianqian, be quiet!” Xue Moyan chastised her junior sister.

Pan Qianqian finally fell silent.

Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang glanced at each other, a cold layer of sweat covering their bodies.

In this region of the sea, the three great families were the closest to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. The next closest force was Illusory Demon Sect.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone and the remains of ancient elites, which had escaped from the Graveyard of Gods, were here. This place could be considered full of many precious treasures!

If Pan Qianqian leaked this information, there was no telling if Illusory Demon Sect would send out all of their experts to snatch the bodies of these ancient elites for themselves.

In that case, not only would Qin Lie's group not get anything, everyone aside from Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian might be eliminated to keep this a secret!

"Senior Sister Xue. Control your junior sister. We do not wish for a calamity to befall us." Qin Lie frowned slightly.

A look of shock appeared on Pan Qianqian's face, then she suddenly felt a rush of humiliation flood over her.

"What do you mean by that, Big Brother Qin?" she complained. "Do you really think I'd do anything to harm everyone? Don't you

think I know that, if it weren't for you, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang's protection, I wouldn't have even survived the whistling attack of the Viridian Blood Toad? If it weren't for everyone's care, I would have died long ago. Do you really think I don't understand that?"

"Then why are you still preparing to send a message to your sect?" Du Xiangyang asked.

"I-I just want to find someone to help us. Our sect master isn't what you think she is. She'd never be so shameless." Pan Qianqian gritted her teeth. "Everyone is severely wounded, and the Graveyard of Gods just collapsed. I'm afraid that my family is worried for me, and I just want to borrow the sect's strength to achieve everyone's objectives, that's all. I-I really don't intend to harm anyone."

"Naive!" Gao Yu's icy voice rang out from afar.

Du Xiangyang laughed bitterly and echoed Gao Yu's sentiment. "Your thoughts are idealistic, but reality definitely won't go the way you think it will. The second you reveal this to the world, every treasure in this place will be taken by Illusory Demon Sect. As for the rest of us... heh! The best case scenario is that we don't die. There is no way we'll be getting anything else out of such a deal."

"All of us dying is the most likely scenario." Luo Chen echoed.

"Sister Xue, tell them that our Illusory Demon Sect isn't like

that!” Pan Qianqian began to panic.

“Qianqian, give me the transmission stone. I’ll hold on to it for now.” Xue Moyan said gravely, extending a hand.

“Sister... Sister Xue?” Pan Qianqian exclaimed in disbelief. “Even you don’t trust me?”

“I believe in our sect master... and I believe in you as well. But I do not believe some of the people in our own sect!” Xue Moyan said seriously.

“Either she gives us the transmission stone, or we capture her. What do you guys think?” Du Xiangyang’s face darkened.

Luo Chen, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Gao Yu all nodded in agreement.

Everyone knew that their location definitely couldn’t be revealed to the outside world yet.

They had no intention of allowing Pan Qianqian’s naivety kill them. They had no choice but to treat this seriously.

This was the Land of Chaos. Martial practitioners who were active here were no longer just in the Netherpassage Realm. There were countless Fulfillment Realm, Fragmentation Realm, Nirvana Realm, and even Imperishable Realm experts. If Pan Qianqian had drew an Illusory Demon Sect Fragmentation Realm expert to them

and that person harbored ill intent in their heart... they would be capable of eliminating everyone here!

They could not take this risk!

“I... I...” Pan Qianqian seemed to notice the severity of the situation. Under everyone’s serious gazed, she panicked and finally told the truth. “I... I actually sent a transmission just now, but it really was just one message! Just one!”

She hurriedly pushed the transmission stone into Xue Moyan’s hands and retreated. Fear and panic filled her face.

“Who did you send this transmission to?!” Xue Moyan’s expression abruptly changed.

The moment she held the transmission stone in her hands, she immediately discovered the root of the problem. A message had indeed been transmitted just now.

Pan Qianqian knew that Xue Moyan would discover this the second the transmission stone fell into her hands. With no way to hide this, she told everyone the truth.

Everyone’s expressions changed as they stared at Pan Qianqian with gazes that made it seem as if they wanted to swallow her whole.

“She did it on purpose.” Song Tingyu sighed.

Qin Lie nodded and narrowed his eyes, saying nothing. He noticed that Pan Qianqian's eyes were devoid of actual panic.

Pan Qianqian clearly knew exactly how serious the situation could become!

"You didn't send a message to Illusory Demon Sect, but to your... to your uncle, Pan Tong, am I right?" Realization suddenly dawned on Xue Moyan's petite face, and she cried, "I remember... your uncle should be near this region of the sea. You sent the message to him, didn't you?"

Pan Qianqian screamed and retreated into the distance.

She proved their assumptions with her own actions.

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Chapter 551: Consequences

Profound disappointment filled Xue Moyan's eyes. Pan Qianqian's betrayal left her so stunned that she couldn't react in time.

Out of all of the Illusory Demon Sect martial practitioners, Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian were the only ones to leave the Graveyard of Gods alive. She treated Pan Qianqian like her flesh and blood sister and had gone to great lengths to protect her.

She didn't expect that, just when all of them had managed to leave the Graveyard of Gods and escape danger, Pan Qianqian would harbor ill intent in her heart and be up to no good.

Xue Moyan found this difficult to process.

Qin Lie was still sitting in the sand, replenishing his soul energy with the soul crystals. His eyes held no light, but his expression was calm.

He cast a distant glance at Gao Yu.

Before Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, or anyone else could act, Gao Yu instantly vanished like an otherworldly ghost.

Only after Gao Yu moved into action did the others ready themselves to do something.

“It’s fine,” Qin Lie said loudly. “Let Gao Yu chase Pan Qianqian. He should be able to capture her.”

Du Xiangyang and the others came to an abrupt stop.

Everyone’s gazes suddenly fell upon Xue Moyan.

Pan Qianqian belonged to Illusory Demon Sect… and so did she.

“I didn’t think Qianqian would do this.” Xue Moyan sighed quietly. She bowed her head, clearly downcast with emotion.

“Miss Xue… who is Pan Tong?” Du Xiangyang calmed down. He knew that their situation would probably worsen later on and he wanted to understand why as soon as possible.

“Pan Tong is Qianqian’s uncle. He isn’t a member of Illusory Demon Sect,” Xue Moyan explained, her brow furrowed in thought. “The Pan Family, her family, is a Copper vassal force of Illusory Demon Sect.”

“Her family recommended that she join Illusory Demon Sect to cultivate,” she continued. “The region that they oversee just happens to be near here. Qianqian… she trusts her uncle quite a bit. Her uncle used his connections and bribes in the form of large amounts of spirit stones and spirit materials to help her join Illusory Demon Sect. Qianqian told me that her family spent so many spirit stones and spirit materials to facilitate her joining the sect that it affected the family’s development. She’s blamed herself

for this for a long time…”

“So she blames herself for not being able to help her family, huh? She probably thinks she owes them everything,” Qin Lie spoke up with a frown, taking control of the conversation. “Right after escaping the Graveyard of Gods, we just happened to land in a region of the sea near the Pan Family. This presented her with a sudden opportunity to pay her family back, didn’t it?”

“That’s probably the case.” Xue Moyan sighed softly. “Qianqian probably did this because she wants the Pan Family to find a few bodies of ancient elites. That would then repay everything that her family did for her. She… she probably doesn’t even want to hurt us…”

Even now, Xue Moyan believed in Pan Qianqian. She refused to believe that Pan Qianqian was so ruthless.

“Regardless of whether or not she intended to hurt us, the Pan Family will still do what they need to once they arrive,” Qin Lie said in a grave tone, waving his hands. “The Graveyard of Gods has collapsed. To the outside world, we may already be considered long dead. Once the people of the Pan Family come, the only way they can seize the remains of the ancient elites we brought with us and ensure that news of them isn’t leaked is…”

“…if they silence us,” Luo Chen finished.

Everyone’s expressions turned grim.

“Once we’re dead, no one will know that the Pan Family did anything. The moment they obtain these remains, they’ll be able to grow rapidly even after leaving the Land of Chaos in the future.” Qin Lie paused for a moment. “Recover as fast as you can and prepare to welcome the Pan Family.”

“As long as Gao Yu captures Pan Qianqian, we may not necessarily have no chance at negotiating,” Luo Chen said coldly. “If they really end up wanting to kill us for the remains, we’ll threaten to kill her!”

“And if they choose to sacrifice Pan Qianqian?” Qin Lie said, narrowing his eyes.

A look of alarm came over Luo Chen.

Song Tingyu sighed. “The remains of these ancient elites are beyond comparable to Pan Qianqian. Any patriarch with the tiniest bit of intelligence would know what choice to make.”

Everyone suddenly fell silent.

Qin Lie did not say anything else. After taking a deep breath, he forcefully purged all distractions from his mind and focused on absorbing the power within the soul crystals to replenish his soul energy.

The rest of the group wasn’t stupid either. They quickly came to terms with the situation and gripped either soul crystals or spirit

stones in their hands. All of them did their best to recover as quickly as possible.

They were in a desolate place. There were no spirits birds to tame and ride, no flying spirit artifacts to use, or even a single boat to set sail with.

They were just in the Netherpassage Realm and they didn't have the ability to fly. Without boats, spirit birds, or flying spirit artifacts, they were stuck here.

This meant they had no way to avoid the Pan Family and could only wait for them to arrive.

Only by recovering their strength as quickly as possible, getting as close to peak condition as possible, would they have a chance to survive when the Pan Family arrived.

One hour later, Gao Yu returned to the rest of the group, an eerie expression on his face. Dark, evil light burned deep within his icy pupils as he walked on seawater.

Clusters of vile souls and wraiths surrounded Pan Qianqian like grayish-black clouds. They floated in front Gao Yu as he slowly brought her to the others.

This outcome didn't surprise anyone.

Previously, in the Graveyard of Gods, Pan Qianqian had suffered

because of the Viridian Blood Toad's whistling attack and bled out of the seven orifices of her head. She had yet to recover from her grievous wounds. In comparison, Gao Yu's true strength was unfathomable. No one had a reason to underestimate him.

It would be far stranger if Pan Qianqian managed to elude Gao Yu's pursuit in a desolate place like this that didn't have any cover to hide in or any spirit birds and boats to escape on.

"Bang!"

The clusters of vile souls and wraiths flung Pan Qianqian before the others. She hit the sand roughly, the vile souls and wraiths transforming into pitch black ribbons that tightly wrapped around her body.

Pan Qianqian couldn't move a muscle.

After tossing her to the ground, Gao Yu moved to a spot nearby and sat down. His icy eyes shone with a freezing light.

Everyone was staring at Pan Qianqian silently.

Everyone except Xue Moyan.

"Why?" she asked. The pain in her voice rang clear.

"I... I owe my uncle too much. My family... it almost fell to ruin

in one stroke…" Pan Qianqian bowed her head. She didn't have the courage to face the others. Her voice then became a soft whisper. "I really didn't mean to hurt everyone, I swear! That's the last thing I would want! I… I just thought that the Pan Family would be able to survive if they had a few bodies of ancient elites…"

Du Xiangyang shook his head. "She isn't stupid. She knew exactly what would happen the second she leaked news of our survival and the bodies of the ancient elites."

He didn't believe Pan Qianqian for one second.

"Don't worry!" Pan Qianqian said, suddenly lifting her head to look at them. "I'll convince uncle to just imprison all of you! I definitely won't let him hurt you. Once some time has passed, the dust has settled, and the Pan Family has left this region of the sea, I'll have uncle let you go. Please! Just trust me!"

"We might as well kill her now," Gao Yu said indifferently. "She's useless."

Pan Qianqian screamed in fear. "I… I…"

Xue Moyan's face twisted in sorrow.

"I agree," Luo Chen said with a snort.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan sighed, saying nothing.

“She did betray us.” Du Xiangyang shook his head.

He only stated the fact of the matter, not his opinion on it.

“Qin Lie…” Xue Moyan looked at him.

The others looked at him as well.

“Let’s keep her around for now,” Qin Lie said.

Relief appeared on Xue Moyan’s face. Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen, on the other hand, shook their heads in disappointment.

Qin Lie wore an indifferent expression as he continued, “We’ll wait for the Pan Family to arrive. If we kill her, we should kill her in front of her uncle.”

The moment he said this, everyone but Xue Moyan grew lively.

“Big Brother Qin!” Pan Qianqian screamed. “I-I’m really not trying to hurt any of you! I swear!”

“You should consider the consequences of the actions you take!” Qin Lie said cruelly.

“This is how it should be!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed.

Luo Chen nodded in approval.

“Keep her restrained, Gao Yu. I don’t want to hear another word out of her mouth.” Qin Lie closed his eyes, pretending not to be aware of Xue Moyan’s pleading eyes.

Gao Yu secretly channeled the Nine Hell Wandering Soul Record, and sphere-shaped souls suddenly shot into Pan Qianqian’s mouth.

Pan Qianqian immediately lost her ability to speak.

The crowd fell silent and continued to focus on restoring their spirit and soul energies. They no longer discussed Pan Qianqian.

Xue Moyan let out a soft sigh, helplessly shaking her head at Pan Qianqian to indicate that she had done all she could.

Pan Qianqian’s heart sank to rock bottom. She couldn’t help but feel a deep sense of regret for being so selfish.

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Three purple, crystalline war chariots sailed above the clouds, riding the wind like sailboats. A large flag with the word “Pan” embroidered into it was strung to the top of each war chariot, dancing in the wind.

Pan Tong, the Pan Family patriarch, stood in the leading war chariot. He had a long, well-groomed beard and wore a silver robe. His hands were clasped behind his back, his eyes shining with excitement.

Countless Pan Family experts stood by his side, rubbing their hands greedily.

“Countless bodies of ancient elites were scattered in a region of the sea under our jurisdiction! The gods are with us!”

“A golden opportunity has finally presented itself to our family! The gods did not let us down!”

“Hehe, the patriarch truly is a man of formidable foresight. In the past, he stood his ground against the masses and spent a huge amount of resources to send Qianqian to Illusory Demon Sect. Now, that cost has truly resulted in a boon of unimaginable profit!”

The group was in the midst of heated discussion.

Pan Tong smiled slightly and swept a glance across all the family elders, saying, “Back then, I had to go everywhere to give out bribes of tremendous amounts of spirit stones and spirit materials so that Qianqian would have the chance to join Illusory Demon Sect. Heh... all of you originally believed that it wasn’t worth the investment and thought that the spent spirit stones and spirit materials would not yield the expected results. What do you say now?”

Under his gaze, those elders just laughed dryly, embarrassment on their faces.

Pan Tong grew serious, sternly saying, “Even if Qianqian hadn’t sent us this transmission, our investment has long since paid for itself!”

He paused for a moment, then continued, “If Qianqian hadn’t joined Illusory Demon Sect, becoming the sect master’s disciple no less, could our Pan Family have stood firmly in this region? How long have other forces planned to get their hands on us? Why have they never acted in all these years or raised a hand against us?

“They’ve left us alone because Qianqian, a member of our Pan Family, is the disciple of Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master! They’re afraid of Illusory Demon Sect, so they don’t dare to touch us!”

Everyone nodded, inwardly agreeing.

“Heh! I didn’t spend all that effort to send Qianqian to Illusory Demon Sect because of how much I love her. I only did that so that she would help our family!” Pan Tong snorted. “It’s ridiculous that you short-sighted fools thought I did so many things just because I let familial ties go to my head! You are all so ignorant and stupid!”

“It isn’t too late for us to understand patriarch’s brilliance and how terrifying his foresight is,” the Pan Family elders said in praise. “Haha… it definitely isn’t too late.”

Pan Tong smiled, speaking with complete confidence.

“Just you watch! In my hands, our Pan Family will definitely rise to never-before-seen heights! This is the golden opportunity our family has always waited for. We absolutely must not miss it!”

Chapter 552: Following Him Like a Shadow

“Crack!”

Another glowing soul crystal crumbled to powder in Qin Lie’s grasp.

Without even opening his eyes, Qin Lie’s spatial ring lit up as he willed two more soul crystals into his hands.

He continued to focus on extracting soul energy from the soul crystals.

After half a day of rest and the consumption of three soul crystals, the soul energy that Qin Lie previously used up was quickly replenished.

The power of the soul was a mental one. It meant releasing one’s consciousness, connecting it to one’s spirit sea, predicting the actions of an opponent, and feeling the miniscule fluctuations of spirit energy. All of this required soul energy.

The souls of strong individuals, when concentrated to the very limit, had the terrifying power to destroy mountains and reduce metal to dust.

Shapeless, colorless soul energy barely visible to the naked eye emerged from one of the soul crystals, slowly gathering at Qin Lie’s True Soul.

When Qin Lie's True Soul emerged from the body of the Blood Progenitor and returned to his Soul Lake, it had been blurry and indistinct.

Having used up most of his soul energy, Qin Lie's True Soul resembled a transparent shadow even within his Soul Lake.

A transparent True Soul signified that the soul energy within a person was nearly depleted. Such a soul wouldn't be able to even control that person's body.

As threads of soul energy gathered at Qin Lie's True Soul, it gradually grew more distinct like a ghost manifesting a physical body.

As his True Soul became clearer and more defined, Qin Lie's tired mind recovered. His withered, pale complexion returned to normal.

He regained control of his body, and his perception of the world around him slowly returned.

"Hoo..."

Qin Lie let out a long breath and finally opened his eyes. They had regained their usual liveliness.

After spending an entire day and night turning four soul crystals to dust, he recovered eighty percent of his soul energy.

The sun's burning light shone through the bright blue sky hit the surface of the sea. Like the scales of a fish, the water shimmered with golden light.

Since he had been sitting on the beach for a long time, Qin Lie stretched his neck and shoulders as he got to his feet.

The sun had just began to rise, its bright rays shining down from above. Qin Lie took a deep breath of the humid air. He suddenly felt as though his True Soul and Soul Lake were clean and pure.

It felt as if the bits of filth that had been hidden inside of his Soul Lake had been cleansed by some kind of power.

"You're about to have a breakthrough," Xie Jingxuan suddenly said, surprise on her face.

She had been secretly watching Qin Lie all this time. She felt the purity of his soul, how dense and concentrated his soul energy was. She could tell from his eyes that the changes in his True Soul had helped his mind consciousness grow considerably.

Ever since Xie Jingxuan had obtained the inheritance of the Wood Race and cultivated it, her perception of life force had improved profoundly.

Changes in a martial practitioner's True Soul would result in the growth of their mind consciousness, the evolution of their life force, and the increase of their lifespan.

She could tell from the slight changes in Qin Lie's life force that he would soon surpass his current level and break through to the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

"I feel that way as well." Qin Lie flashed a bright smile, then turned to look at Xue Moyan who was nearby. "How long do we have before the Pan Family arrives, Senior Sister Xue?"

After a moment of mental calculation, Xue Moyan answered.

"Even if they use their crystalline war chariots and move as fast as possible, it'll take them at least seven to eight days. That's the best case scenario for them. The crystalline war chariots will be travelling through the clouds, so if the Pan Family is unlucky and encounters cyclones on their way here, their speed will be greatly affected. If that happens, it'll probably take them half a month or longer to reach us."

Qin Lie rubbed his chin. "It seems like we still have a decent amount of time."

"So what if we have time?" Du Xiangyang grimaced. "We don't have flying spirit artifacts, there aren't any flying beasts in the area, and there clearly aren't any ships. Even if we have time, we still won't be able to leave this place. All we can do is wait here. A few days won't change anything."

“That may not be the case.” Qin Lie snickered.

After saying this, he suddenly walked into the waves ahead of them. Water immediately swallowed him up until only his head remained above the surface.

“Qin Lie…” Song Tingyu called out to him softly.

“I’m going to find the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Don’t worry about me,” Qin Lie shouted back. He didn’t turn around, and instead continued swimming forward. “Don’t do anything reckless while I’m gone. Even if you find any of the bodies of the ancient elites… try not to touch them.”

Everyone watched as he slowly moved into the distance, becoming a tiny speck on the sea. Nobody followed him.

All of them knew about Qin Lie’s connection to the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Even if they did follow him, they probably wouldn’t be any help. The tombstone could even mistake them as enemies and attack them.

They would only be able to do something when Qin Lie found the Demon Sealing Tombstone, learned about its mysteries, and made sense of the seals on the bodies of the ancient elites.

So they just waited patiently as they watched Qin Lie leave. As they gradually recovered their strength, they started searching the

island they were on for the bodies that had crash-landed.

Qin Lie swam amongst the desolate islands, sending out signals with his mind consciousness.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone had his blood energy. Channeling the Blood Spirit Art allowed him to sense his blood energy in a wondrous manner. If the Demon Sealing Tombstone were near him, he'd be able to sense it.

"Hm?" Qin Lie suddenly turned his head, flinching with fright.

In the water behind him, he could see a sanguine shadow. It was clearly following him.

He immediately came to a stop.

After a while, as the sanguine shadow drew closer to him, he discovered that it was actually the body of the Blood Progenitor.

The Blood Progenitor should have been at the beach with Xue Moyan. He never would have expected that, upon his departure, the body of the Blood Progenitor would follow the aura he exuded and follow him.

This realization shocked Qin Lie.

The body of the Blood Progenitor, which resembled blood

gemstones molded into a human shape, eventually caught up to him.

The body floated on the surface of the water facing upward. It didn't exude any trace of an aura.

Were it not for the fact that the body appeared special, no one would have believed that it belonged to the progenitor of Blood Fiend Sect, the creator of the Blood Codex.

Qin Lie originally needed to use spirit energy to move through the sea. Upon seeing the body of the Blood Progenitor approach, an idea occurred to him.

The Blood Progenitor's body silently floated on the surface of the water in a strange manner. It didn't even sink by a hair.

So he sat on its stomach.

Having a thread of blood energy enter the Blood Progenitor's body, Qin Lie tried manipulating it like it was a ship.

The Blood Progenitor's body was actually used like a bloody jade board as it traveled across the sea.

"Rise!" Qin Lie yelled.

Qin Lie tried to use his blood energy to stir the vast sea of blood

energy within the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness.

Qin Lie thought back to the time that his soul sank into the sanguine seven-level pagoda in the Blood Progenitor's sea of consciousness and controlled the Blood Progenitor's body.

He did the same as before, except this time he willed the body to fly through the sky.

"Whoosh!"

The body of the Blood Progenitor miraculously rose into the air and hovered ten meters above the sea.

"Awesome!" Qin Lie cried happily, clapping his hands. He nodded in satisfaction, then said, "It seems that, even if the Pan Family does come, I won't have to sit around and wait for death."

When he manipulated the Blood Progenitor's body, it became a flying spirit artifact that could be ridden... and it was fast!

"Not bad!" he exclaimed. "Now it'll be much easier to find the Demon Sealing Tombstone."

So Qin Lie sat on the body of the Blood Progenitor, flashing through the air above the sea and the desolate islands like a bolt of bloody lightning.

Seven minutes later, he arrived at an island full of mountains and bare of any vegetation and immediately sensed the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The Blood Progenitor's body immediately shot toward it.

At the base of one of the island's desolate mountains, in a valley that didn't even have a single plant, numerous stones lay scattered around.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone sat next to a grayish-brown rock. It looked dim, as if it had used up a lot of power.

Like the rocks scattered around the valley, the god heads, which were the size of enormous boulders, lay around the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The god heads also didn't shine like they originally did. They were dim and pale.

Qin Lie flew off of the Blood Progenitor's body and moved forward to pick up the Demon Sealing Tombstone with his hand.

He tried sensing the Demon Sealing Tombstone and discovered that the strange power within it was still circulating. The seven godly lights that had disappeared from its surface were going through a complex transformation.

"This is..." Qin Lie murmured.

After a moment of thought, his eyes lit up and an excited expression leaped to his face.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone was refining the earth, metal, and water spirits!

He knew that the Demon Sealing Tombstone would soon give him the essences of these three spirits, just like it had done with the fire, wood, and thunder spirits!

Chapter 553: The Search of the Nine Forces

A great many experts gathered on one island off the coast of the Heavenly Fissure Continent to discuss important matters.

The Graveyard of Gods had undergone spatial collapse, and it was unknown whether or not the martial practitioners who participated in the Trial were alive. It came to light that the Graveyard of Gods was a divine altar that the Heaven Fighting Race use to train their descendants, and that Jiang Zhuzhe, an evil remnant of Blood Fiend Sect, gave that information to Celestial Artifact Sect...

All kinds of reports spread across the Land of Chaos through different channels of communication. They alarmed the leaders of the nine great Silver forces, all of whom sent people to make sense of the situation.

Black Voodoo Cult sent Guan Xian, their Nirvana Realm chief instructor responsible for teaching others how to raise voodoo creatures.

The person leading Illusory Demon Sect's forces was Shi Xiuling. She possessed a cultivation of the Nirvana Realm and was the sworn sister of Yu Lingwei, sect master of Illusory Demon Sect.

Terminator Sect mobilized He Shangsheng, a senior of He Wei famed for his fiery temper.

Representing Heavenly Sword Mountain was Luo Nan, Luo Chen's grandmother and one of the five Heavenly Swords.

The Xiahou Family sent Xiahou Qi, the Su Family sent Su Zhi, and the Lin Family sent Lin Bin, all three of which were greatly respected elders in their own right.

Aside from Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, these seven great Silver rank forces paid close attention to the Graveyard of Gods. Everyone they sent to investigate were people that held power in their respective force and the trust of their sect leader.

These seven forces sent several dozen elite martial practitioners to participate in the Trial that took place in the Graveyard of Gods. They also contributed great treasures as rewards for those that survived.

No one could have expected Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain to send word that the Graveyard of Gods had been destroyed and that the fate of the Trial-participants was unknown.

This news rocked all seven forces to their very cores.

"The eight god corpses, which were imprisoned under the sea, broke free of their restraints, and we don't know where they've gone. Elder Luo tried to open the spatial passageway to the Graveyard of Gods early, but couldn't lock onto its coordinates. In all likelihood... this means that it no longer exists," Bi You of

Celestial Artifact Sect said with a sigh, explaining the situation to the people of the seven other forces. “According to the information we’ve currently gathered, something outside of our expectations definitely occurred within the Graveyard of Gods. If that weren’t the case, we’d be able to lock on to its position.”

“I heard that Jiang Zhuzhe, a remnant evil of Blood Fiend Sect, told Celestial Artifact Sect about the Graveyard of Gods!” Xiahou Qi said with a cold snort. “Every force worked together to destroy Blood Fiend Sect a thousand years ago. All martial practitioners that cultivated the Blood Spirit Art were hunted down. Jiang Zhuzhe is a madman that sucks human blood, yet you dare to communicate with him in secret. I think your carelessness has caused this entire incident! How dare you believe someone like Jiang Zhuzhe? You working with him has pushed all of us from the frying pan into the fire!”

Su Zhi and Lin Bin voiced similar opinions. All of them accused Celestial Artifact Sect of doing things that endangered everyone.

Guan Xian of Black Voodoo Cult nodded in agreement, his expression cold and grim.

“Jiang Zhuzhe caused the greatest calamity to ever have fallen on the Land of Chaos. Your Celestial Artifact dared to collude with such a person, so you should have expected such upheaval to occur in the Graveyard of Gods!”

A thousand years ago, Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families were the ones that led the other forces in eliminating Blood Fiend Sect.

These four forces had always them as an eyesore. They never stopped hunting down survivors of Blood Fiend Sect.

Jiang Zhuzhe caused the calamity of a thousand years ago. In their eyes, he was the most terrifying of them all.

They had always been searching for Jiang Zhuzhe, having thought of all sorts of ways to kill him.

Upon hearing that Celestial Artifact Sect had secretly been working with him, they were furious.They naturally didn't give them face.

"Only Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families consider Blood Fiend Sect public enemy number one." Bi You smiled coldly. "Your forces were the ones that wanted to eliminate them. My Celestial Artifact Sect never expressed the same intentions. We only took action in the past because Jiang Zhuzhe and his followers committed atrocities, drinking human blood and eating disciples of our sect. Celestial Artifact Sect only joined you to... teach them a lesson."

"Everyone who actually drank human blood and ate human flesh were just a small fraction of Blood Fiend Sect," Shi Xiuling of Illusory Demon Sect said with a sigh. "The actions we took back then... they truly were excessive."

Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult resided in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. As a result, they always fought

with one another, both out in the open and in secret. Guan Xian represented Black Voodoo Cult, so she obviously had to oppose him.

She was also aware of Xue Moyan's status as Blood Fiend Sect's true successor. When Sect Master Yu Lingwei accepted Xue Moyan as one of her personal disciples, she informed Shi Xiuling of this fact.

As a result, she stood on Blood Fiend Sect's side.

"Although what Blood Fiend Sect did was indeed terrible and did require everyone to band together and attack them, we of Terminator Sect have always disapproved of later actions. There was no need to hunt down and kill every survivor afterward," He Shangsheng said calmly.

"A majority of Blood Fiend Sect did not drink human blood to cultivate," Luo Nan of Heavenly Sword Mountain said. "We should not have hunted them down."

"We of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain agree," Tu Mou said. "Going that far definitely wasn't necessary."

One by one, Celestial Artifact Sect, Illusory Demon Sect, Terminator Sect, Heavenly Sword Mountain, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain voiced their opinions about the matter concerning Blood Fiend Sect. All of them agreed that eliminating Blood Fiend Sect so thoroughly had been the wrong choice.

This development made Guan Xian and the elders of the three great families look at one another, grim expressions on their faces.

When Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families targeted Blood Fiend Sect a thousand years ago and refused to back down, the other five forces forces tacitly accepted it without objection.

Why had they suddenly changed stances?

Guan Xian exchanged looks with the other three and felt a bit suspicious. They felt as though there were an invisible power at work, urging the other five forces to change their attitude.

This entire situation made them feel threatened.

“Let’s not discuss Blood Fiend Sect first,” Guan Xian said, changing the topic. “How shall we resolve the matter concerning the Graveyard of Gods? Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain caused it, yet they now don’t have any clue what to do?”

Feng Yi of Celestial Artifact Sect and Qi Yan of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were both absent. In the eyes of other people, the two were clearly hiding something.

The moment the Graveyard of Gods was mentioned, Terminator Sect, Heavenly Sword Mountain, and Illusory Demon Sect immediately held the same opinion as everyone else. All of them targeted Bi You and Tu Mou.

“Alright, everyone, let’s not panic. It may not necessarily be the case that everyone in the Graveyard of Gods died in the collapse.” Bi You raised his hands, trying to calm the group of people present. “Even if everyone that participated in the Trial died, the corpses of the ancient elites in the Graveyard of Gods shouldn’t have been destroyed. According to the information that was given to my Celestial Artifact Sect, once the Graveyard of Gods breaks apart, the bodies within it should have appeared throughout the Land of Chaos. We have summoned everyone today in hopes that we can work together and search for clues in every territory.”

“You summoned us here just to tell us this? You want us to go on an aimless search for the remains of ancient elites?” Guan Xian’s expression darkened.

“The search will not be aimless,” Bi You said. “According to how information, the bodies should appear in regions of the sea near continents where there aren’t many people.”

“All of you should send your subordinates out to search these areas,” Tu Mou said. “You may find something.”

The other seven factions saw that Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain weren’t willing to say anything other than this. They had no choice but to do as they said.

At the command of the nine great Silver forces of the Land of Chaos, numerous smaller forces, sects, and families mobilized in this fashion, searching empty regions of the sea for bodies of

ancient elites.

……

The collective command of the nine great Silver rank forces, having thousands of smaller forces search the Land of Chaos for the remains of ancient elites, spread throughout the world.

The Pan Family received orders from Illusory Demon Sect as well.

Atop a crystalline war chariot, Pan Tong wore a stern expression.

“We’ll take at least seven more days to get there!” he said.

The brows of all the Pan Family clansmen were furrowed. They definitely weren’t as relaxed or happy as before.

“We need to move quickly. Every significant force is currently searching for the remains of ancient elites. If someone gets to them before we do, our family will miss its biggest opportunity!” Pan Tong took a deep breath then gave the order. “Advance at full power! Even if we go against the wind and our chariots are damaged, we need to get there as fast as possible!”

The three crystalline war chariots of the Pan Family burned tons of spirit stones to move even faster. Martial practitioners with stronger realms even used their spirit power to forcibly increase their speed.

The chariots sped through the sea of clouds like three bolts of lightning, operating way beyond their capacity.

The Pan Family even went as far as sacrificing their valuable crystalline war chariots to try and reach the location where the bodies of the ancient elites had fallen as fast as possible—

—all just to seize them before the other forces found them.

Chapter 554: What Have You Come For?

Unbeknownst to Qin Lie, every force in all of the Land of Chaos, big or small, was currently searching for the remains of the ancient elites.

He had already arrived in the valley of scattered stones.

Qin Lie had already gotten hold of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and examined it over and over. The eight god heads lay on the ground, randomly strewn throughout the valley.

He attempted to delve deeper in the tombstone with his mind consciousness, but found himself forced back every single time.

Even though he had gotten his blood on the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and established a connection with it, he didn't seem to have actually obtained its acknowledgement.

This discovery depressed him.

Having no other option, he continued to recover his strength using soul crystals and spirit stones to return to peak condition.

……

"Krak!"

The fifth day after Pan Qianqian transmitted the message, yet another soul crystal burst into dust in Qin Lie's hand. He still sat within the stony valley, turbulent waves of energy surging within his Soul Lake.

His True Soul sank deep into his Soul Lake, allowing the waves to wash over it. Soul energy gathered above his True Soul like miraculous wisps of flame in the process of refining it.

He steadily progressed toward the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

……

The sixth day after Pan Qianqian transmitted the message, the rest of Qin Lie's group stopped searching for the bodies of the ancient elites. They once again gathered at the beach they initially arrived at and shared their findings.

"This desolate island holds three bodies of ancient elites, one Asura Race elite and two fearsome beasts of the Giant Spirit Race."

"As for the surrounding waters, there are two corpses of Gray Wing Race elites, one Giant Spirit Race corpse, and one corpse of a Wood Race clansman."

"We found the carcass of a beast that looks like a dragon on the island directly across from this one."

Everyone shared the targets they'd found.

"Some bodies of ancient elites escaped from the Graveyard of Gods just like we did," Du Xiangyang said with a sigh, rubbing his chin. "The Asura Race elite, whose body we found on this island, must have cultivated the power of flame. Every bone in his body contains a tremendous amount of fiery energy. Too bad I don't dare to act carelessly and touch it. It's such a shame."

"The body of the Wood Race clansman contains an astonishing amount of refined life energy," Xie Jingxuan said nonchalantly, looking at Xue Moyan. "It would be incredibly useful to you and me."

"All we can do is wait for Qin Lie to come back." Xue Moyan looked somewhat helpless.

Xue Moyan's mother needed the Spring of Life to recover her life force. The refined life force within the body of the Wood Race elite remained intact despite its soul having perished.

If Xue Moyan could extract a portion of that refined life force and condense it into a Spring of Life, her mother would wake up from her self-imposed coma and be filled with energy once more.

—This was literally Xue Moyan's goal in life.

Unfortunately, all of them had seen Ye Yihao's and Huang Zhuli's horrendous deaths. No one dared to be reckless.

“I’ve also decided which body to target.” Song Tingyu’s eyes sparkled with a strange light.

“Shouldn’t Qin Lie have found the Demon Sealing Tombstone by now?” Luo Chen frowned.

“Yeah. He shouldn’t be taking so long.” Du Xiangyang looked at the sea and off into the distance, disbelief on his face. “I saw him control the Blood Progenitor’s body earlier. He used it to traverse the sea in a fearless manner. He must’ve found the Demon Sealing Tombstone rather quickly.”

“Maybe something else delayed him.” Song Tingyu interjected.

“The Pan Family will arrive in a day or two,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly, reminding everyone of the impending crisis.

All of them subconsciously looked in the direction of a small mountain further inland.

They had imprisoned Pan Qianqian in a cave they had dug into that mountain, which was several thousand meters away.

“About Qianqian...” Xue Moyan looked like she wanted to say something.

The others, who had been in the middle of a heated discussion,

suddenly fell silent the moment they heard her name.

The expressions on their faces were not cheerful.

The moment she saw this, Xue Moyan couldn't help but sigh. She knew that she probably wouldn't be able to change their opinions of Pan Qianqian, so she had no choice but to be quiet as well.

Gao Yu, who was quietly sitting beneath a coconut tree far from them, suddenly opened his cold eyes.

"Flying spirit artifacts incoming!"

Looks of alarm leaped to everyone's face.

"It must be people of the Pan Family!" Du Xiangyang cried.

"How can that be!?" Song Tingyu exclaimed anxiously. "Dammit! They arrived a lot earlier than we expected! Where has Qin Lie run off to? Why hasn't he returned yet?"

"Forget Qin Lie for now!" Du Xiangyang paused for a moment, thinking to himself before breathing in. "Gao Yu! Please bring Pan Qianqian over here!"

Gao Yu nodded.

“Whoosh...!”

Wraiths flew through the air, carrying Pan Qianqian out of the cave she had been imprisoned in.

Vile souls and wraiths had tortured her the entire time she had been confined several thousands meters away from the others, leaving her in a constant state of terror. She looked pale, and cold sweat covered her forehead.

The wraiths flew all the way to the center of the group and slowly lowered to the ground. They then transformed into grayish-black bindings that continued to tightly restrain her.

Pan Qianqian attempted to speak, her lips quivering. However, the restraining power of the wraiths prevented her from doing so.

She anxiously looked at Xue Moyan, practically begging with her eyes.

She hoped that Xue Moyan would speak on her behalf and help her.

“I tried, Qianqian. It’s no use.” Xue Moyan didn’t dare to look at her. “I cannot help you.”

Pan Qianqian’s complexion was as gray as death.

She understood that she was probably going to die... and truly despaired.

“If your family cares about you at all, you may not need to die here,” Du Xiangyang said indifferently.

The moment he said this, Pan Qianqian’s eyes lit up with the fire of hope once more.

She placed that hope on her uncle Pan Tong, believing that he would negotiate with Qin Lie’s group to save her.

She held these expectations within her heart.

“They’ve come! Fast, aren’t they?” Luo Chen asked coldly.

Everyone turned their attention to the sky.

Three crystalline war chariots moved through the clouds and toward their island, wobbling all the way. They shone with a dimmer light than they clearly should have, and cracks riddled their exteriors.

The war chariots, which were supposed to be dazzlingly bright, resembled little girls that had been ravaged by a horrific hurricane. They were in terrible, pitiful condition.

The people atop each chariot, however, were full of energy. The

light of greed that shone from their eyes couldn't be concealed in any way.

"What a terrifying amount of blood energy! Such incredible power!" one of the Pan Family elders cried out, shaking as he held up a shiny mirror. "There isn't just one, either! Ah! There are multiple sources of tremendous blood energy! Th-there are at least a dozen bodies of ancient beings here!"

All of the Pan Family martial practitioners standing in the three crystalline war chariots looked incredibly excited. It was as if they had injected themselves with chicken blood!

"Let's find Qianqian first!" Pan Tong said with comparable excitement, waving his hand. "We must first ask her about the situation! Ah, right, she also mentioned that some companions were with here. Companions..."

Murderous intent flashed through his eyes.

Every martial practitioner of the Pan Family came to the same conclusion on the way to this island. They naturally knew what they had to do.

"You can stop looking!" Du Xiangyang yelled. "We're right here."

Since they were going to be found sooner or later, Du Xiangyang decided that they shouldn't hide like cowards. As a result, he revealed himself to the people in the clouds.

Everyone aboard the crystalline war chariots suddenly went silent. The three worn-out flying spirit artifacts turned in the direction of Qin Lie's group.

Soon enough, the three war chariots descended upon the desolate island. After the Pan Family clansmen disembarked from each chariot, a hundred or so martial practitioners quietly surrounded Qin Lie's group.

"M-Miss Xue?"

"Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang of Heavenly Sword Mountain?"

"Who are those people?"

People immediately recognized Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang, but none of them were familiar with Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Gao Yu. To them, the three from the Scarlet Tide Continent seemed very strange.

"You're here too, Miss Xue?" Pan Tong smiled softly as he arrived at the encirclement. He immediately questioned them. "Why are all of you holding Qianqian captive? Was there some sort of misunderstanding?"

Xue Moyan possessed quite a reputation in Illusory Demon Sect. Its sect master, Yu Lingwei, held her in high regard. Everybody that belonged to a vassal force of Illusory Demon Sect knew who

she was.

In the eyes of many, Xue Moyan was destined to become the future sect master of Illusory Demon Sect. Yu Lingwei would appoint her to lead the sect on her behalf, bestowing an enormous responsibility upon her in the future.

In the past, Pan Tong would always be respectful whenever he brought tributes to Illusory Demon Sect and encountered Xue Moyan. He didn't dare to offend her and tried to curry favor with her instead, hoping that she would take good care of Pan Qianqian.

Seeing Xue Moyan where he least expected her, he wasn't able to shake off old habits and appeared to be extremely humble and polite.

Xue Moyan stared at Pan Tong with disgust.

She had clearly heard what the Pan Family clansmen said when their crystalline war chariots were still in the air. Even now, the greed in their eyes couldn't be hidden.

She was well aware of what the Pan Family had come here for.

In addition to everything else, the three war chariots showed clear signs of spirit energy overload. This only exhibited how anxious the Pan Family was!

Now that Pan Tong dared to walk toward her with a false smile

on his face, she couldn't even begin to describe how ugly and disgusting he looked to her.

"Qianqian revealed us to you without our consent, so we bound her." Xue Moyan did not wish to beat around the bush with Pan Tong and immediately got to the heart of the matter. "If you leave now and don't stay in this area, I guarantee we'll then ensure Qianqian's safety."

"We're here to help you!" Pan Tong exclaimed hurriedly.

"Either you leave... or we kill Pan Qianqian."

Du Xiangyang was even more blunt than Xue Moyan was.

Pan Qianqian stared at her uncle, Pan Tong, with pleading eyes.

"Patriarch, they already know what we're here for," a man said in a low voice, terrifying killing intent slowly welling up within his eyes.

The smile on Pan Tong's face gradually disappeared, and his face soon became completely grim.

"Release Qianqian and surrender. Even before we got here, Qianqian had me promise not to kill any of you. I assure you, I'm telling the truth!"

“And what if we don’t surrender?” Song Tingyu snorted coldly.

“Then we’ll bury all of you alongside her!” Pan Tong shouted, a ghastly frown on his face.

“Xue Moyan is Illusory Demon Sect’s ringer, and the other two girls are astoundingly beautiful,” a man said, licking a corner of his lips. He allowed his lustful gaze to linger on the bodies of Xue Moyan, Xie Jingxuan, and Song Tingyu. “You’re familiar with my tastes, right, big bro?”

This man was Pan Tao, Pan Tong’s younger brother and Pan Qianqian’s fourth uncle.

“Gao Yu, kill Pan Qianqian.” Du Xiangyang shrugged. “I don’t believe these Pan Family clansmen intend to let us go at all.”

He stared at Pan Tong closely.

Gao Yu, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian stared at Pan Tong as well.

But Pan Tong said nothing.

Chapter 555: Evil God

At Gao Yu's command, the soul inside of Pan Qianqian's mouth that had been keeping her from speaking suddenly flew out.

This allowed Pan Qianqian, who had been struggling to get a word out all this time, to finally regain her ability to speak.

"I-I never wanted to hurt anyone!" she screamed, fear clear in her voice.

Then she suddenly looked at Pan Tong, crying out anxiously, "Uncle! Save me!"

Pan Tong's brow furrowed deeply, then he shook his head and sighed.

"Qianqian, obtaining the bodies of ancient elites is an opportunity that only comes around once in a thousand lifetimes. It's an opportunity... that our Pan Family can't afford to pass up."

"Don't worry, Qianqian!" Pan Tao yelled. "We'll bury them with you!"

Every Pan Family clansman present expressed regret and helplessness, but not a single one of them moved forward to support Pan Qianqian.

All of them were prepared to sacrifice her.

“I…”

As Pan Qianqian stared at her so-called family, her eyes lost their last trace of brightness.

Her heart had died.

“Gao Yu!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed softly.

A cold light gushed from Gao Yu’s eyes.

Bizarre spirit art at the ready, he was on the verge of extinguishing Pan Qianqian’s soul.

“No!” Xue Moyan shouted. “Please, just let her live!”

Surprisingly enough, Gao Yu actually nodded and said, “Okay.”

This stunned Xue Moyan. She hadn’t thought that Gao Yu would be so quick to comply.

The Pan Family clansmen were even more astonished by this turn of events.

“Heh!” Pan Tao laughed strangely. “Don’t think we’ll forgive you

just because you spared Pan Qianqian!”

“Shut up!” Pan Tong turned to throw a fierce glare at his brother, then faced Qin Lie’s group again, a smile on his face. “As long as Qianqian isn’t harmed, I guarantee that all of you will survive this.”

“Big bro?” Pan Tao exclaimed in shock.

“I told you to shut up!” Pan Tong yelled, a fierce expression taking over his face.

“What are you doing, Gao Yu?” Du Xiangyang asked in surprise.

“I’m going to shackle her soul,” Gao Yu answered indifferently.

Soul fluctuations spread from the two Ogre-faced Rings on Gao Yu’s hands. Gray soul threads emerged from Pan Qianqian’s eyes, silently floating toward the rings as if attracted by some unseen force and were absorbed.

“Thud!”

Pan Qianqian’s delicate body fell to the sandy beach with a soft thud, devoid of any trace of her soul. The clusters of vengeful souls and wraiths that had been restraining and holding up her body swiftly condensed into a single form. They merged together and evolved into a larger fiendish, vile soul that roared madly at the Pan Family clansmen.

At almost the exact same time, Gao Yu snorted coldly and cried, “Come forth!”

“Boom!”

The hundred-meter-tall body of the Evil God appeared before Gao Yu. This was none other than the body he had collected from the Land of Buried Gods.

Without warning, the vile soul formed from vengeful souls and wraiths twisted through the air and entered the Evil God’s body.

The body of the Evil God, which had lacked a soul, unleashed a tremendous, tyrannical aura the instant that the fiendish vile soul went inside of it. This aura felt strange and unspeakably evil.

As that took place, Gao Yu suddenly flew up to the Evil God’s left shoulder like a wisp of ghastly light and sat down.

He suddenly turned his cold, evil eyes toward the Pan Family clansmen and spoke in a low voice.

“Kill them!”

“Uooooooh!”

An unbridled roar tore through the heavens. This hundred-

meter-tall Evil God, with curved horns on its head, enormous wings protruding from its back, and hands that resembled hooks, terrified the Pan Family clansmen.

Two hands that resembled pitch black clouds engulfed them from above.

“Krak krak! Bang!”

The Evil God’s gigantic hands squashed six Pan Family clansmen, crushing their bones and even forcing their bodies to explode upon impact.

“W-what kind of monster is this?” Pan Tao screamed in terror. He was so scared that he started escaping as fast as he could.

“It’s the body of an ancient elite! This is the Evil God of the Nether Realm!” Pan Tong shouted in astonishment.

“What are we going to do, big bro?” Pan Tao was pale with fright.

“The brat sitting on the Evil God’s shoulder is the one controlling it. As long as we kill him, the Evil God won’t be able to move!” Pan Tong’s eyes burned with passion. “If we capture the Evil God’s body and sell it to the nether races, our family will definitely obtain an unfathomable amount of resources! Who knows how many Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotuses we’ll be able to get in exchange!”

Upon hearing this, every member of the Pan Family cried out in excitement.

For a long moment, every Pan Family clansman stared at Gao Yu.

“He’s only in the Netherpassage Realm, it shouldn’t be difficult to kill him,” an elder calmly said. “Spread out, everyone! Don’t let the Evil God touch you!”

The encirclement of over a hundred Pan Family clansmen spread out, staying as far away from the Evil God as possible.

Patriarch Pan Tong and three Pan Family elders suddenly channeled their spirit energy and shot straight into the air.

These four were experts who had reached the Fragmentation Realm!

Their gazes fell upon Gao Yu.

“Where is Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang asked, looking everywhere with anxiety on his face. “Gao Yu is truly an extraordinary fellow. I can’t believe he can actually control the body of the Evil God! If Qin Lie came and possessed the Blood Progenitor’s body using his True Soul, we may actually be able to resist the Pan Family!”

“Don’t look at me,” Song Tingyu said with a bitter smile. “I don’t know where he is either.”

They, as well as the rest of the group, hadn't been too afraid of the Pan Family's impending arrival because they had placed all their hopes on Qin Lie.

Back in the Graveyard of Gods, Qin Lie had displayed an extraordinary amount of power using the body of the Blood Progenitor.

If Qin Lie were here to repeat that extraordinary feat, control the Blood Progenitor's body and rampage through the Pan Family clansmen, they might have been able to just kill all of them here.

However, at such a crucial moment, the person they pinned all their hopes on... was absent.

"If he were still in this region of the sea, he would have known that the Pan Family arrived," Luo Chen said, a mixture of emotions showing on his face. "If he wanted to, he would've shown up a long time ago."

Du Xiangyang remained silent, thinking to himself. He shook his head and sighed.

"What... what are you guys talking about?" Song Tingyu frowned.

"They think that Qin Lie may have abandoned us." Xie Jingxuan wore a calm expression. "They believe that Qin Lie may have

found the Demon Sealing Tombstone, collected all the bodies of the ancient elites, and escaped using the Blood Progenitor's Body."

"That couldn't possibly be the case." Song Tingyu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "If he really wanted to abandon us, he would've left us behind in the Land of Buried Gods."

"Saving us at that time was easy for him." Luo Chen snorted. "This time, however, the Pan Family has brought the force of their entire family to bear. Even with the Blood Progenitor's body, he wouldn't be able to win."

No one could blame him for thinking this way.

All of them knew that the Pan Family would show up eventually. If Qin Lie wanted to come back, he would've shown up long ago.

Now, however, the Pan Family stood before them and Gao Yu used the body of the Evil God to fight them. If Qin Lie were still in the area, he couldn't possibly miss such a commotion... could he?

All of them had seen how quickly the Blood Progenitor's body could move. It truly could be compared to a bolt of bloody lightning. If Qin Lie wanted to show up, he'd be here already.

Unfortunately, Qin Lie still had yet to show up.

Luo Chen didn't know Qin Lie well, and he never felt any good will toward him in the first place. He naturally wouldn't think

highly of him.

“Whatever the reason, if Qin Lie hasn’t shown up by now, he’s probably occupied with something.” Du Xiangyang smiled bitterly, then shook his head and said, “Never mind. Let’s stop depending on him and instead figure out how we’ll survive against the Pan Family.”

“Gao Yu is more reliable than he is.” Luo Chen snorted.

“Mn.” Du Xiangyang agreed, becoming a bit more cheerful. “Gao Yu is currently our only hope. As long as he’s fine and the Evil God’s killing power remains constant, we may yet survive this.”

Everyone subconsciously looked toward Gao Yu.

At this moment, all of the Pan Family clansmen were focused on Gao Yu. No one paid attention to the rest of Qin Lie’s group.

Since Qin Lie’s group didn’t have flying spirit artifacts, spirit birds, or boats, none of the Pan Family were worried about them escaping. Once they took care of the troublesome Gao Yu, killing the rest of them wouldn’t take any effort.

“Aooooooh!”

The body of the Evil God roared at the sky as it rampaged across the desolate island, charging wherever Pan Family clansmen were gathered.

Since the Evil God didn't have a True Soul, the vile soul that currently controlled its body, an amalgamation of vengeful souls and wraiths, couldn't unleash the evil energy remaining within it.

This meant that Gao Yu could only use the Evil God's body to physically tear the Pan Family clansmen to pieces.

"Krak! K-krak!"

Any Pan Family clansman that the Evil God's body slapped with its hands or stomped with its enormous feet would instantly die in a burst of blood and gore.

The Evil God's hands moved like lightning, continuously attacking the clansmen around it while blocking the attacks of Pan Tong and the three elders.

The waves of energy, dazzling spirit artifacts, and precious swords that Pan Tong and the three elders used to attack the Evil God only generated sparks when they struck its hands. They didn't even leave any marks on its skin.

The body of the Evil God was even firmer than steel, and the spirit artifacts that Pan Tong and the elders wielded were of insufficient quality. Their realms were also weaker than the Evil God's, so their attacks, which were unleashed at full power, couldn't penetrate the Evil God's defenses.

Gao Yu sat atop the Evil God's shoulder, grim set face and eyes glittering with evil light, surveying the entire battlefield seemingly under his control.

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Chapter 556: Dead End

The baleful body of the Evil God rampaged throughout the desolate island.

Nearly a hundred Pan Family clansmen, all of whom were in the Netherpassage Realm, fought fiercely. They unleashed battle cries and wielded their dazzling spirit artifacts as they tried to subdue the Evil God while avoiding its murderous frenzy.

Unfortunately, in just eight short minutes, more than a dozen of them had already been killed.

Every person that died did so tragically, either having their bones crushed by the Evil God's hands or getting stomped into a bloody pulp.

"Don't get near it!" Pan Tong ordered. "Spread out as much as you can! Leave the island for now if you have to! Just don't let it touch you!"

Since they were in the Fragmentation Realm, Pan Tong and the three elders hovered in midair. They aimed their spirit artifacts at Gao Yu, continuously assaulting him with shock waves of energy.

They were well aware of the fact that killing Gao Yu was the key to victory.

However, every time their attacks were about to hit Gao Yu, the

Evil God would swing its massive arms and withdraw when necessary.

Its hands seemed capable of enveloping the heavens and the earth. They blocked every single attack from the four Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners.

The Evil God's hands resembled sharp demon claws and were sturdier than the strongest refined steel. The combined attacks of Pan Tong and the elders could only generate tiny metallic sparks when they clashed with them. They couldn't even pierce the Evil God's skin.

Gao Yu had yet to take a direct hit.

"I guess Gao Yu alone is more than the Pan Family clansmen can handle," Du Xiangyang said with a smile. "This guy's... not that simple."

Seeing that the Pan Family had no idea how to deal with Gao Yu and the Evil God's body, Xue Moyan and Luo Chen began to relax. Their serious expressions suddenly softened.

If the Pan Family couldn't take down the Evil God, they wouldn't be able to control this region of the sea and have the energy to deal with them.

Of course, the rest of Qin Lie's group were perfectly happy to watch from the sidelines.

“Hmph! Even Qin Lie is less reliable than this Gao Yu!” Luo Chen exclaimed coldly.

The fact that Qin Lie hadn’t shown up when they needed him most annoyed him to no end.

“He was probably delayed by something,” Xue Moyan murmured.

Like Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan, she believed in Qin Lie from the bottom of her heart. She was certain that Qin Lie wouldn’t just abandon them.

“What do we do, big bro?” Pan Tao yelled into the air from his position on the island. “If we can’t take care of this Evil God as soon as possible, the commotion we’re causing might attract the attention of scouts from the nearby Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley. Those two Copper rank forces have been watching us with greedy eyes for a long time. If they found the opportunity to ruin things for us, they would definitely take it! If that happens, all of our efforts will be for naught!”

“Shut up!” Pan Tong yelled angrily. “I’m thinking!”

He had long since realized that the situation started spiraling out of control.

Like every other vassal force of Illusory Demon Sect, the Pan

Family had received word about a massive search for the remains of ancient elites that was currently under way. They found out that thousands of forces, big and small, were scouring regions of the sea near every continent of the Land of Chaos.

Aside from the Pan Family, Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley, two other Copper rank forces, were also in this region of the sea.

Both forces were actually stronger than the Pan Family. If it weren't for Pan Qianqian deeply connecting them to Illusory Demon Sect, Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley would have attacked them already.

If the Pan Family couldn't subdue Gao Yu and the Evil God as soon as possible, the commotion occurring on the island and in the waves would eventually draw the attention of those two forces.

When Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley arrived, all of their efforts would go to waste.

Pan Tong understood the situation clearly.

After taking a moment to contemplate his options, Pan Tong looked at someone hovering behind the Evil God and yelled, "Pan Long! Hit that kid with a soul wave!"

"B-but patriarch...!" the man named Pan Long exclaimed.

“The body of the Evil God has only been possessed!” Pan Tong said. “It can’t utilize its soul energy, so you don’t need to worry!”

“I…”

“Unleash a soul attack this instant!”

“A-alright!” Pan Long acquiesced helplessly. He distanced himself from the Evil God’s body, then immediately gathered his soul consciousness, switching from defending against the Evil God’s attacks to preparing an offensive.

Pan Tong fished a black jade spirit rune out from his robes, a strange light flashing through his eyes.

As he did that, Pan Long, one of the Pan Family elders in the Fragmentation Realm, finished gathering his soul consciousness and used it to attack Gao Yu.

Pan Long’s soul consciousness streamed toward Gao Yu like an invisible flow of energy, moving as quickly as an arrow shot from a bow.

It headed straight for Gao Yu’s mind!

“Suicidal fool,” Gao Yu muttered. He touched a hand to the Evil God’s neck, and five evil lights shot from his fingers and seeped into the Evil God’s body.

“Whoosh...!”

The vile soul, which had sunken deep into the Evil God’s body, emerged from its eyes with a roar. It transformed into a pitch black mouth capable of swallowing mountains and rivers as it ferociously sucked the attacking soul energy into itself.

“No!” Pan Long screamed in horror.

He could clearly sense that the soul consciousness imbued into his soul attack had been devoured by the demonic mouth of the vile soul. It had been swallowed in a single gulp.

“Pwack!”

Pan Long spat out a mouthful of blood. Deep within his mind, his True Soul suddenly became blurry and indistinct.

His soul instantly suffered grievous injuries.

At the same time, Pan Tong steeled his heart and threw the black jade spirit rune.

“Go!” he cried as it transformed into a bolt of black lightning and shot into the vile soul’s demonic mouth.

All of a sudden, the vile soul erupted in pitch black flames that

burned at its ethereal body.

“Soul Burning Fire!” Gao Yu exclaimed, his face stricken with fear.

“P... part of my soul...!” Pan Long cried at the top of his lungs.

The flames that the black jade spirit rune unleashed had also vaporized the soul energy that the vile soul had devoured.

“Not good!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed. He had been observing the situation the entire time. “The spirit rune that Pan Tong just used actually contained a trace of Soul Burning Fire! That vile soul will probably burn to dust!”

The moment he realized this, his face went pale.

“Oh no!” Song Tingyu cried. “Gao Yu used that vile soul to control the Evil God’s body. Once it perishes, the Evil God will no longer be of use!”

This development worried Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan as well.

“Get ready to run!” Gao Yu yelled harshly as soul wisps emerged from his Ogre-face Rings once more.

These soul wisps coalesced into yet another vile soul that suddenly seeped into the Evil God’s body.

This vile soul was clearly much smaller than one from earlier. As a result, it was much weaker and had less control over the body of the Evil God.

While the first vile soul continued to writhe with Soul Burning Fire, the Evil God's body moved once more.

This time, however, its footsteps were obviously a lot more sluggish. The movements of its arms had also become much stiffer than before.

"Krak!"

The Evil God stomped yet another Pan Family clansman into a pulp.

This clansman had been guarding one of the worn-down crystalline war chariots.

Once the Evil God crushed this person, it then grabbed the war chariot and tossed it toward Du Xiangyang and the others. It landed right in front of them in a burst of sand and skidded to a stop.

Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Luo Chen, and Xue Moyan immediately leaped into action and summoned their spirit energy. They examined the war chariot that the Evil God had snatched and prepared to use it to escape.

“Don’t let them get away! Send a group of people to chase them down!” Pan Tong screamed frantically. “The vile soul that kid just created obviously doesn’t give him enough control over the Evil God’s body. Begin another round of attacks!”

The four Fragmentation Realm experts turned to Gao Yu once more, gathering concentrated rays of dazzling prismatic light and firing them.

The body of the Evil God, which had just tossed the war chariot over to the others, hastily withdrew its arms to defend against the attacks.

However, it moved its arms too slowly and wasn’t able to completely protect Gao Yu.

“Swoosh!”

A spark of energy managed to pass through a gap in the Evil God’s fingers and strike Gao Yu’s dark shield of light, shattering it instantly.

Gao Yu took cover behind the Evil God’s neck, looking even paler than he was before. His cold, sharp eyes dimmed as well.

He was only in the Netherpassage Realm after all.

He couldn’t even withstand the power that a stray spark of a Fragmentation Realm expert’s energy held.

Having lost the protection of the Evil God’s body, the huge chasm between the Netherpassage and Fragmentation Realms made him look unfathomably fragile.

Blood trickled from the corners of Gao Yu’s lips and down his neck.

Pan Tong and the three elders cheered triumphantly. The second they prepared to attack again, the Evil God’s hands completely encased Gao Yu.

It no longer rampaged throughout the island. Instead, it headed toward the sea, moving awkwardly as it protected Gao Yu.

On the other side of the beach, Du Xiangyang and the others succeeded in getting the worn-out crystalline war chariot working. They quickly boarded it and sped away at top speed, escaping from the desolate island.

“Chase them! Chase them down! Don’t let even one of them escape!” Pan Tao yelled frantically, his eyes bloodshot. “Especially those three women! They mustn’t escape!”

All of the Pan Family clansmen grew excited. They all noticed that Gao Yu had been injured and gradually lost control over the Evil God’s body.

As for the rest of Qin Lie's group, all of them were only in the Netherpassage Realm. None of the Pan Family considered them a threat.

"Don't listen to Pan Tao!" Pan Tong, the family's patriarch, burst into a yell. "If you have the chance, kill them! We can't afford to waste any more time here!"

At his command, the Pan Family clansmen boarded the other two war chariots and pursued Du Xiangyang and the others with murderous intent.

Pan Tong and the elders, on the other hand, chased after Gao Yu. They chased him from the sky since they were Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners.

"Dammit!" Du Xiangyang swore, gripping the front edge of the chariot tightly. "The Pan Family basically devastated this flying spirit artifact. It won't be able to move much longer!"

"Let's run as far as we can," Luo Chen said, a helpless look on his face.

"We aren't faster than them," Xie Jingxuan said, clearly the calmest out of everyone.

Her word prompted everyone to turn around and look, and they noticed that the two war chariots pursuing them were moving a lot

faster than theirs was.

"They're boosting the war chariots with their own spirit energy!" Song Tingyu exclaimed.

"Then we shall do the same!" Luo Chen began pouring all of his spirit energy directly into their war chariot to increase its speed.

The others followed his lead and did the same.

Although the crystalline war chariot was on the verge of breaking down, it did fly a lot faster with the added spirit energy propelling it forward.

But it was still a lot slower than the chariots carrying the Pan Family clansmen.

The Pan Family clansmen were much more powerful and also outnumbered Qin Lie's group. The same kind of war chariot receiving even greater amounts of spirit energy would naturally be much faster.

Considering how Qin Lie's group was so small and possessed lower realms, it was just a matter of time before the Pan Family caught up and utterly slaughtered them.

Chapter 557: Sixteen God Hands!

“It’s no use. We can’t go faster than them, and it won’t be long before they catch up to us.” Luo Chen stopped injecting his spirit energy into the crystalline war chariot and turned to look at the enemy behind them. Resolve and ferocity filled his face. “Rather than exhaust all of our spirit energy and die a dog’s death, we may as well turn back and fight them. Even if we do die, let’s drag some of those Pan Family clansmen with us!”

Several dozen Pan Family clansmen occupied the two war chariots chasing them. Aside from outnumbering Du Xiangyang and the others, they were also more powerful than them.

They had no way to shake off their pursuers. It didn’t matter how hard they tried. It seemed like they were fated to be killed one by one.

“Dammit!” A fierce expression came over Du Xiangyang. “Fine then, let’s turn around and ram them!”

Judging by the movements of the Pan Family clansmen pursuing them, Du Xiangyang and the others could tell that they had made up their minds. The Pan Family had no intention of letting them live.

If Du Xiangyang and the others were to focus solely on pouring spirit energy into the war chariot, that would only buy them some time until they completely exhausted their reserves.

Once that happened, they wouldn't have the strength to gamble on one last attack. The Pan Family would easily kill all of them.

—They definitely didn't want the situation to play out like that!

"It seems as though we won't be able to escape," Xie Jingxuan said calmly. She paused for a moment, then simply said, "I agree. Let's turn around, ram them, and fight them with all our might."

"If we manage to make their chariots break down and strand them here, even dying would be worth it!" Du Xiangyang snorted.

"Let's turn around!" Xue Moyan exclaimed.

"Ssst!"

Everyone worked together to bring the worn-down crystalline chariot to a sudden stop. In that instant, they used their momentum to turn the chariot a hundred and eighty degrees. After a momentary pause, the chariot shot forward in a burst of extreme speed, charging straight for the Pan Family clansmen.

Bright silver crescents of light, soul-extinguishing flames, precious swords, and fiery spears rushed ahead of their chariot and hurtled toward the Pan Family.

Xue Moyan's Illusory Demon Orb glittered as it created profound illusions, confounding the enemy with illusory arts.

At nearly the same time, she executed secret arts of Blood Fiend Sect and created multiple Blood Weeping Ghost Claws that hid within an illusory white fog, swiping toward the heads of the Pan Family clansmen.

Song Tingyu howled softly as spirit energy streamed from her and condensed to form a bright colorful butterfly. It spread its wings, shone with dazzling prismatic light, and flew toward the Pan Family clansmen.

Xie Jingxuan's eyes turned a strange emerald color.

Eerie waves of energy sprang into existence. They were capable of twisting a person's life force and pushing the meridians in one's spirit sea to the verge of collapse. They passed through the heads of the Pan Family clansmen, making their heads spin until became dazed.

Everyone unleashed their spirit arts at the pursuing Pan Family clansmen without holding anything back. Their crystalline war chariot bolted forward like lightning, mingling in with all of the powerful attacks.

This sudden onslaught caught the Pan Family clansmen by surprise. They didn't think that these juniors would dare to turn back.

Luo Chen's Seven Moon Slashes, Du Xiangyang's Burning Soul Firebeams, Song Tingyu's colorful spirit energy butterflies, Xue

Moyan's Blood Weeping Ghost Claws, and Xie Jingxuan's biomagnetic disruption waves swept across the two chariots in an instant, catching several clansmen unaware. They couldn't even react and died on the spot.

Amidst furious screams and roars, the Qin Lie's five companions directed their worn-down war chariot straight toward the others almost as if they'd gone mad.

They were on a crash course with the Pan Family clansmen, clearly planning to die with them.

"I want those three women alive!" Pan Tao howled savagely.

A burning cone of orange flames erupted from Pan Tao's chest, an astonishing number of flaming tongues writhing forward.

They whistled through the air and slammed into the recklessly charging chariot that was dozens of meters long, instantly tearing it in half.

The war chariot groaned and swiftly came apart as the spirit diagram inscribed into the vehicle collapsed.

When their war chariot broke to pieces, expressions of shock and dismay came over Du Xiangyang and the others. They had failed to achieve their suicidal goal.

"Abandon the chariot!" Song Tingyu cried. "Leap into the sea!"

Five figures began descending through the sky, falling toward the vast deep sea below.

All of them knew that whatever chances they had at escaping had completely vanished with the destruction of their crystalline war chariot.

They no longer had the power to resist the Pan Family.

“Kill Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang immediately and make sure to leave their corpses intact. I have uses for them,” Pan Tao ordered. “But I want those three women alive!”

The Pan Family clansmen directed their chariots to plummet through the air. They saw red as they hurtled toward the sea, intent on capturing their targets.

The sudden counterattack that had just occurred killed many of their people. They were furious and sought vengeance.

As Du Xiangyang fell toward the sea, he smiled bitterly.

“I guess we did get something out of attacking them instead of running,” he yelled to the others. “Too bad we didn’t manage to destroy their chariots. That’s the only regret I have left.”

“Yeah. It’s too bad,” Luo Chen shouted in reply.

Song Tingyu's beautiful eyes lost their attractive luster. She had fallen deep into despair, her face just as grim as the look in her eyes.

Their group of five fell toward the sea, getting closer and closer to the water's surface.

The Pan Family's two crystalline war chariots swiftly approached from above. All of the clansmen in the vehicles wore cold, ferocious expressions, intermittently laughing in a sinister manner.

All of them thought that the end was nigh.

"Eh!" Xie Jingxuan suddenly cried out as she fell through the air.

Intense shock appeared on her exquisite, refined face.

She looked down at the sea, trying to peer into its depths.

"What powerful blood energy!" Xue Moyan yelled in surprise.

Their cries confused Song Tingyu, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang, causing them to subconsciously look at the sea as well.

An enormous whirlpool suddenly formed in the water below, spinning crazily and causing astounding tidal waves to rise high

above sea level.

—Then, one after another, seven more whirlpools appeared in the sea.

“Eight!” Xue Moyan went pale with terror. “Eight sources of unfathomable blood energy have appeared!”

“Sploosh!”

A pair of giant copper hands erupted from the center of the first enormous whirlpool that appeared. They radiated an immeasurable godly power as they swiped in the direction of the two approaching crystalline war chariots.

Before the Pan Family clansmen could react, their chariots, which were almost a hundred meters long, were struck by the pair copper god hands.

The instant the hands struck the war chariots, several dozen clansmen puked blood.

Although the chariots hadn’t immediately shattered, more than half of the clansmen aboard were killed by the power of the god hands.

All of the clansmen who were in the Netherpassage Realm burst to pieces, unable to withstand the godly might for more than three seconds.

Fulfillment Realms experts broke down along with the war chariots. They howled crazily, spraying blood and falling toward the sea like bloody rays of light.

Pan Tao, the Pan Family clansman that had been hooting the loudest, found his chest shattered. A broken bone protruded from his own flesh, giving him a ghastly appearance.

He plummeted toward the sea, blood covering his entire body.

Pan Tao stared at the pair of giant copper hands as he fell. His mouth trembled, then he suddenly screamed, “A god corpse! It’s a god corpse!”

As they fell through the air, the Pan Family clansmen that hadn’t immediately perished unleashed bloodcurdling screams as though they’d seen a ghost in broad daylight.

“A god corpse!”

More than a year ago, Illusory Demon Sect sent all of its experts out. With the combined strength of several Imperishable Realm experts led by Sect Master Yu Lingwei, they captured a headless god corpse in a region of the sea nearby.

During that battle, the Pan Family clansmen were responsible for watching the perimeter. Just from the terrible energy fluctuations that coursed through the sea, they had been able to determine just

how powerful that god corpse was.

They had been absolutely terrified of that god corpse.

At this very moment, a god corpse that was supposed to be imprisoned near the Heavenly Fissure Continent had actually risen from the depths of the sea. The made all of the Pan Family clansmen present scream uncontrollably. They seemed to go insane, trying their very best to escape.

“Splash...!”

Appearing within the other giant whirlpools, more giant copper hands burst through the water’s surface like gnarled limbs of ancient trees.

“Look! Another pair of hands!”

“Eight pairs! There are eight pairs of hands in total!”

“Heavens! Why would the eight god corpses appear here?”

Almost all of the Pan Family clansmen immediately burst into tears.

However, what scared them even more was that the eight pairs of god hands that stretched out of the sea grabbed the Pan Family clansmen who fell into the water and dragged them into its depths.

Soon enough, thick clouds of blood appeared in the eight giant whirlpools. It seemed as though the god corpses devoured the clansmen that they caught and pulled into the sea.

Those who had yet to hit the water went white with terror when they saw what was happening below. The sight actually made them freeze as their spirit energies became chaotic.

“Save me, big bro!” Pan Tao screamed at the top of his lungs.

“Splash! Splash! Splash...!”

Numerous Pan Family clansmen fell into the sea at the same time as Song Tingyu and the others.

The second these clansmen hit the water, they used all of their strength to flee, seeking to escape to the desolate island.

However, the moment they did, the whirlpools surged forward and swallowed them up. Giant hands grabbed them and dragged them further in.

Before long, the terrible stench of blood emanated from the whirlpools.

The god corpses captured the Pan Family clansmen as they fell into the sea, devouring them alive as they screamed.

Song Tingyu, Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Xue Moyan, and Xie Jingxuan were scared out of their wits. Some of them nearly vomited when they saw their would-be killers get eaten alive one after another.

However, they didn't dare to move.

They were afraid that they would draw the attention of the god corpses.

Amazingly, the eight giant whirlpools and sixteen giant arms of the corpses did not seem to notice them at all.

The whirlpools swept past them as the terrifying giant arms flailed above their heads. They caught any Pan Family clansmen nearby and devoured them whole.

However, for whatever reason, they didn't harm Song Tingyu and the others.

A long while later, Du Xiangyang coughed, then spoke in a raspy voice.

"Th-this is strange..." he said, forcing himself to stay calm. "Even if the god corpses are blind, they wouldn't just ignore us and let us go, would they?"

Song Tingyu and the others were just as confused as he was.

“The sixteen giant hands of the eight god corpses are rampaging across the sea’s surface and capturing the Pan Family clansmen one after another,” Luo Chen said, his eyebrows deeply furrowed as he shook his head. “Three Pan Family clansmen were just ten meters away from us earlier, and they were also spread out. However, the god corpses changed direction and grabbed even them. So… why couldn’t they see us who were right next to them?”

“The god corpses must have minds of their own!” Song Tingyu exclaimed.

“But… why are they leaving us alone?” Xie Jingxuan asked in confusion.

“They left you alone because I’m the one controlling them.”

Qin Lie’s mocking laugh suddenly rang out from a distance.

Chapter 558: Eaten Alive

One giant god corpse rose from the sea after another with Qin Lie's laughter resounding in the background.

The ancient copper skin of the god corpses shone golden in the sunlight. All of them resembled copper mountains exuding terrifying auras.

The surprising thing was... the god corpses were no longer headless.

Eight giant heads had been seamlessly sewn to the god corpses.

These heads were the ones from the Land of Buried Gods. They had flown out of the Graveyard of Gods to finally become one with their respective corpses.

Qin Lie sat atop the head of the largest god corpse, laughing as he watched everything from a distance.

The god corpse beneath him was the one that had appeared near Sea Moon Island, the last of the eight to be found... and the one that had the Demon Sealing Tombstone hidden within its navel.

The eight god corpses resembled ancient gods that had emerged from the bottom of the sea and unleashed an absolute aura of domination to intimidate this entire region.

Three of them held a dozen or so Pan Family clansmen in each hand. They brought the pitiful martial practitioners to their mouths, teeth still soaked in blood.

Traces of blood trickled from the mouths of the other god corpses, and they reeked of a thick metallic stench of iron.

“Q-Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang screamed.

Song Tingyu’s beautiful eyes regained their usual luster. She cried out softly as well, raising a hand to cover her mouth as if she couldn’t believe what she was currently seeing.

Astonishment filled Luo Chen’s face.

No one could’ve predicted that Qin Lie would take control of the eight god corpses and hide himself under the sea.

The god corpses took action at a crucial moment, instantly destroying the two remaining crystalline war chariots of the Pan Family. They devoured the Pan Family clansmen one after another.

The situation had essentially been completely reversed.

“Come up here,” Qin Lie beckoned.

The god corpse closest to Du Xiangyang and the others extended

an open hand to them as their shocked expressions intensified.

Their minds went momentarily blank as they stared at Qin Lie. They eventually climbed onto the palm of the god corpse's open hand.

They noticed that blood and bone fragments still covered the god corpse's hand.

"This god corpse... can probably understand what we say." Du Xiangyang released a dry, awkward laugh, his expression a mixture of nervousness and anxiety. He worried that the god corpse would tear him apart and eat him just like it did to the Pan Family clansmen.

Luo Chen's face was also slightly pale.

Fortunately for them, the god corpse clearly obeyed Qin Lie. It only lifted Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, Luo Chen, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan up to its incredibly wide shoulders.

As soon as they could stand atop of its shoulders on their own, the god corpse began to move through the sea as if it were commanding the waves around it, hunting down the rest of the Pan Family clansmen.

"Help me, big bro!" Pan Tao screamed frantically as he rushed toward the desolate island. "Help!"

The dozen or so Pan Family clansmen that remained were scared out of their wits as well. They fled as fast as they could without a particular destination in mind.

The eight god corpses moved through the sea like bolts of lightning. They walked through the whirlpools toward the Pan Family clansmen that had been behaving so arrogant just moments ago, constantly catching them. The god corpses either crushed or ate the martial practitioners they caught.

“Krak! Krak krak! Krak!”

The god corpses ate the Pan Family clansmen alive, chewing without remorse and covering their mouths with blood.

Pan Tao still swam furiously. He had yet to be caught.

As if noticing this, the god corpse carrying Qin Lie atop its head reached one of its giant, copper hands toward Pan Tao’s fleeing figure in the distance.

A bloodcurdling scream escaped Pan Tao’s mouth as he executed a secret art, paying a heavy price to try and escape. However, just as he formed his spirit energy, an aura capable of extinguishing one’s soul washed over him. His soul immediately became chaotic, and he lost control of his soul energy. This left him incapable of completing his secret art and escaping.

The god corpse had simply breathed in his direction…

The god corpse ultimately caught Pan Tao in its giant hand and lifted him up to Qin Lie.

“W-wait!” Pan Tao screamed, trying to think of something to say in his defense. “I… I…!”

Qin Lie flashed him a broad, toothy smile and shook his head.

“This one should be eaten alive.”

Terror drove Pan Tao insane.

In the next moment, the god corpse put Pan Tao into its mouth. It chomped down on Pan Tao with its razor-sharp teeth, biting him in half with the first bite and then chewing him into a gory mess.

“Qin Lie!” Song Tingyu shouted suddenly. “We need to go back to the island! Gao Yu is still being pursued!”

“Got it!” Qin Lie replied with a nod.

The eight god corpses carried them across the waves, swiftly approaching the desolate island amidst the roar of the sea.

After taking a moment to determine where to go, Qin Lie pointed at a part of the island on the side opposite the beach they originally landed at.

“There!” he cried, and the god corpses changed course.

The god corpses covered a distance of tens of thousands of meters in just a few strides.

All of a sudden, the body of the Evil God came into view. It rushed through the sea in a frenzied manner, clearly still trying to protect Gao Yu.

Pan Tong and the other Pan Family elders, all of whom were Fragmentation Realm experts, flew through the air unleashing dazzling rays of spirit energy. They constantly sent attacks toward the Evil God’s hands, using their spirit artifacts to try and break through its defenses and kill Gao Yu.

Pan Tong, the Pan Family patriarch, stared at the Evil God’s eyes, holding a black jade rune that burned with pitch black flames. He seemed to be looking for an opportunity to incinerate the vile soul hidden within them.

Qin Lie’s group could only see the Evil God’s body and how slowly it moved. They couldn’t see Gao Yu because its hands were shielding him.

“Th-the god corpses?!”

As soon as Qin Lie saw the situation unfolding, Pan Tong and the Pan Family elders noticed the eight god corpses rushing toward

them.

Under the scorching sunlight, the eight god corpses brimmed with godly light. With footsteps that could destroy mountains and ruin rivers, they rushed across the waves while radiating a terrifying aura capable of threatening the heavens and the earth.

Pan Tong and the Pan Family elders went pale with shock.

“Kill them!” Qin Lie shouted.

At his command, the six god corpses that weren’t carrying passengers rushed the enemy.

Dazzling godly lights shone from the god corpses. Prismatic rays flew through the sky like starry rivers and slammed into Pan Tong and the elders.

The eyes of Du Xiangyang and the others lit up with anticipation.

Judging by their movements, they could immediately tell that the god corpses were different from the body of the Evil God that Gao Yu controlled.

Gao Yu couldn’t use the full extent of the power that the Evil God’s body held. He could control the body with a vile soul and utilize its physical strength to attack and defend.

However, the god corpses that Qin Lie controlled were different. They could actually unleash the terrifying energy within them!

This terrifying energy had created the dazzling rays of godly light that resembled starry rivers.

As one would expect, the physical capabilities of the Evil God's body clearly couldn't compare to the killing potential of the six god corpses.

Under that onslaught of dazzling godly light, the rays of spirit energy that Pan Tong and the other Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners unleashed using their spirit artifacts instantly collapsed.

"Run!" Pan Tong cried.

As soon as he realized the situation had gone awry, Pan Tong fled without hesitation.

The six god corpses resembled ancient gods of the deep sea, walking through enormous waves in their pursuit of Pan Tong and the other elders.

"Whoosh...!"

A vile soul emerged from the Evil God's eyes and vanished into its enormous hands.

The Evil God's hands then lowered its defenses and opened up to reveal Gao Yu. Blood drenched his mouth and neck, and his face appeared frighteningly pale.

"You... you finally came."

Gao Yu coughed intensely, bloody bubbles appearing at the corners of his mouth. His eyes were dim.

"Are you alright!?" Qin Lie yelled from atop the largest god corpse's head.

"I'm fine," Gao Yu said calmly, shaking his head. "I won't die."

"Will Pan Tong be able to escape?" Du Xiangyang frowned.

"No. He won't," Qin Lie said, his face grim and cold. "Only a Nirvana Realm expert would be able to escape the combined might of six god corpses! He and those other geezers are as good as dead!"

"Good!" Du Xiangyang snorted.

"Qin Lie... why did you only just arrive?" Song Tingyu asked, almost complaining. "If you had been any later, Gao Yu and the rest of us probably would've died."

"That..." Qin Lie smiled bitterly. "It'll be difficult to explain that

in a short amount of time.”

As they spoke, they watched as the six god corpses chasing after Pan Tong and the Pan Family elders suddenly fired terrifying rays of golden light from their eyes.

The rays of light resembled golden flames that burned like the sun. They overlapped to form a sea of flames that enveloped the water in front of them.

Terrifying waves of heat rolled across the water, evaporating everything. The intensity of the heat forced Qin Lie and the others to activate their shields of light and struggle to endure it.

Bloodcurdling screams rang out from the flames. A moment later, the screams subsided.

—The terrifying flames had clearly burned Pan Tong and the Pan Family elders to dust.

From the moment that the first god hand emerged from the depths of its whirlpool to the moment that the last Pan Family clansman died, only a few minutes had passed.

Having regained their heads, the god corpses were more powerful than ever before. They had cleanly slaughtered the Pan Family and quickly resolved the situation.

Qin Lie smiled.

“From now on, these eight god corpses will be the guardians of our Blood Fiend Sect!”

Chapter 559: Not Completely Dead...

The god corpses slaughtered all of the Pan Family clansmen in no time at all.

Once the six god corpses that went to pursue Pan Tong and the Pan Family elders returned, Qin Lie's group discovered scorch marks and black scraps of cloth around and sticking out of their mouths.

"It seems that not even Pan Tong could avoid being devoured by the god corpses after getting burned," Du Xiangyang said as he began to relax. He took pleasure in the Pan Family's misfortune. "The Pan Family rushed here to try and use the remains of the ancient elites as fuel for a meteoric rise to power. They probably didn't expect the core experts of their family to be slaughtered to the last man in just a couple of minutes."

All of them knew that this one battle would utterly ruin the Copper rank force that the Pan Family was.

Even if Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, or Du Xiangyang didn't seek vengeance, the Pan Family had lost so many of their expert martial practitioners. They would be torn to shreds by nearby forces and devoured.

Fighting between forces had always been bitter and bloody. One without the protection of experts couldn't hope to defend against the attacks of others.

Upon returning to the desolate island, Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, Xue Moyan, Xie Jingxuan, and Luo Chen leaped from the god corpse that had carried them here. Even Gao Yu, having stored the body of the Evil God within himself upon being saved, dropped down from the god corpse with the others. All of them landed in the sand with a loud bang and then sat down on the beach once more.

Gao Yu wordlessly took out an emerald pill that looked like a brain. He sat down, swallowed it, and began regulating his breathing.

The eight god corpses resembled eight small mountains. They towered above the group, a brilliant golden sheen coming from them due to the splendid sunlight.

Qin Lie descended from the god corpse that had carried him and studied everyone's accusing gazes. He couldn't help but laugh bitterly.

"Er... two days ago, I happened to experience a breakthrough," he explained awkwardly. "I focused all of my attention on it... That's why I didn't realize what was happening to all of you."

A few days ago, in a valley on another desolate island, Qin Lie waited for the Demon Sealing Tombstone to refine the metal, earth, and water spirits and produce droplets of essence. As he waited, he kept using spirit stones and soul crystals to try and gather his strength.

As expected, he ended up breaking through to the next realm.

As he broke through to the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm, all of his energy, his soul consciousness and spirit energy, became chaotic. He couldn't spare even the slightest bit of his attention for anything else.

Upon finishing his breakthrough, Qin Lie immediately noticed that the eight god heads, which had been scattered around the valley, had flown into the air on their own.

The heads had shot away from the valley toward the sea in front of the island and dove into eight whirlpools raging in the water.

Qin Lie had followed them and was surprised to find that the eight headless god corpses, which Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were supposed to have imprisoned, stood at the bottom of that region of the sea.

The eight god hands floated to their respective bodies, each fitting themselves to a neck. Although it was in the process of refining the metal, earth, and water spirits, the Demon Sealing Tombstone emerged from Qin Lie's spatial ring of its own accord.

The tombstone moved to float high above the heads of the eight god corpses.

After positioning itself, numerous dazzling chains of godly light shot from the surface of the tombstone and entered the space

between every single god corpse's eyebrows, instantly forming a miraculous connection.

At nearly the same exact time, a prismatic halo of light shot from the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and enveloped Qin Lie.

This halo of colorful light forced a memory into his soul consciousness, allowing him to instantly master some kind of ancient divine language.

As a result, he discovered that he only needed to touch the Demon Sealing Tombstone and give orders in that language. If he did, the god corpses would execute those orders to the fullest extent of their abilities.

The god corpses obeyed the commands of the Demon Sealing Tombstone. This meant that, through the Demon Sealing Tombstone, Qin Lie could indirectly control the god corpses and use them for his own purposes.

"God corpses this, god corpses that," Du Xiangyang said as he stared at the eight intimidating god corpses glowing with golden light. He wore a look of confusion, eyes wide open. "Isn't a god corpse already dead? How can they understand what you say?"

"Without consciousnesses, they shouldn't be able to understand words or make sense of intent... right?" Xie Jingxuan said.

The very idea perplexed her.

“Who said that the god corpses had completely perished?” Qin Lie replied.

“They’re called god corpses, Qin Lie. God corpses!” Song Tingyu exclaimed. “Only the bodies of those who have perished would be called corpses, don’t you agree?”

“Without their heads, they can be called god corpses. However, when their heads and bodies join together to become one entity, they can no longer be considered a dead body devoid of consciousness,” Qin Lie said, narrowed eyes gleaming brightly. “They still possess simple consciousness and soul fragments. They haven’t completely perished yet.”

“They’re… not completely dead…?”

This revelation shocked everyone.

Everyone except Gao Yu.

“It’s probably the same situation as the Evil God’s,” he suddenly exclaimed. “Whenever the Evil God’s soul perishes, instead of dissipating, it becomes numerous wisps of imperishable thoughts that scatter throughout the world.”

Everyone turned to look at Gao Yu, surprise evident on their faces.

With a stoic expression on his pale face, he wiped lingering traces of blood from the corner of his mouth and said, “The souls of almost all beings that reach the Imperishable Realm and beyond don’t dissipate naturally. Even if their bodies die and their souls go silent, they may still remain scattered across the world as thought fragments.”

“It would seem that Gao Yu understands this very well.” Qin Lie smiled.

Gao Yu’s injuries swiftly stabilized after he swallowed that pill. His spirit energy reserves, which were low, also replenished at a rapid rate. This made everyone inwardly click their tongues in wonder.

All of them figured that the pill he consumed must’ve been extraordinary. They had no other way to explain his quick recovery.

“Even if a martial practitioner’s body were to die and have their soul extinguished, as long as they reached the Imperishable Realm, they can’t truly be considered dead,” Gao Yu continued, an icy expression on his face. “Unless someone uses a secret art to refine and wipe away all traces of their soul, they will never truly be killed.”

“Are you saying that the soul of a martial practitioner at the Imperishable Realm or above must be refined with the power of thunder and lightning to completely wipe out their memories,

experiences, and thought fragments?” Song Tingyu asked in surprise. “Like the souls at the thunder lagoon?”

“No, nothing so troublesome.” Gao Yu shook his head. “The thunder lagoon was specifically intended for the refinement of Pure Soul Springs. The thunder and lightning of the thunder lagoon was gentle and only suited for tempering a soul. In order to destroy a soul, you would only need to blast it with the most violent power of thunder for an instant, reducing it to nothing.”

“So what exactly are the Evil God and the god corpses?” Song Tingyu questioned further.

“The Evil God and the god corpses... their bodies were probably formed after their imperishable souls self-destructed.” Gao Yu paused for a moment before continuing, “Even if this were considered the death of one’s soul, it cannot be considered a true death. In the future, under the right circumstances, these remnant souls that perish on their own accord have the chance to reconstitute and be reborn in nirvana.”

“A soul can be reborn even after self-destructing?” Xie Jingxuan was also shocked.

“Not every soul! Only an imperishable soul!” Gao Yu impatiently corrected her. “Only beings who reach or have surpassed the Imperishable Realm can choose to self-destruct in the face of a powerful enemy they aren’t able to resist. It allows them to avoid complete annihilation.”

His words stunned everyone into silence.

“Gao Yu is correct.” Qin Lie smiled calmly, then added, “These eight god corpses may have been beheaded, but they couldn’t be considered completely dead. They used the method that Gao Yu explained to make their souls self-destruct and scatter through every corner of the world. Soul fragments subconsciously return to their body if they are close to it. Over the course of many years, if enough return, the body will regain a semblance of simple consciousness and a weak soul aura.”

“Many remnant soul thoughts get absorbed and refined by martial practitioners that happen upon them, whether they do so by coincidence or good fortune,” Gao Yu continued. “These remnant souls would no longer be able to return to the body.”

“Remnant souls of Imperishable Realm beings or stronger randomly roam this world,” Qin Lie said solemnly. “After being worn down over long periods of time, they become incredibly faint, almost indistinguishable to the point where even peak experts aren’t able to sense them. Some remnant souls that endure the ravages of time might only have hints of memories inside of them. They end up with these memories when they aimlessly wander into special places. More importantly, people can obtain remnant souls by accident.”

“By accident?” Du Xiangyang asked, a strange light appearing in his eyes.

“You’ve probably heard of martial practitioners that reached the most difficult, critical points in their cultivation, such as breaking

through to the next realm, and suddenly had flashes of inspiration, right?" Qin Lie asked. "They would seem to have abruptly understood the laws of the world, almost as if a god had explained a miraculous spirit art to them."

Du Xiangyang wasn't alone. A thoughtful expression appeared on everyone's face, all of whom began nodding soon afterward.

"There are many examples of that. Three hundred years ago, there was a senior of Heavenly Sword Mountain that had been stuck in the Fragmentation Realm for many years. One day, while he was cultivating at the peak of a mountain, he felt a sudden rush of inspiration and learned an amazing sword art. That sword art is known as the 'Nine Suns Flaming Sword Art.' The sword art I cultivate is a variation of it."

Du Xiangyang recounted this tale in wonder.

"It is said that, ten thousand years ago, a person named the 'Nine Suns Heavenly Monarch' used a spirit art called 'Nine Suns Daylight.' The Nine Suns Heavenly Monarch perished a long time ago, of course, but Nine Suns Daylight and the Nine Suns Flaming Sword Art are extremely similar to each other. Maybe..."

"Similar records exist within Illusory Demon Sect as well," Xue Moyan exclaimed softly. "Seven hundred years ago, an Illusory Demon Sect disciple with extremely low talent experienced a fiendish rebound while cultivating. Everyone thought that he had become an invalid as a result. However, when he awoke from the ordeal, he actually learned some kind of dark demonic secret arts. From then on, he seemed to have transformed into an entirely

different person. He became extremely intelligent, his cultivation of Illusory Demon Sect's spirit arts progressed by leaps and bounds, and he became the most dazzling genius in all of Illusory Demon Sect's history in one go. Could it be that..."

"He may very well have coincidentally absorbed the soul fragment and memory of an Imperishable Realm expert!" Qin Lie said gravely.

"Does that mean the Evil God and the god corpses have yet to completely die?" Luo Chen asked in amazement.

"Some of the bodies of ancient elites from the Land of Buried Gods are in the same situation as them. Their souls haven't completely dissipated," Qin Lie said with a nod. "I can confirm that the Blood Progenitor and the Voodoo Progenitor have not died completely."

Even more shock leaped to everyone's faces.

"You've obtained the body of the Evil God, Gao Yu. Are you going to refine and absorb his inheritance to empower yourself... or are you going to seek out his remnant souls and regather his soul?" Qin Lie suddenly asked.

"What are you planning to do with the Blood Progenitor's body?" Gao Yu retorted.

Qin Lie paused for a moment, then coughed dryly and smiled. He

no longer pursued his question.

"Qin Lie, you...?" Xue Moyan exclaimed in complete surprise. "The Blood Progenitor may not be completely dead, but you... you're going to...? Qin Lie, he's the progenitor of Blood Fiend Sect!"

"I will assume that he is completely dead," Qin Lie said calmly.

Chapter 560: Splitting the Spoils

In all actuality, Qin Lie didn't consider himself beholden to Blood Fiend Sect. He certainly wouldn't treat the Blood Progenitor as an elder.

The body of the Blood Progenitor was just a tool to him.

The remnant souls of the Blood Progenitor had yet to gather in the body, so he only saw it as a weapon at his disposal.

If Qin Lie were to allow the Blood Progenitor's remnant souls to reform into a whole and let him revive, what would happen?

Perhaps the Blood Progenitor's first act would be to kill them!

Qin Lie didn't want to bring trouble upon himself, nor did he want to let go of the prize already in his possession, so he never planned to gather the Blood Progenitor's remnant souls.

"But... m-my father..." Xue Moyan's voice trailed off.

Xue Li's body had been destroyed and half his soul had been refined, which left him desiring a new body. Before Qin Lie entered the Graveyard of Gods, his main goal had been to find the body of the Blood Progenitor for Xue Li to possess.

However, once they reached the Land of Buried Gods, Qin Lie

inadvertently used his True Soul to go inside of the Blood Progenitor's body and use its power.

The Blood Progenitor's body could be considered useful to Qin Lie as well. If he used it like a spirit artifact, it would make Qin Lie significantly stronger. Since that was possible, would he still be willing to give it to Xue Li?

Xue Moyan couldn't be certain.

Everyone stared at Qin Lie, eyes shimmering because they were dying to see what he had decided on.

"I entered the Graveyard of Gods with two goals in mind. Finding traces of my grandfather and learning whether or not he died in the Graveyard of Gods came first," Qin Lie said with a smile. "Finding the body of the Blood Progenitor for Senior Xue Li came second. Before entering, I promised him that I would do my best to get it for him."

Xue Moyan's face lit up with excitement, her hopes rising once more.

"You're right." Qin Lie smiled and nodded, then firmly said, "I plan to give the Blood Progenitor's body to your father so his soul can possess it."

Xue Moyan gazed at him in disbelief.

“So daring!” Du Xiangyang instinctively praised Qin Lie.

Luo Chen gave Qin Lie a strange look as if he were meeting him for the first time. He couldn’t help but look at him again.

However, after a moment of quiet, disappointment appeared on Song Tingyu’s face.

She had always been on Qin Lie’s side and knew that Qin Lie’s relationship with Xue Li was one of cooperation. They definitely weren’t close like a student and a teacher.

She figured that, even if Qin Lie chose not to give the valuable body of the Blood Progenitor to Xue Li, he still wouldn’t owe him anything.

Strictly speaking, Qin Lie really didn’t owe Xue Li a thing. Xue Li had taught Qin Lie the Blood Spirit Art, and Qin Lie had helped Xue Li break free of the spirit pattern pillars.

Both of them were even.

“Thank you!” Xue Moyan said sincerely, bowing.

Qin Lie waved his hand and shook his head. “Don’t thank me so soon. You saw the bloody spirit diagrams inscribed into the Blood Progenitor’s body. They connect it to me and... I can control it. If Senior Xue Li wants to possess the body of the Blood Progenitor, it might mean that I’ll still hold power over him.”

“What?” Xue Moyan gasped in shock. “How can that be?”

“I don’t know.” Qin Lie grimaced. “Later, when Senior Xue Li sees the Blood Progenitor’s body, he’ll decide what to do.”

“And here I was, thinking that you were being extremely generous,” Luo Chen said coldly. “So that’s how it is… hmph!”

Du Xiangyang continued to grin.

It also occurred to him that, even if Xue Li possessed the body of the Blood Progenitor, Qin Lie would still be able to control and use it.

“Let’s see what Senior Xue Li decides on,” Qin Lie said, shrugging helplessly. “I won’t force him.”

“Are there any problems with the bodies of the ancient elites just laying around, Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang suddenly asked. “What’s your plan?”

“This area is vast and doesn’t have anything that we can use as a suitable hiding place. We can’t stay here for long.” Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment, then said, “The Blood Cloud Mountain Range of the Heavenly Calamity Continent is a good place for that. It’s a pity that Blood Fiend Sect is still public enemy number one. Once people find out we’re there, we’ll immediately be pursued by the three great families. Even with these eight god corpses, we

aren't a match for them, so we can't go there at the moment."

"Then... where can we go?" Du Xiangyang asked in astonishment.

"Do any of you know of places nearby that are well-hidden and not far from a continent?" Qin Lie asked. "There has to be somewhere we can hide the bodies of these ancient elites, they can't be stored in spatial rings."

Gao Yu had been able to store the body of the Evil God inside of him because it had acknowledged him. The Evil God then shrank into a black grain of rice that Gao Yu was able to put away.

Qin Lie could store the body of the Blood Progenitor in much the same way. However, instead of gaining its acknowledgement, Qin Lie had a connection to the body through the spirit diagrams.

Qin Lie's True Soul could enter the mind of the Blood Progenitor, so he would naturally have a way to store the body.

Unfortunately, aside from the body of the Blood Progenitor, Qin Lie couldn't store the eight giant god corpses, let alone all the bodies of the ancient elites.

"We need to find a place to hide all of the bodies?" Xue Moyan blinked, her eyelashes fluttering.

"You know of a suitable place?" Qin Lie asked hurriedly.

He had to find somewhere to hide the bodies of the ancient elites as well as the eight god corpses. If he couldn't, others would eventually find them.

This region of the sea was close to the Heavenly Calamity Continent and the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. Xue Moyan happened to be familiar with both continents, so she had an idea of places they could hide the bodies.

"When every force banded together a thousand years ago and destroyed Blood Fiend Sect, my mother and many uncles from the sect travelled far from the Heavenly Slaughter Continent and found an extremely well-hidden place to take shelter." Xue Moyan hesitated for a moment, then said, "The remaining members of Blood Fiend Sect have been cultivating there ever since."

She looked at Luo Chen and the others, then fell silent.

Aside from herself and Qin Lie, who both cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and could be considered members of Blood Fiend Sect, everyone else was an outsider.

Even until now, Blood Fiend Sect remained public enemies of every continent and faced the oppression of every force. Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families zealously hunted down the survivors of Blood Fiend Sect. The location in which they hid definitely couldn't be exposed.

Xue Moyan couldn't afford to trust anyone other than Qin Lie.

“We won’t go with you.” Du Xiangyang raised his hand to make his opinion known. “I want one body of an ancient elite. If I can take it and absorb the fire energy inside of it, I’ll leave.”

“I also found a body that is suitable for me,” Luo Chen said with a snort. “If I can have it, I’ll leave as well and turn a blind eye to your matters.”

“If we can find a boat, I’ll leave too, Qin Lie,” Gao Yu said.

“You’re not coming with us?” Qin Lie didn’t care about Du Xiangyang or Luo Chen, instead turning his attention to Gao Yu. “Where are you going?”

“I journeyed from the Scarlet Tide Continent to the Land of Chaos just to participate in the Trial and find the body of the Evil God,” Gao Yu stated bluntly. “I’ve achieved my objective and have other things to do. So… I won’t be going with you.”

“Where will you go? Back to the Scarlet Tide Continent?” Qin Lie asked, his brow furrowed.

“First, I need to find Jia Yue and find a way to banish the ice spirit from her body. After that… I have my own destination.”

Gao Yu didn’t explain any further.

Like Xue Moyan, he only trusted Qin Lie. He didn't want anyone else to know.

"I have ways to help all of you obtain the bodies of ancient elites that fit the spirit arts that each of you cultivate, but I cannot help you with ones that do not. You won't be able to take those ones," Qin Lie said gravely. "As for the ones that suit each of you, you'll need to find a ship to transport them. I've searched for all of the bodies and found twenty-three on the islands and in the water nearby. There are seven of us, so we'll be able to have at least three per person."

The moment he said all of this, everyone trembled and looked at him in disbelief.

"What? You have a way for us to store these bodies?" Du Xiangyang shouted in shock.

"You're willing to split all twenty three bodies evenly among us!?" Luo Chen stared at Qin Lie deeply.

"Maybe we should split them up according to contribution?" Song Tingyu said worriedly.

In her opinion, everyone would have been buried in the Forbidden Land of Ice if it weren't for Qin Lie.

Since Qin Lie saved everyone's lives, all of the spoils logically belonged to him.

Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and even her and Xie Jingxuan didn't deserve any of the spoils.

She felt that Qin Lie should just take everything!

"I have the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the eight god corpses, the blood essences of six of the seven spirits, and the six Pure Soul Springs," Qin Lie said with a smile. "I feel like I should split the bodies of the ancient elites with you and am willing to do so."

Everyone's eyes lit up.

Before Qin Lie told everyone that he would split the spoils evenly amongst everyone, Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen only wanted one body of an ancient elite that suited them. Even then, they thought that Qin Lie wouldn't have necessarily allowed them to have that much.

Their thoughts were basically the same as Song Tingyu's. They figured that, since they hadn't helped in the Forbidden Land of Ice and nearly became a burden to Qin Lie, they didn't deserve anything.

None of them would have escaped the Graveyard of Gods without Qin Lie.

All of them would have died.

Deep inside, Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen saw the bodies as Qin Lie's rightful reward. Although they wanted to have one each, they were afraid that Qin Lie wouldn't want to give them away and naturally didn't dare to be greedier.

The moment they heard Qin Lie say he would distribute all twenty three bodies amongst them, they found it difficult to believe him.

"R-really? You'd be willing to do that?" Du Xiangyang asked excitedly.

"The six of you can choose three bodies each. I'll take the other five," Qin Lie suggested. "If Chu Li is still alive, I'll give three to him and keep two for myself. How does that sound?"

"Great!"

Aside from Song Tingyu, who felt nothing but regret, everyone else nodded vigorously, exhilaration on their faces.

"Senior Sister Xue, let us first go to the place you spoke of. Blood Fiend Sect can't just hide like this forever," Qin Lie said, looking at Xue Moyan. "Du Xiangyang and the others know that we cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. If they really wanted to deal with us, all they'd have to do is share that information."

"Once I return to Heavenly Sword Mountain, I'll talk to my grandmother. I'll do everything I can to convince her to use her

power to change Heavenly Sword Mountain's view of Blood Fiend Sect!" Luo Chen promised.

Although it was extremely difficult for her, Xue Moyan agreed with Qin Lie.

"Alright then. Let's go."

Chapter 561: The People of God

Silver moonlight descended upon the water, shimmering on the rippling waves in a calm and peaceful manner.

Figures floated on the surface of the endless sea, heading in the direction of the Heavenly Slaughter Continent.

Seven young martial practitioners silently sat on prayer mats atop the water that seemed to have been woven from weeds. They wore cautious expressions, speaking to each other in low voices every now and then.

“The Pan Family received a message from Illusory Demon Sect and attacked us for the remains of ancient elites from the Land of Buried Gods,” Qin Lie said, looking at the water in the distance with narrowed eyes. He used his soul perception to examine the surroundings. “Celestial Artifact Sect definitely told everyone that the bodies would be in the seas between continents. This would make every force start a widespread search. We’ll probably encounter multiple search parties on our way to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. We from the Scarlet Tide Continent are relatively unknown and shouldn’t attract attention.”

He turned to look at Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Xue Moyan.

“But you three stand out too much.”

“You’re too famous in the Land of Chaos. Many people know how you look,” Song Tingyu added. “Especially you, Xue Moyan. You’re

a prominent figure of Illusory Demon Sect. Most people in this area will probably recognize you."

"Changing one's appearance is a simple thing," Xue Moyan replied.

Taking out a small porcelain bottle, she dripped a few beads of amber liquid onto her hand. She then softly rubbed them onto her face, making adjustments to her facial features.

A few seconds later, she wore a completely new face. It looked ordinary, significantly different from her original face.

Du Xiangyang smiled. "Such a thing is child's play."

He took out an opaque mask, casually put it on his face, and immediately turned into someone else.

Luo Chen did the same.

"Miss Song. Miss Xie. If you're willing to disguise your beauty, I think we'll be able to avoid a bit more trouble," Du Xiangyang said casually.

"Mn. We're fine with that," Song Tingyu answered.

She and Xie Jingxuan quickly altered their faces.

“Much better.” Qin Lie grinned as he looked at the unfamiliar faces around him. He thought to himself for a moment, then said, “We still need a ship.”

Everyone instinctively looked into the water below.

On this bright, moonlit night, if one were to look under the water, they’d be able to see enormous silhouettes in its depths.

—These were the god corpses.

If someone went into the water, they would be shocked to discover that the eight god corpses, which had disappeared from the bottom of the ocean near the Heavenly Fissure Continent, were/travelled beneath Qin Lie and the others.

The prayer mats that seemed to be made of weeds were actually woven from the hair of the god heads. Since the heads of the god corpses reached just below the surface of the water, Qin Lie’s group could sit on top of them as the vessels that would take them to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent.

Under the water’s surface, the eight god corpses floated in a wide circular formation, their sixteen arms tied together with tree branches.

An enormous basket, likewise made from tree branches, floated through the sixty-five square meters of water between the god corpses. The god corpses held onto this basket, pulling the twenty

three bodies of ancient elites that lay within it.

Suppressing the energy fluctuations within them so they didn't create any waves, the god corpses silently moved underwater.

If someone were to look into the ocean at this very moment, they would see enormous shadows under the water. If it were daytime, however, and the sun were shining down onto the sea, the god corpses and the giant basket holding the remains of ancient elites wouldn't have anywhere to hide.

"Mn," Du Xiangyang grunted in agreement. "The god corpses can't stay near the water's surface. If they did, we'd definitely be exposed. They need to be concealed deep underwater to avoid search parties traveling through the air, so they definitely can't carry us all the way."

"Small boats made from branches won't work. We'll draw attention if we're seen journeying across the ocean in a small vessel," Qin Lie said calmly, rubbing his chin. "We need to capture a ship of suitable size."

"It's a pity that all three of the Pan Family's crystalline war chariots were reduced to scrap," Luo Chen said.

"I hope the first force we encounter is easy to deal with," Gao Yu said, eyes cold. "I also hope they have a big ship we can... borrow."

"There'll be ships and flying spirit artifacts to use, Gao Yu." Qin

Lie frowned. “Are you really going to leave immediately?”

“I have other things to do.”

“Take three ancient elite corpses with you.”

“I’ve achieved my goal of obtaining the Evil God’s body. I currently don’t have the energy to take care of the other corpses and also don’t have a place to store them. Hold on to them for me, Qin Lie. When I’ve taken care of my matters and have need of them, I’ll find you.”

“You’re really going?”

“Mn. I want to find Jia Yue.”

“You know where she is?”

“The ice spirit won’t possess her body forever. It just wanted to avoid the Demon Sealing Tombstone and escape the Graveyard of Gods. Since the Graveyard of Gods collapsed and it no longer has to worry about being sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, it should return to its original body.” Determination filled Gao Yu’s face. “In other words, Jia Yue will be fine. I... made an agreement with her. If she’s alive, she’ll go to a few places to wait for me. I must go to her.”

Seeing that Gao Yu had already made his decision, Qin Lie didn’t push the matter any further.

“I understand.”

……

Six days later, the strong afternoon sun shone onto the sea, the enormous shadows just below its surface easily discernable. Qin Lie and the others sat atop these enormous shadows and continued to travel toward the Heavenly Slaughter continent.

Their group had been relatively lucky thus far. They had yet to encounter any search parties or intelligent beings.

Qin Lie rested on the head of one of the god corpses, his eyes closed.

He felt confused.

Although the Demon Sealing Tombstone had sealed the earth, metal, and water spirits more than ten days ago, it still hadn’t given him any blood essences.

Essence emerged from the Demon Sealing Tombstone not long after it sealed the fire, wood, and thunder spirits, which he would then turn into blood essences using the Blood Refinement Art.

However, as the days continued to pass, the Demon Sealing Tombstone didn’t make a sound. Qin Lie gradually grew worried

and started to suspect that something had happened to it.

When he spoke to Song Tingyu about his confusion, she thought to herself for a moment. Then she said, “The fire, wood, and thunder spirits were sealed and refined one by one. Of course you wouldn’t have to wait long for them. This time, the metal, earth, and water spirits were sealed all at once. The Demon Sealing Tombstone needs to refine all three spirits at once, so it’ll naturally take three times as long, maybe even more. Just wait a little while longer. I think the Demon Sealing Tombstone will undergo a transformation soon.”

“I hope so.” Qin Lie smiled.

He and Song Tingyu sat atop the head of the same god corpse. Xie Jingxuan, Gao Yu, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, and Xue Moyan were there as well, just a bit further from them. As long as the two of them didn’t talk loudly, the other five would be hard pressed to hear what they were talking about.

“How did you know that these god corpses, the Blood Progenitor, and the Voodoo Progenitor weren’t completely dead? That they just suffered the self-destruction of their Imperishable Souls?” Song Tingyu asked in a low voice. “Other than the divine language you use to communicate with the god corpses, did you receive anything else from the Demon Sealing Tombstone?”

“Yeah.” Qin Lie couldn’t keep it a secret from her. “I did receive more information.”

Along with the divine language, the Demon Sealing Tombstone had transmitted memories about the Graveyard of Gods and the eight god corpses into his mind. Those memories... he didn't mention them to Luo Chen and the others.

Song Tingyu's eyes lit up. "The god corpses and the Graveyard of Gods... what are they really?"

"According to the memories I received, what we know as the Graveyard of Gods is actually a divine altar that the Heaven Fighting Race uses to train its descendants. It isn't a public burial ground, a place for ancient elites to be laid to rest. All of that is fake. The thunder lagoon and the Land of Buried Gods are just places to store power and resources," Qin Lie said in a low voice. He paused, then continued, "The Graveyard of Gods, this divine altar... it's basically like a blood pool. It was created for the development of the Heaven Fighting Race's descendants."

"The Heaven Fighting Race?" Song Tingyu exclaimed in shock.

Qin Lie nodded then said, "I learned that the Heaven Fighting Race probably built more divine altars similar to the Graveyard of Gods, all of which are sub-worlds independent from Spirit Realm!"

"A-are there a lot of them?" Song Tingyu asked, trembling.

"Yes!" Qin Lie exclaimed without a doubt. "The bodies of the Blood Progenitor, the Voodoo Progenitor, the Evil God, and the other ancient elites... the Heaven Fighting Race probably got them using unconventional means!"

“Unconventional means? What do you mean?” Song Tingyu covered her mouth in astonishment.

“They may have killed them and then collected their bodies or stole the bodies from their resting places.” After a moment, Qin Lie shook his head and pushed the stray thoughts from his mind. “It doesn’t matter how they got them, we’ll just use them. We may even be able to use the Demon Sealing Tombstone to find other altars in the future. By that time, there will probably be tons of ancient elite bodies for us to seize and use.”

“What about these eight god corpses?” Song Tingyu asked in a small voice.

“The members of the Heaven Fighting Race consider themselves gods. These god corpses… the Heaven Fighting Race calls them the people of god,” Qin Lie shook his head and laughed. “These supposed people of god serve the Heaven Fighting Race with unshakeable loyalty. In other words, they worship them.”

“Stop muttering to yourselves,” Du Xiangyang yelled from his position at the front of the god corpse’s head. His expression grew serious as he got to his feet. “I think we’ve got trouble.”

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu immediately stopped talking. They stood up, looked out at the sea before them, and saw enormous sails in the distance. Multiple iron ships, each nearly a hundred meters long, raised the same embroidered flag.

“Can you see the insignia on the flag?” Xue Moyan asked Du Xiangyang in a loud voice.

“An enormous golden sun,” Du Xiangyang replied, his voice just as loud.

“Those ships belong to Gold Sun Island, a Copper force stronger than the Pan Family. Their island master is at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm and has almost broken through to the Nirvana Realm!”

Everyone looked at Qin Lie.

“The peak of the Fragmentation Realm …” Qin Lie said, thinking to himself. Then a serious look came over him as he asked, “Only the island master is at that level?”

“Yes, just him,” Xue Moyan answered immediately.

“Then there shouldn’t be a problem. Even if we’re exposed, the god corpses should be able to deal with it.” Qin Lie nodded.

As soon as he said this, everyone relaxed.

Chapter 562: Gold Sun Island

With their combat abilities, it wouldn't be much of a problem for the eight god corpses to kill a martial practitioner at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm.

Once he made sure that the island master of Gold Sun Island was the only one at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, Qin Lie's worries disappeared.

"We can try making contact," Qin Lie said, determination shining in his eyes. "It would obviously be best if we didn't expose ourselves and managed to get a free ride to the place that Senior Sister Xue spoke of."

"Shall we try, then?" Song Tingyu's eyes lit up.

"We can try. Even if they find out who we are or have ill intentions, it won't be too late to summon the god corpses." Xue Moyan sighed.

"Is something else on your mind, Senior Sister Xue?" Qin Lie asked, surprised.

"This Copper rank force, Gold Sun Island... they are kind of related to Blood Fiend Sect," she said softly. "If we end up having to kill them... I'll regret it."

"What do you mean?" Qin Lie asked.

“Gold Sun Island’s island master, Xing Yumiao, should be a member of the Xing Family. Like the Xiahou, Su, and Lin Families… the Xing Family was one of the five great families of the Heavenly Calamity Continent,” Xue Moyan explained. “The five great families used to be Blood Fiend Sect’s Copper rank vassal forces, serving the sect in order to survive. The Xing and Miao Families, however, were purged along with Blood Fiend Sect. They fell into decline and eventually disappeared from the continent. The Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families then rose to prominence in the Heavenly Calamity Continent by using Blood Fiend Sect’s destruction as a stepping stone.”

Qin Lie seemed to understand the situation somewhat.

“Were the Xing and Miao Families loyal to Blood Fiend Sect?” he asked.

“Yes.” Xue Moyan nodded. She appeared relatively calm as she said, “It’s exactly because the Xing Family and the Miao Family stayed loyal to Blood Fiend Sect, that they were destroyed.”

“This Xing Yumiao is a member of the Xing Family?” Qin Lie asked.

“The remainder of the Xing and Miao Families knew that they wouldn’t be able to survive in the Heavenly Calamity Continent. The Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families hunted them down, so they could only venture out into the ocean. In the end, Xing Yumiao became the island master of Gold Sun Island, and Miao Yangxu became the

valley master of Green Moon Valley. Both of them are descendants of the Xing and Miao Families." Xue Moyan sighed. "Xing Yumiao and Miao Yangxu are capable people. They fought to establish themselves in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent so the remaining members of the Xing and Miao Families could have a place to live."

"What is Xing Yumiao's current attitude towards Blood Fiend Sect? Have you tried to get in contact with him?" Qin Lie asked grimly.

Qin Lie said "you," but he was actually referring to Xue Moyan and the members of Blood Fiend Sect. Those people were currently hiding in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. They knew that Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley were closely connected to the Xing and Miao Families.

Yet... why did it seem like they hadn't tried to recruit either force?

"Blood Fiend Sect did contact them, but they refused to associate with Blood Fiend Sect." Xue Moyan said, a dull expression on her face. "Blood Fiend Sect became a public enemy of the Land of Chaos. If I were Xing Yumiao or Miao Yangxu, I wouldn't want to get involved with Blood Fiend Sect again either."

"It's been so many years," Du Xiangyang said, his mouth twisted into a sneer. "Xing Yumiao and Miao Yangxu are just descendants of the Xing and Miao Families. They probably don't feel any connection to Blood Fiend Sect."

“I believe that must be the case as well.” Xue Moyan nodded slightly.

“Gold Sun Island’s ships are getting closer,” Song Tingyu said in a low voice. “If we want to try the peaceful approach, you need to have the god corpses descend now, Qin Lie.”

“Prepare to swim, everyone!” Qin Lie shouted.

Immediately after he said that, he leaped into the ocean. He then took out the Demon Sealing Tombstone and sent commands to the god corpses.

Dragging the enormous basket with them, the eight god corpses quickly descended deep into the sea.

The six people that remained standing on the heads of the god corpses immediately plunged into the water and had to use spirit power to stay afloat.

“What should we say to those people of Gold Sun Island when they get here?” Luo Chen asked as he treaded water. “What should our identities be?”

“Let’s say that we were travelling from the Heavenly Calamity Continent to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, and a storm destroyed our ship in the middle of the journey, forcing us into the ocean,” Xue Moyan said, making up a story for everyone. “Many martial practitioners from the Heavenly Calamity Continent are

too poor to afford the exorbitant fees of intercontinental teleportation. Since they can't use the teleportation formations to reach the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, most endure the long voyages. Some find themselves stuck at the verge of breaking through to the next realm, so they use also choose the travel to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent by ship to gain experience at sea and take in the vast scenery of water."

Xue Moyan paused then said," Any name should be fine as long as our surnames aren't Xiahou, Lin, or Su."

"So Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley still hate the three great families of the Heavenly Calamity Continent?" Song Tingyu asked in surprise.

"They hate them down to their very bones!" Xue Moyan nodded. "It's a pity that Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley are just Copper rank forces. In all these years, they've never dared to enter the Heavenly Calamity Continent because they know that the three great families hate them as well. They only dare to attack members of the three great families in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent."

"Once Blood Fiend Sect has been rebuilt, maybe we can use that hate to recruit them," Qin Lie said, rubbing his chin.

As they spoke, the eight god corpses had long sunk deep into the sea.

Enormous shadows no longer appeared just below the water's

surface.

The flag embroidered with a golden sun slowly drew nearer. Five gigantic steel ships parted the waves.

A few minutes later, a Sword Leaf Boat emerged from the large ship. The small, fast-moving boat carried five Gold Sun Island martial practitioners. They wore golden clothing with the insignia of a sun at the center of their backs.

“Who are you?” the leader of the five asked harshly. “Why are you swimming in the ocean? Where’s your ship?”

Xue Moyan quickly narrated their prepared backstory.

“We hail from the Heavenly Calamity Continent,” she said. “We… we didn’t have enough spirit stones to pay the fees required to use the teleportation formations, so we could only travel by ship. Some time ago, we were unlucky enough to encounter a storm. It destroyed our ship and left us floating in the ocean.”

“Just you?” The people on the Sword Leaf Boat clearly didn’t believe her. “Ships that traverse the ocean usually carry thousands of people. Your ship was destroyed, but only seven of you survived?”

“The winds and the waves separated all of the survivors, carrying everyone else to other places,” Xue Moyan said. “We’re the only ones here.”

“You were headed to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent?” the leader asked.

“Yes.”

“To do what?”

“Gain experience.”

“What are you called?”

Everyone in Qin Lie’s group reported fake names, making sure that they didn’t use the surnames Xiahou, Lin, or Su. They also mentioned that they lived on the outskirts of the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

When it was his turn, Qin Lie’s mind went into overdrive and said he was called “Xing Lie.”

When he did, the person questioning them immediately looked at Qin Lie and interrogated him about his ancestors.

“I don’t remember much about my ancestors. Since I was young, I lived deep in the mountains with my family. My grandfather always said that our Xing Family originally prospered, but had to hide in the mountains to avoid a calamity,” Qin Lie said with a sigh, then continued, “Before he died, grandfather warned us not

to tell anyone in the Heavenly Calamity Continent that my surname was Xing. He constantly told me that, if I had the chance, I should leave the Heavenly Calamity Continent as soon as possible. Only when I left would I be able to tell people my true name."

"What's your surname?" the leader asked, his stern expression wavering. "Say it again."

"Xing," Qin Lie, said in a natural manner. "My name is Xing Lie."

"Let them come aboard!" a soft, feminine voice resounded from the largest ship that had stopped in front of Qin Lie's group. A trace of excitement could be heard in it. "Little Wu, bring the boy named Xing Lie to me. Alone. I want to question him!"

"Yes, Big Sister!" A youth on the Sword Leaf Boat immediately nodded. He then turned to Qin Lie and the others, saying, "Come! Follow me to the ship."

Then, after a moment of hesitation, he beckoned Qin Lie forward.

"You!" he said. "Come here! This Sword Leaf Boat can carry one more person. You may come aboard, Xing Lie."

"This... this isn't appropriate, right?" Qin Lie said, embarrassment showing on his face as he looked at the rest of his group still floating in the water.

“Nothing’s wrong.” The youth’s attitude toward Qin Lie clearly improved. “Come on now. Climb aboard.”

“I’m… I’m so sorry.” Qin Lie made his way onto the Sword Leaf Boat as Song Tingyu and the others watched.

The youth was even nice enough to give him dry clothing to wear.

The rest of Qin Lie’s group still floated in the ocean, soaking in the water. They channeled spirit energy as they watched the Sword Leaf Boat speed back to the largest ship. All they could do was follow the boat as fast as they could.

“That Motherf***er!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed regretfully. “If I knew that would happen, I would’ve said my name was Xing Xiangyang.”

“That bastard Qin Lie!” Xie Jingxuan cursed.

Chapter 563: Xing Shengnan

“Come with me. We’re going to see big sister.”

The youth called Xing Wu was only in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, slightly weaker than Qin Lie, yet some of the martial practitioners in the boat with him were in the Fulfillment Realm.

Although they were stronger, they clearly treated Xing Wu as their leader. This showed that the Xing Family seemed to control Gold Sun Island.

With Xing Wu leading the way, Qin Lie followed these Gold Sun Island martial practitioners onto the largest ship and straight to its third level.

Qin Lie glanced behind him and saw that the rest of his companions were still quite a ways from the ship. The Sword Leaf Boat had clearly left them behind.

Gold Sun Island’s largest ship was called the “Wavebreaker.”

There were three levels to this ship. A dozen rooms made up the top level and served as the residences of the Xing Family clansmen. The middle level housed Gold Sun Island martial practitioners that had reached the Fulfillment Realm, and the lowest level held the Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners.

Xing Wu led Qin Lie into a vast, beautifully decorated room covered in thick, lush carpet. Side rooms, such as washrooms and a cultivation room, could be seen. Patterns of turtles and phoenixes peppered the walls, making the room appear grand and intimidating.

"Big sister," Xing Wu said upon leading Qin Lie into the room. "I've brought him."

"Alright." A soft voice rang out from the behind the door of the cultivation room. "Take the others and arrange for them to stay in the lowest level temporarily."

Xing Wu nodded, then spoke to Qin Lie in a low voice. "Big sister hasn't finished cultivating yet. Wait here for now."

"Oh," Qin Lie responded calmly.

Xing Wu promptly took his leave.

Qin Lie casually looked toward the cultivation room. Instead of using his soul perception, however, he just waited, bored out of his mind.

About fifteen minutes later, the door of the cultivation room opened with a soft groan.

A woman walked out. She wore long loose robes that draped her swollen figure. She was tall and broad, like a ball with legs.

Qin Lie looked at her in confusion.

When he heard that soft voice, he expected its owner to be a beautiful woman. Now that the woman had revealed her actual appearance, it was as if a powerful blow had shattered the image in his head to pieces.

“I am Xing Shengnan. Xing Yumiao, Gold Sun Island’s island master, is my older brother. My surname is Xing, just like yours. The ancestors of my Xing Family used to live in the Heavenly Calamity Continent as well!” The moment Xing Shengnan walked out, she looked at Qin Lie and excitedly stated his identity. “You’re called Xing Lie? You said that you and your grandfather lived in mountains of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Your grandfather… what is his name?”

“Xing… Xing Shan,” Qin Lie lied.

The Xing Family originally prospered in the Heavenly Calamity Continent, so it definitely had many clansmen. In addition to how much time had passed since its decline, Qin Lie didn’t think that Xing Shengnan would be able to discern any falsehood from a random name he gave her.

“W-what’s your grandfather called?” the bulky female asked once more, becoming agitated. “Say his name again!”

“Xing Shan!” Qin Lie shouted.

“Heavens!” Xing Shengnan exclaimed in shock.

All of a sudden, she moved forward and swept Qin Lie up in an excited embrace.

“You’re seventh grandfather’s grandson!” she cried joyfully.

Qin Lie felt as though he were being squished by a cotton ball.

“B-Big sister!” he shouted, struggling out of her enthusiastic embrace. “Are you sure you haven’t made a mistake?”

“You’re right to call me big sister!” she shouted, waving her hands in the air. “I am your big sister! Xing Wu is just a member of a branch of the Xing Family. You, Xing Lie, are a member of our main family! I will inform big brother and tell him that seventh grandfather has a descendant!”

“This…”

The woman’s declaration left Qin Lie dumbstruck.

“Here! Look at our Xing Family tree!” Xing Shengnan took a book out of her sleeve as if she had performed a magic trick. She flipped through its pages, which were yellow with age, and pointed at one of the names, saying, “See? Seventh grandfather’s name is Xing Shan!”

Qin Lie moved closer to take a look and saw the name Xing Shan, just as expected. He inwardly grimaced, thinking about how much of a coincidence this was.

“A thousand years ago, every force of the Land of Chaos invaded the Heavenly Calamity Continent and hunted Blood Fiend Sect and its vassal forces. Our Xing Family was one of the five great families that served Blood Fiend Sect. As a result, we were massacred. They hunted down our clansmen and sent us fleeing, scattering us throughout the Land of Chaos. This is the Xing Family’s terrible past!”

Xing Shengnan gritted her teeth and cursed the forces that had invaded and destroyed the Xing Family. She directed her worst swear words at the Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families. She cursed so hard that spittle flew from her mouth and Qin Lie had to form a shield of ice in front of his face to block it.

“Fortunately, my grandfather had only been wounded and managed to survive,” she continued. “He took our Xing Family, my father, and other survivors and fled overseas until they eventually reached the Heavenly Slaughter Continent.

“Of the seven brothers of the Xing Family, my grandfather is the fifth oldest. Your grandfather, Xing Shan, is the youngest. Look! The records of our family tree show this clearly.”

Qin Lie was silent.

He hadn't thought that the name Xing Shan would really exist in the Xing Family tree.

A name that he randomly made up just happened to be the reason why Xing Shengnan became so excited and treated him like family.

"Little brother, where's your grandfather?" Xing Shengnan's thick lips trembled. She couldn't bear the ask, but she had to. "Where is your father and your other clansmen?"

"They're dead." Qin Lie answered with a sigh, bowing his head in dejection. "All of them were killed."

"Damn those Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families!" Xing Shengnan clenched her fists and began a new wave of cursing. She directed all kinds of profanity toward the three great families. "They should all just die!"

Qin Lie laughed inwardly. He didn't even need to say who the culprits were. Xing Shengnan filled in the blanks, saving him a lot of trouble.

He could see that this bulky woman had a quick mouth and had an extremely blunt demeanor. She didn't care much for courtesy and wasn't a scheming person.

Although she was a woman, she acted like a man.

"Oh, right. Little brother, you were floating in the sea for so long.

Aren’t you tired?” Xing Shengnan asked worriedly.

Qin Lie nodded profusely.

He wanted to get away from Xing Shengnan as soon as possible. He was afraid that if this woman continued to ask questions, he wouldn’t be able to maintain his lie and his identity would be exposed.

“Xing Yao!” Xing Shengnan shouted toward the hallway. “Come here and meet your young uncle then take him to the room next to yours so he can rest! I’ll find your father later and explain everything so we can add him to the family tree! This is a momentous occasion for the Xing Family!”

“Sister-in-law!” A crisp, clear voice echoed from a corner of the hallway. “I’m still cultivating!”

“You awful girl!” Xing Shengnan scolded. “Get over here right now, you disrespectful child!”

Soon enough, a beautiful young woman wearing a light green silk dress reluctantly walked out into the hallway.

“A distant relative of grandfather? Sister-in-law, why are you talking this so seriously?” she muttered. “We don’t even know if he’s telling the truth or not.”

“How can he be lying? The family tree clearly shows that seventh

grandfather's name is the same as his grandfather's." Xing Shengnan glared at Xing Yao and hissed, "Xing Lie is your uncle, so you will refer to him as such! If you dare keep muttering like that, I'll rip your mouth from your face!"

Xing Yao clearly couldn't handle her sister-in-law. She couldn't do anything but helplessly bow her head.

She didn't even look at Qin Lie as she put an end to the matter and said, "Uncle."

With that, Xing Shengnan finally felt satisfied. She waved a hand and sternly said, "Take your uncle to the empty room next to yours so he can rest."

"Th-that... big sister, I can just go to the lowest level," Qin Lie hurriedly said. "My friends are probably there by now."

"Absolutely not!" A serious look came over Xing Shengnan's face, and she said, "You're seventh grandfather's grandson, a direct descendant of our Xing Family! How could we possibly have you stay with the servants! That's absurd!"

"Uh..."

"Xing Yao! What are you just standing there for? Don't you know how to properly guide your uncle to his room?" Xing Shengnan began shouting again. "You're such a stupid little girl!"

Xing Yao was terrified of her sister-in-law. She shrunk back from Xing Shengnan's tirade, on the verge of tears as she said, "Let's go, uncle!"

The way she spat out the word "uncle" showed just how much she detested Qin Lie.

"This..." Qin Lie was at a loss for words.

"Xing Lie, go with your niece. If the girl does anything you don't like, let me know and I'll punish her!" Xing Shengnan said with a snort. "Ah... ever since the Xing Family had been scattered, those little bastards forgot all about their ancestors and where the true home of the Xing Family is."

Xing Shengnan sighed. She was clearly dissatisfied with her juniors.

Xing Yao didn't want to stay one second longer. Seeing that Qin Lie just stood there, frozen to his spot, she angrily pulled at his sleeve and moved to leave.

Qin Lie stumbled because her forceful pulling, yet when she glared at him, all he could do was follow her out.

Chapter 564: Three Wives

“Who are you? What is your real name? What is your goal?”

Xing Yao bombarded Qin Lie with questions as they moved through the hallway.

Qin Lie rolled his eyes at her.

In his opinion, Xing Yao had a petite figure and could be considered attractive. She seemed like she could be the pretty daughter of a humble family.

Yet... her beauty paled in comparison to Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan. Since he was so accustomed to seeing beautiful women, Qin Lie could only see Xing Yao’s beauty as ordinary.

When he lied to the Xing Family and introduced himself as “Xing Lie,” he had only wanted to get a free ride from them. He wasn’t actually planning to deepen his relationship with them.

“What goal could I possibly have? I told you earlier that my name is Xing Lie,” Qin Lie said calmly. “Is there something wrong with that?”

Xing Yao had led him to the end of the hallway by this point. Both of them now stood before a door to the room that Xing Shengnan had indicated.

The door of the room next to it, Xing Yao's room, was ajar.

"My sister-in-law trusts you because she can't forget about the old Xing Family. That's the only reason you've been able to take advantage of her," Xing Yao said with a snort, her eyes narrowed. "I, however, am not so easily fooled! Forces in the area have been searching for the remains of ancient elites that flew out of the Graveyard of Gods recently. Plenty of spies have been lurking around and looking for information. In my opinion... hmph!"

Islands dotted the ocean between the Heavenly Calamity Continent and the Heavenly Slaughter Continent like the stars in the sky. Quite a few forces were on the same level as Gold Sun Island, Green Moon Valley, and the Pan Family. There were even more Black Iron rank forces in the area as well.

These forces, big or small, were associated with either Illusory Demon Sect or Black Voodoo Cult. Some were also connected to the Heavenly Calamity Continent's three great families.

After Celestial Artifact Sect had spread the news that the remains of ancient elites had emerged from the Graveyard of Gods and fallen throughout the seas between all of the continents, Illusory Demon Sect, Black Voodoo Cult, and the three great families ordered all of their vassal forces to search for them with everything they had. Anyone that found a clue would then be greatly rewarded.

Even if rewards hadn't been promised, the hundreds of

thousands of forces would be able to grow significantly with just a tiny bit of the benefits that came from the remains of the ancient elites.

As a result, every force in all of the Land of Chaos worked itself into a frenzy and scoured the regions of the sea around them. They used huge ships or flying spirit artifacts to conduct their searches, trying to find even the smallest clue.

The Pan Family, Gold Sun Island, and Green Moon Valley were just three of the myriad forces doing the same exact thing.

During this period of searching, all forces would send out spies and operate in the regions that other forces were active in. They did this to gather the latest news and find out what other parties had discovered.

Xing Yao, herself, had personally captured three such messengers near Gold Sun Island. One belonged to the Pan Family. The other two came from Heavenly Sea Pavilion and Black Cloud Palace, vassal forces of Black Voodoo Cult that had always fought with Gold Sun Island.

Xing Yao figured that Qin Lie's group of seven had been sent by their enemies. She believed they were borrowing the surname Xing to get close to them, hide within Gold Sun Island, and acquire information right under their noses.

Qin Lie spread his arms, a wounded expression on his face.

“Our ship really was destroyed,” he said. “We’ve been floating on the ocean for a long time and were just hoping to get a free ride. We just want to get to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent as soon as possible.”

“Sure. Keep making up as many stories as you want. I’ll figure out the truth eventually.” Xing Yao couldn’t be bothered to mince words any longer and pointed toward the door in front of them. “Go in there and wait.”

“Where’s the key?” Qin Lie asked with a smile.

“There isn’t one!” Xing Yao snorted and returned to her room, slamming the door shut. She just left Qin Lie in the hallway.

Qin Lie paid no heed to her impolite actions and simply rubbed his nose, then attempted to push the door open.

Surprisingly enough, the door swung open. A tidy space lay within, complete with a washroom, a small cultivation room, and two bedrooms. Clothes he could change into were fully prepared as well.

Despite the fact that all the facilities in this room matched the others, it wasn’t as lavishly decorated or as large as Xing Shengnan’s room.

“This isn’t bad.” Qin Lie smiled in satisfaction, then loudly yelled, “Hey, niece! My women are still down below. Why don’t

you send word and have them brought up here?”

Only one wall separated Xing Yao’s room from his. Only the cultivation room was specifically insulated to prevent sound from getting in, so as long as Qin Lie shouted loudly, Xing Yao would definitely be able to hear him as long as she wasn’t in that particular room.

“Th-them?” Xing Yao stammered. She had just sat down in her room when Qin Lie’s sudden yell made her freeze.

“Mn, they’re probably at the bottom level,” Qin Lie said nonchalantly. “Please do me a favor and tell them to come here.”

Qin Lie’s room was a guest room specifically meant for Xing Family clansmen. It provided two bedrooms, a decent-sized cultivation room, a washroom, and a small living room. There definitely wouldn’t be any problem accommodating Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan in it.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan were scions of Profound Heaven Alliance, and Xue Moyan was the disciple of Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master. All three had lived like princesses ever since they had been born. Qin Lie felt it would be inappropriate to have them stuck in the bottom of the ship surrounded by men of Gold Sun Island, so he created an excuse to get them up here.

As for Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Gao Yu… they were men.

Of course Qin Lie ruthlessly abandoned them.

“You have three wives?” Xing Yao shouted through the wall, snorting coldly.

“Mn. All three are my wives. Please summon them for me, niece,” Qin Lie said with a smile.

“Shameless bastard!” Xing Yao swore through gritted teeth, then harshly said, “I’m busy!”

“Then I can only seek out your sister-in-law, my big sister, to help me arrange things.” Qin Lie sighed, pretending to walk out and find Xing Shengnan to discuss this matter.

“Stop!” Xing Shengnan felt a headache coming on. She had no choice but to give in. “I’ll help you send a word below.”

“Thank you, my niece.” Qin Lie smiled.

“Don’t be happy! I will definitely make you regret this once I figure out who you really are!” Xing Yao exclaimed icily.

……

“Is this place really fit for humans?” Du Xiangyang asked, an ugly expression on his face.

“This place” was the bottom level of the Wavebreaker. The air was filthy, beds were missing, and all of it was one open space. There were no individual rooms, futons were everywhere, and only five public washrooms were available. Men and women weren’t separated either.

Nearly a hundred Gold Sun Island martial practitioners milled around the bottom level of the Wavebreaker, all of which were in the Netherpassage or the Manifestation Realms. They hung around noisily, making the entire deck sound like a market. There was never a moment of silence.

This bottom level had no ventilation. Qin Lie’s companions had been directed to a tiny corner of this level, several Gold Sun Island martial practitioners hanging around them. They exuded odors that could kill a person, talking loudly and arrogantly. The mainly talked about women in a vulgar manner, sweeping their wanton gazes across Qin Lie’s group from time to time.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan may have changed their faces so that they looked ordinary, but their figures were still shapely and attractive. This was especially noticeable since they were still soaked with seawater and had yet to find somewhere to change into a set of dry clothes.

Their wet clothing pressed against their slender, curvy bodies. The attractiveness of their well-developed bodies was basically a deadly poison to these Gold Sun Island martial practitioners that hadn’t tasted women in a long time.

“They may not look like much, but their figures... they’re top

notch!” said one of them as he looked at Song Tingyu and swallowed his saliva. “Holy shit, how in Spirit Realm are we going to cultivate in peace when our superiors arranged them to be put here?”

“These people came from the Heavenly Calamity Continent. They don’t possess high statuses or respectable identities, and they probably don’t have any spirit stones either.” One of them stared at Xie Jingxuan’s legs and licked his lips. Then he laughed wickedly and said, “Those three women are the only good things they have. Their bodies are unbelievable.”

The rest of them echoed his opinion in agreement, allowing their eyes to wander across the bodies of Song Tingyu, Xue Moyan, and Xie Jingxuan.

“Do you think I won’t gouge your eyes out if you take another look?” Song Tingyu suddenly said, flashing a beautiful smile.

The moment her enchanting eyes turned to the lustful men, a powerful soul aura surged from her body.

The dozen or so Gold Sun Island martial practitioners were all in the early and middle stages of the Netherpassage Realm. Their strength could only be considered average, and their True Souls weren’t nearly as potent as hers.

The second her soul aura enveloped the men, their eyes burned so much that tears gushed from them.

“This bitch is actually in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm!”

The group of Gold Sun Island martial practitioners immediately went pale with realization. They suddenly lowered their voices, not daring to act as brazenly as before.

None of them dared to look at Song Tingyu any longer. However, after a moment of hesitation, they snuck glances at Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan.

The two had also been nursing stomachs full of anger. After seeing Song Tingyu’s approach at quelling the vulgar men succeed, they did the same thing.

Their rigid glares promptly stabbed at the group of men, the power of their realms and soul energy making them break out in cold sweat.

“God dammit, these two are also in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm!”

These low-ranking martial practitioners of Gold Sun Island instantly became obedient, bowing their heads and softly sighing in dejection. They no longer dared to say anything rash.

Powerful martial practitioners of high realms could always intimidate petty peons no matter where they went.

This place was obviously no exception.

“That bastard Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang swore softly. “He’s up there enjoying himself while we’re down here enduring the putrid air of the bottom level. What a bastard!”

Everyone agreed.

Even Song Tingyu, Xue Moyan, and Xie Jingxuan, who rarely sided against Qin Lie, nodded. All three felt somewhat resentful at the moment.

Even when they were kids, they had never experienced such horrific treatment. Hanging around a bunch of foul-smelling men was bad enough, but there wasn’t even a private washroom on this level. Since this ship lacked proper ventilation, the odor of the Gold Sun Island martial practitioners would waft over them from time to time. Whenever the stench hit their noses, they would be pushed to the verge of vomiting.

To make things worse, their clothes were still wet and they didn’t have a place the change. The public washrooms were overcrowded, and the smell of them repulsed the three women before they could even get close.

“We should just reveal who we are, have Qin Lie summon the god corpses, slaughter everyone here, and seize these ships for ourselves,” Song Tingyu suddenly exclaimed. She covered her nose, fury filling her voice. “Now... where is that smell coming from again?”

All of a sudden, Xing Wu calmly appeared at the entrance to the bottom level up the ship.

“Excuse me! Xing Lie said that his three wives are down here and would like them to join him above,” he exclaimed, looking at Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan strangely. “Would that be you three?”

An odd expression came over Song Tingyu’s face.

Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan went still, a trace of annoyance flashing through their bright eyes.

“Well, at any rate, I’m his wife.”

Song Tingyu was the first to state her opinion and even chuckled after doing so.

Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan looked each other in the eye, and both saw helplessness. In order to escape this hell as soon as possible, they had no choice but to nod in agreement.

“Mn. All of us are his wives.”

Chapter 565: Flustered

Xing Wu looked at them from a distance, his head shaking with inadvertent laughter.

“Come on up, you three,” he said with a nod.

He didn’t envy Qin Lie at all.

Despite the fact that these women belonged to Qin Lie, Xing Wu just found his taste, for lack of a better word, underwhelming.

In order to avoid attracting trouble, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan had willingly concealed their beauty and made themselves look extremely ordinary. They couldn’t even be considered pretty.

Beauties were a common sight to Xing Wu, so he considered average women without even a hint of beauty completely unattractive.

He was simply amused.

The three women couldn’t care less about what he thought. They had grown tired of the bottom level of the ship a long time ago, and the moment they heard Xing Wu’s words, they rushed to leave.

Unfortunately for Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen, all they could do

was send them away from this hell with their eyes.

Gao Yu, on the other hand, showed no interest at all.

“That ungrateful Qin Lie!” Di Xiangyang swore.

Luo Chen gritted his teeth in frustration.

Qin Lie had clearly abandoned them and didn’t plan to take them with him.

Xing Wu personally led the three women up from the bottom level of the ship. He wore a mocking smile as he casually asked, “Are all of you truly Xing Lie’s women?”

“Of course.” Song Tingyu pursed her lips into a faint smile, her eyes sparkling brightly.

All of a sudden, Xing Wu felt somewhat confused.

If he disregarded Song Tingyu’s face and only took her eyes and seductive figure into account, Xing Wu would think that she was pretty extraordinary.

The light that shone from Song Tingyu’s beautiful eyes when she smiled made him lose himself for a moment. He almost felt as if he were talking with a peerless beauty.

He shook off the ridiculous feeling from his head and asked, “Why did you agree to this? I mean… all three of you serving a single husband?”

Xie Jingxuan’s and Xue Moyan’s eyes went cold at the same time.

If they were to forget about their statuses and only take their realms into account, Xing Wu still wasn’t at their level.

When their eyes went cold, shock filled Xing Wu as he whispered under his breath.

“The peak of the Netherpassage Realm!”

“We’re willing to serve Xing Lie because he has his own unique charm. What is there to be surprised about?” Song Tingyu felt a bit bored, so she laughed and started teasing Xing Wu. “In fact, someone like you… a guy that’s only slightly handsome and has no real skill isn’t even worth our attention, you know?”

Song Tingyu even turned to Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan for their approval. “What do you think, ladies?”

Both women shot fierce glares at her. They inwardly cursed her senseless teasing and how she caused a scene out of nowhere.

“Er…” Xing Wu suddenly felt awkward and laughed in embarrassment. He discovered that he was no match for this sharp-tongued woman.

“I believe that a man needs more than good looks. A man also needs charisma and strength that a woman can rely on.” Song Tingyu shook her head and glanced at Xing Wu. She smiled softly and said, “I doubt you possess any of the qualities that Xing Lie does, little brother. You still have quite a ways to go.”

“I-I’m not little anymore.” Xing Wu rubbed his nose.

“Little Wu, have you brought the women?” Xing Yao’s voice rang from the hallway of the ship’s top level.

“We’re here, Sister Yao,” Xing Wu hurriedly answered.

“Will you look at that? She calls you Little Wu, yet you’re telling me you’re not little?” Song Tingyu chuckled softly.

Xing Wu gave her a bitter smile.

As they spoke to each other, the four of them entered the hallway and immediately saw Xing Yao at its far end.

Xing Yao examined the three newcomers from head to toe, then nodded. She wore a strange expression as she muttered, “I thought he might’ve been amazing, but it turns out that the three of his wives put together can’t even compare to my beauty. I knew it! How could a shameless bastard like him possibly find a good wife?”

The second she took in the faces of Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan, Xing Yao relaxed.

“Take them to the room beside mine, Xing Wu.” Xing Yao didn’t bother taking a second look at them and instantly withdrew herself into her room, shutting the door tightly.

At the same time, Qin Lie opened the door to his room at the far end of the room. He waved at Song Tingyu and the others, then moved to them with a smile on his face.

The moment he saw Qin Lie arrive, Xing Wu smiled and turned to leave, saying, “I’ll be on my way now.”

Once the Xing Family clansman departed, Qin Lie led his companions down the hallway, straight to the room he was currently residing in.

Only Song Tingyu gazed at Qin Lie with her beautiful eyes, still smiling. Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan glared at him, more or less out of anger, rolling their eyes at him the second they entered the room and closed the door.

Qin Lie pointed at the wall that separated him from Xing Yao and shrugged. His eyes told them that it was the best choice he could’ve made.

Song Tingyu walked around the spacious room with a calm expression, quickly memorizing its layout. She then pointed at the

cultivation room and made gestures indicating that its insulation diagram would allow them to talk without worry.

“Let me change into a set of dry clothes first,” Xue Moyan said softly.

However, Xie Jingxuan wordlessly took the initiative to enter the washroom first. Her spatial ring flashed, and a set of snow white clothing with a long skirt emerged from it.

She commandeered the washroom before anyone else could.

Xue Moyan glanced at the washroom, a slight frown on her lips. She also slipped into the washroom, taking out a pale green wool dress.

“Leave room for me!” Song Tingyu smiled, rushing to squeeze her way in.

The three women had entered the washroom, all in a hurry to wash themselves and change into dry clothes.

“I’ll use the cultivation room to meditate for a bit.”

Qin Lie coughed softly and walked into the cultivation room while rubbing his nose, intent on ignoring the three women in the washroom.

He didn’t bother to close the door to the cultivation room since the others would come in later.

As a result, he could clearly hear the sounds that echoed from the washroom.

“Splish splash… splash…”

The distinct sound of water splashing against someone continuously rang out.

Even with his eyes closed, Qin Lie could imagine what Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan were doing.

They’d been out on the ocean for days while constantly in close proximity with each other. They had even been soaked in seawater earlier. The three women hadn’t been able to find a private place to wash up until now, so they were naturally in a hurry to get clean.

The constant sound of splashing water softly tugged at his heartstrings over and over. It made his mind go wild, causing numerous alluring images to appear in his head from time to time.

Soon enough, his body began to grow hotter and restless.

“Dammit,” he swore in a low voice, attempting to adjust his breathing and not overthink things. “This is killing me.”

Yet the more he tried to control himself, the more his imagination roamed.

The scenes that popped up in his head grew increasingly erotic as he listened to the water splashing. They made his blood boil, and he grew more and more uncomfortable.

As Qin Lie struggled under an abyss of torment, the three women finally finished bathing and changing into their clothes. Since they were now in private, they didn't bother hiding their beauty and revealed beautiful, elegant, and clean faces to Qin Lie.

Having changed into sets of immaculate, exquisite clothing and revealed their actual appearances, the three of them entered the small cultivation room one after another, wiping their drenched hair with towels.

Song Tingyu finally closed the wooden door that had an insulation diagram inscribed into it. She ran a comb through her cascading hair, smiled, and said, "Do you really think you'd be able to eat up three wives that popped up out of nowhere, you scoundrel?"

"Are you done yet?" Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan glared at her together.

"Hahaha!" Song Tingyu laughed, raising her hands in defeat. "Alright, alright... I'll stop."

“Have you seen Xing Shengnan? Was she suspicious of your identity?” Xue Moyan asked as she dried her wet hair. “Also, how are you going to treat Gold Sun Island? And where are these ships headed?” Xue Moyan asked while she ran her fingers through her wet hair.

“The god corpses are following below us, right?” Xie Jingxuan asked, checking on the most critical piece of information.

Song Tingyu asked some questions as well, but her concerns obviously differed from those of the two other women.

“Who is that Xing Yao? When she looked at us, disdain and disgust filled her eyes. What did you do to her?”

Qin Lie gazed at the three of them, taking in their pure, elegant, and enchanting faces. The erotic images that his mind had conjured up hadn’t completely subsided.

“We’re asking you questions!” Xie Jingxuan softly reprimanded him.

Xue Moyan also frowned slightly.

Qin Lie coughed for a while, gradually regaining his composure. He inwardly sighed at their amazing charm and the fact that he nearly lost control of himself.

After calming down, Qin Lie launched into an explanation.

"The god corpses will keep following me. That's one thing we don't have to worry about. As for Xing Shengnan, not only was she not suspicious of me, she even greatly approved of my identity. However, I still haven't figured out where they're headed..." he said quickly. "Judging from what that Xing Yao said, spies from all kinds of forces have apparently been infiltrating Gold Sun Island recently. She's paying close attention to me because she thinks we're enemy spies. She may attempt a thorough search of us in the near future, but this shouldn't be a problem. The fact that we returned from the Graveyard of Gods shouldn't be exposed."

"The Xing Family actually had a clansman named Xing Shan?" Xue Moyan exclaimed in surprise. "That's an amazing coincidence."

"It is indeed an amazing coincidence. I randomly blurted out a name, and it actually made Xing Shengnan believe me wholeheartedly." This outcome astonished Qin Lie as well.

"What do you think about the Xing Family and Xing Shengnan?" Xue Moyan asked, a solemn expression on her face.

After a moment of contemplation, Qin Lie said, "Xing Shengnan... that woman is a decent person. As for Xing Yumiao and the other Xing Family clansmen, I haven't met them yet."

"Blood Fiend Sect has been trying to recruit the Xing Family as allies for a long time now. If you can find a way to get them to trust

us, that would be fantastic. As Blood Fiend Sect is now, the Xing Family and Gold Sun Island would be a great boon," Xue Moyan said.

She began getting her hopes up.

"I'll give it a try." Qin Lie nodded.

"We better figure out the destination of these ships first," Xie Jingxuan said, reminding everyone.

Qin Lie thought to himself for a second, then said, "You women should rest for a while. That Xing Yao will probably investigate me and try to figure out my real identity. If I can get her to trust me, then we probably won't be chased off of the ship. If I succeed... at the very least, we won't have to clash with the Xing Family."

"Mn." Xue Moyan voiced her agreement. "It'll be best for us to quietly make our way to the Heavenly Calamity Continent while hiding amongst Gold Sun Island. Let's not reveal ourselves if we don't have to. If news of us got out, reaching our destination could prove to be a difficult task.

"Isn't wearing a woman down child's play for you?" Song Tingyu teased Qin Lie, a smile on her face.

"Uh... what do you mean by that?" A strange expression appeared on Qin Lie's face.

“Earlier, I said that you’re too charismatic and that seducing women is easy for you.” Song Tingyu chuckled and shot him a flirtatious look. “We wouldn’t mind you having four women.”

“Sister Tingyu!” Xie Jingxuan glared at her angrily.

“Miss Song!” Xue Moyan exclaimed, her expression twisting as if she had suddenly developed a headache.

“Are Gao Yu and the others fine down below?” Qin Lie asked nonchalantly.

“None of the martial practitioners down there can match their strength,” Song Tingyu said. “You don’t have to worry about them.”

“Good.” Qin Lie allowed himself to relax, then said, “Let’s stay aboard this ship until we get a good idea of the situation.”

“Okay.”

Chapter 566: Nine New Essences!

As Qin Lie talked to Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan in the cultivation room, Xing Yao pressed against the other side of the wall between their rooms, trying to eavesdrop.

She was only in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, a level weaker than Song Tingyu and the others. She didn't dare to release her soul consciousness to investigate and risk being found out. She definitely didn't want to make a fool of herself in front of people more skilled than her.

Instead, she focused her senses and tried to listen in on them.

She quickly discovered that she couldn't hear anything and realized that Qin Lie and the three women were hiding in the cultivation room. This meant that they were clearly wary of her and took necessary precautions.

"They're being so secretive... they're definitely up to no good! I wonder what their goal is." Xing Yao became even more certain that Qin Lie's group had ulterior motives.

After trying eavesdrop for a while and realizing she couldn't hear anything, Xing Yao helplessly left her room to investigate.

She eventually arrived at a training area on the second level of the ship. This training field was meant for people of important status and Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners. Here, they

would spar with their spirit arts and discuss bottlenecks they encountered during cultivation. Xing Wu normally trained here, and Xing Yao soon found him.

"Little Wu, find out how many ships carrying people are listed as traveling to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent from the Heavenly Calamity Continent," she said.

"Sister Yao?" Xing Wu approached her. "Are you suspicious of Xing Lie?"

"Yes," she said in a straightforward manner, not bothering to hide it from him. "A disaster descended upon our Xing Family a thousand years ago and almost all of our clansmen were killed. Few branch families managed to escape it. In recent years, my father arranged for some of our people to travel through the Heavenly Calamity Continent in hopes of finding surviving members of the Xing Family. Anyone connected to the Xing Family was already found and sent to Gold Sun Island in groups. No other news of Xing Family clansmen has been discovered in the past few years. I don't believe that Xing Lie is actually seventh grandfather's descendant."

"That seems strange to me as well." Xing Wu thought to himself, then said, "Don't worry, Sister Yao. I'll go investigate this for you."

"Ah, right. Do you know what's going on with the Pan Family?" Xing Yao asked. "Why haven't we heard anything from the spies that infiltrated them?"

“Actually, something strange happened.” Xing Wu frowned. “A while ago, the spies sent a message saying that they had made an important discovery and wanted us to wait. They said that the Pan Family had mobilized and that they would try to learn why as soon as possible. Yet we haven’t received any messages since then.”

“Has something happened to them?” Xing Yao asked worriedly.

“The chances of that are extremely high!” Xing Wu said with a sigh. “I sent a few messages to them, but there hasn’t been any response.”

“Send word to Green Moon Valley and ask if they know of any ships being destroyed in the area,” Xing Yao ordered. “We don’t know the origins of these people, and I’m worried that they may harbor ill intentions.”

“Understood,” Xing Wu replied.

……

Two days later, in the secure cultivation room, Qin Lie suddenly opened his eyes. Bright electrical light shone from them.

“Whoosh!”

The Demon Sealing Tombstone emerged from his spatial ring

and released rays of prismatic light.

Small sparks of electricity shot from Qin Lie's eyes as they eagerly focused on the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

Three droplets of golden liquid filled with a sharp aura bled from the surface of the tombstone.

Qin Lie wordlessly stood there waiting, his hand turned palm-up.

"Drip... drip... drip...!"

Three glittering droplets of golden liquid splashed against the center of his palm, the sharp power they contained almost breaking through his skin.

Qin Lie's eyes lit up. He silently channeled the Blood Refinement Art and a suction force emanated from his hand, absorbing the three drops of golden liquid into his blood vessels.

A sharp, burning sensation flared within his blood vessels. It felt as if the three drops of golden liquid were thorns that kept on stabbing him, making his entire body uncomfortable.

These three droplets were the essences of the metal spirit. They hadn't been refined yet, so the sharp power of metal still wasn't under control.

Before Qin Lie could channel the Blood Refinement Art to refine the three drops of golden essence, three droplets of dark yellow liquid appeared on the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

Qin Lie hurriedly held out his hand once more.

Soon enough, three drops of the earth spirit's essence soaked into his blood vessels.

A thick, robust aura of earth energy radiated from his body. He glittered as if he were wearing a golden robe.

This sensation occurred because he cultivated the power of earth.

As the essence of the earth spirit entered his body, Qin Lie felt a familiar power that caused the essence to become gentle on its own. He didn't even need to immediately refine it using the Blood Refinement Art.

Qin Lie made sure to stay alert this time.

In the next moment, three clear, colorless drops of liquid formed on the surface of the tombstone. They resembled beads of early morning dew.

These were essences of the water spirit.

Qin Lie gathered these three clear drops of liquid in his hand and

sucked them into his blood vessels as well.

The three drops of the water spirit's essence seemed extremely gentle. They did not cause any trouble within his body, nor did they solicit any other responses.

Once the Demon Sealing Tombstone produced these nine droplets of liquid essence—three from the metal spirit, three from the earth spirit, and three from the water spirit—it calmed down. Its rays of prismatic light faded, and the tombstone returned to normal.

Qin Lie stored it in his spatial ring, then focused all of his strength on refining the nine drops of liquid essence.

In a cultivation room not far from Qin Lie's, a man wearing gold that appeared to be about fifty years old suddenly opened his eyes.

He gasped in surprise, then murmured, "Why do I feel the aura of a metal beast?"

This person's name was Guo Yanzheng. As a peak Fulfillment Realm martial practitioner, he was one of the six enforcers of Gold Sun Island. He cultivated the power of metal and was very sensitive to it. His bones and muscles even had different types of metal mixed into them.

As one of the six enforcers of Gold Sun Island, he enjoyed extraordinary status. Even though he wasn't a part of the Xing

Family, he qualified for his own set of rooms in the top level of the ship.

Guo Yanzheng rarely went out as of late. He spent all his time in the cultivation room provided for him, trying to find a chance to break through to the Fragmentation Realm. He completely ignored the outside world.

Xing Shengnan knew that he had reached a critical point in his cultivation. As long as nothing important happened, she tried not to trouble him and gave him the space and time he needed. She hoped that he would be able to reach the Fragmentation Realm as soon as possible.

“An unrefined metal beast is an ultimate treasure for someone cultivating the power of metal. This kind of beast, one that is purely metal, is normally born as a Rank Six Beast and has the capacity to grow endlessly.” Guo Yanzheng stopped cultivating, and the golden light that surrounded him gradually disappeared. He rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “If it’s a spirit material related to an unrefined metal beast... even if it’s just a bone, it’ll be of great help to my breakthrough.”

Having been in secluded cultivation for many days, Guo Yanzheng slowly got to his feet. He opened the door and left the cultivation room, then exited the main room and entered the hallway. Sensing the aura of the unrefined metal beast, he headed straight for Qin Lie’s room.

Quickly arriving at the door to Qin Lie’s room, he narrowed his eyes and used his soul consciousness to examine the inside of the

room.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan were cultivating in one bedroom while Xue Moyan took the other. Qin Lie had taken the cultivation room for himself.

Guo Yanzheng's soul consciousness floated into the room like ethereal smoke and silently moved around. He wanted to know the realms of the people inside of this set of rooms.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan immediately felt his soul consciousness. They opened their eyes and withdrew their auras.

Qin Lie frowned and stopped refining the nine droplets of essence within his body. He focused on what was happening outside of the cultivation room, his expression grim.

Peering into a private room with one's soul consciousness was an impolite thing to do.

This was common knowledge.

Relying on his status as one of Gold Sun Island's six enforcers and the fact that he knew most of the members of the Xing Family, Guo Yanzheng used his soul consciousness to assess the realms of Qin Lie and the others. Doing this clearly demonstrated that he looked down on Qin Lie and the others.

“Bang bang bang!”

Guo Yanzheng struck the door multiple times, a calm expression on his face as he said, “I’m Guo Yanzheng!”

He had discovered that all four of the people in this set of rooms were in the Netherpassage Realm. Even if they were Xing Family clansmen, they were juniors and needed to treat him with respect.

As a result, he didn’t feel the need to give them any face.

In one of the bedrooms, Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan looked at each other, took their masks out of their spatial rings, and put them on.

Xue Moyan’s eyes were cold. She couldn’t help but snort disdainfully as she changed her appearance.

Guo Yanzheng hadn’t knocked first, and instead led with using his soul consciousness to learn what realms they were at. This clearly disregarded proper etiquette.

This person shamelessly wanted them to open the door. He even stated his name, clearly trying to use his identity to pressure them into doing so.

This annoyed Xue Moyan even more.

Xue Moyan was the disciple of and eventual successor to the sect master of Illusory Demon Sect. Even the island master of Gold Sun Island, Xing Yumiao, would usually have to be respectful when he saw her. She wouldn't have even looked at an enforcer of Guo Yanzheng's level in the past.

Yet now, on one of Gold Sun Island's ships, a mere enforcer dared to offend her.

This displeased her.

Suppressing her anger, Xue Moyan remained silent. She wanted to see what Qin Lie would do.

In the next moment, Qin Lie's voice rang out. "Guo Yanzheng? Who's Guo Yanzheng?"

Out in the hallway, Guo Yanzheng's face turned grim.

"You don't even know who I am?" he shouted. "Who are you?"

"Why should I care who you are? If you have something to say, say it or leave!" Qin Lie yelled impatiently. He wanted to refine the nine drops of liquid essence in his body as soon as possible. That last thing he wanted to do was waste time with this stranger, Guo Yanzheng.

"Enforcer Gu, you came out of secluded cultivation?" Xing Yao's voice could be heard. She gently opened the door to her room and

stood in the hallway to look at Guo Yanzheng in shock.

"Greetings, Eldest Miss." Seeing Xing Yao emerge from her room, Guo Yanzheng immediately became more respectful. He smiled and explained, "While I was cultivating just now, I sensed the aura of an unrefined metal beast, so I came out to investigate. I don't know who the four juniors in this room are, but they apparently dare to disrespect me."

He reported the situation to Xing Yao, partially accusing Qin Lie's group of slighting him at the same time.

"The aura of an unrefined metal beast?" Xing Yao exclaimed, clearly confused. "I felt a wondrous aura appear just now, but my realm is too low and I couldn't tell what it was or where it came from. Are you sure that the aura of an unrefined metal beast came from this room, Enforcer Guo?"

"Absolutely." Guo Yanzheng nodded. "If not for the aura of an unrefined metal beast, why else would I cause trouble by coming here to investigate?"

He paused for a moment, then asked, "Eldest Miss, are the four juniors in this room members of the Xing Family? I seem to recall this room being empty all this time. When did they move in?"

"In the past few days," Xing Yao said loudly, glancing at the tightly shut door. "They said that they're from the Heavenly Calamity Continent, but their ship was destroyed in a storm. One guy called Xing Lie is pretending to be a Xing Family clansman, but

sister-in-law believes him and made me arrange for him to live here."

"Eldest Miss! Enemy spies have been operating quite a lot recently, searching for the remains of ancient elites. Didn't we capture three of them recently?" Guo Yanzheng asked gravely. "Could these four also be spies?"

"I suspect the same," Xing Yao replied. "However, I haven't managed to find any information to use against them."

"How about I search them?" Guo Yanzheng said wickedly, his eyes narrowing. "Your sister-in-law should be gathering spirit energy in her cultivation room. She definitely won't be paying attention to us over here."

"If Enforcer Guo feels that it'll work, I don't have any objections." Xing Yao wanted to quickly expose Qin Lie's true identity while Xing Shengnan was too busy to interfere.

"Allow me!" Guo Yanzheng exclaimed.

Chapter 567: Outsmarted!

Seeing Guo Yanzheng about to take action, Xing Yao started laughing and nodding eagerly.

Guo Yanzheng held extraordinary status as one of Gold Sun Island's six enforcers. Even Xing Yao's sister-in-law, Xing Shengnan, had to give him face. It would be better if he were the one to search Qin Lie and the others.

First of all, Xing Yao could distance herself from the situation and avoid being blamed by Xing Shengnan.

Secondly, considering Guo Yanzheng's identity as an enforcer, even if he didn't find any proof of subterfuge, Xing Shengnan would just let him go after reprimanding him.

With this, Xing Yao's worries soon evaporated.

"Enforcer Guo, please show some restraint and refrain from wounding them," she said softly, warning him. "Just subdue them."

Guo Yanzheng smiled proudly. Although he stood right in front of the door to Qin Lie's set of rooms, he didn't bother lowering his voice and said, "Isn't it an easy matter to control a few juniors that are only in the Netherpassage Realm?"

Within the set of rooms, Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and

Xue Moyan stood inside of the cultivation room together. The women had once again changed their appearances to avoid being recognized.

"Even Gold Sun Island's Island Master Xing Yumiao would treat me with respect if he saw me, yet a mere enforcer of Gold Sun Island wants to try and bully me? He doesn't want to live!" Xue Moyan exclaimed through clenched teeth. "If I reveal myself and tell that Guo Yanzheng to kowtow before me, he wouldn't dare refuse!"

"No, don't!" Qin Lie shouted. He shook his head and said, "The world knows you participated in the Trial and entered the Graveyard of Gods. If you reveal your actual appearance and expose who you are, every single one of us will be exposed as well."

"Then what should we do?" Xue Moyan frowned. "If we allow him to search us and see even a tiny bit of what we have in our spatial rings, won't that lead to the same result? I have the Illusory Demon Orb, Illusory Demon Sect's ultimate treasure. If Guo Yanzheng catches a glimpse of it, he'll recognize me."

"Then we just don't let him search us," Qin Lie said with a snort.

"This person is much older than we are." Song Tingyu could feel a headache coming on. "He's also at the peak of the Fulfillment Realm, an entire realm higher than ours. If we want to fight him... it won't be easy."

In terms of talent, aptitude, and cultivation speed, all four of

them surpassed Guo Yanzheng. The Gold Sun Island enforcer, however, possessed the advantage of having cultivated longer than them and being one realm higher.

Even a minor difference in realm could already be thought of as a great abyss. An entire realm gap was even more terrifying. Possessing a high grade spirit artifact or knowing powerful spirit arts might not be enough to bridge such a gap.

In other words, if they decided to fight him, the difference in realms would definitely result in their group of geniuses being defeated by Guo Yanzheng.

After a moment of thought, Qin Lie suddenly left the cultivation room.

“Stay here,” he said. “Let me deal with him.”

At the exact same time, Guo Yanzheng used the power of metal to break the lock on the door to Qin Lie’s room.

Guo Yanzheng strode into the room.

“Creak! Creak…”

Out in the hallway, the doors of the other rooms opened up. Men and women of different ages poked their heads out.

The Wavebreaker was Gold Sun Island's main patrol ship. Xing Family clansmen and high ranking members such as enforcers occupied the rooms on the top level of the ship.

These people had been focused on cultivating, studying books about spirit arts, or resting.

Guo Yanzheng and Xing Yao hadn't kept their voices down when they had been speaking to each other, so many people overheard their conversation.

These people were curious about the identities of Qin Lie and the others and wanted to watch the spectacle unfold, so they came out for a look.

Since Xing Shengnan's cultivation room had a better configuration, its insulation diagram properly blocked all power fluctuations and sounds. In addition to that, her cultivation had gone extremely well up to this point. As a result, she was the only one that didn't emerge from her room.

The other Xing Family clansmen and high-ranking members of Gold Sun Island came out of their rooms, watching the situation from the hallway with smiles on their faces.

"Close the door," Qin Lie said calmly.

"Don't think you can just bluff your way into our midst and establish a relationship with the Xing Family, boy!" Guo Yanzheng

said loudly. He moved further into the room, a grin on his face. “Even if you have some knowledge of the Xing Family tree, simply making up a name isn’t enough to convince me.”

“Close the door!” Qin Lie said once more.

The Xing Family clansmen and other high-ranking members of Gold Sun Island drew nearer to Qin Lie’s room, crowding around the doorway curiously.

Xing Yao also moved closer to the doorway.

Guo Yanzheng laughed. “First let me shackle you, then we can talk!”

“Close the door!” Qin Lie repeated.

As soon as he did, Qin Lie’s eyes suddenly became a bloody red. The thick stench of iron permeated the air as his body gradually radiated a shocking fiendish energy.

Soon enough, a thin layer of bloody mist materialized around Qin Lie.

Guo Yanzheng suddenly became meek. His gaze trembled, and his lips shook as he exclaimed, “You… you’re…”

Shrouded within the bloody mist, Qin Lie’s visage was one of

brutality and viciousness. His lips parted into a sneer, and he nodded.

“Close… the… door!” he snarled.

Guo Yanzheng turned around without hesitation, slamming the door shut before Xing Yao, the person nearest the doorway, could react.

“Bam!”

This left Xing Yao, the many Xing Family clansmen, and another enforcer named Qi Jing outside.

Inside the room, Guo Yanzheng looked on in shock as Qin Lie’s bloody mist quickly withdrew into his body, and soon only his eyes remained a bloody red.

Qin Lie carefully inspected Guo Yanzheng’s expression.

Seeing Guo Yanzheng shuddering as though he were a completely different person, his relaxed and said, “Let’s talk inside.”

He went into the insulated cultivation room.

Guo Yanzheng followed him in, his body bent in a humble manner.

As soon as Guo Yanzheng walked in, the door closing behind him, he exclaimed, “Y-you’re from Blood Fiend Sect?”

Terror filled his voice. None of his previous arrogance could be seen.

“I cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and can be considered a member of Blood Fiend Sect!” Qin Lie snorted coldly, standing before Guo Yanzheng boldly. “I am truly called Xing Lie!”

“You really are seventh grandfather’s grandson!” Guo Yanzheng shouted in shock. “You can be considered a member of Blood Fiend Sect? How did you come to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art?”

“A thousand years ago, Blood Fiend Sect and the Xing Family faced an incredible threat. My... my grandfather hid in mountains in the Heavenly Calamity Continent with members of Blood Fiend Sect. It was through those people that I came to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art,” Qin Lie explained. “The Blood Spirit Art I cultivate isn’t the same as that of Jiang Zhuzhe and his disciples. I am a real member of Blood Fiend Sect!””

“M-my ancestors were also from the Heavenly Calamity Continent,” Guo Yanzheng said hoarsely. “I am a descendant of a Black Iron force that was destroyed along with Blood Fiend Sect.”

At that moment, Qin Lie glanced at Xue Moyan, his eyes filled with mirth.

Xue Moyan was speechless.

Over the last two days, she had informed Qin Lie of many things concerning the Xing Family of Gold Sun Island. She spoke of how many Gold Sun Island's core and elite members were connected to forces that had been wiped from the face of the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

Xing Yumiao was a man that cherished the friendships he made. Not only did he search the Heavenly Calamity Continent for Xing Family clansmen, he also found the surviving martial practitioners of smaller forces that had relationships with the Xing Family in the past.

In other words, many people that held important positions within Gold Sun Island were connected to the Heavenly Calamity Continent and Blood Fiend Sect.

For a millennium, Blood Fiend Sect had prospered as the undisputed ruler of Heavenly Calamity Continent, dominating the Land of Chaos.

During that time, every force of the Heavenly Calamity Continent, including the Xing Family and the current Xiahou, Ling, and Su Families, were deeply terrified of Blood Fiend Sect.

They had been instilled with an intense terror that reached deep into their bones!

Guo Yanzheng's ancestors came from one of Blood Fiend Sect's smaller vassal forces.

Ever since he was a child, his seniors told him of Blood Fiend Sect's terrifying power. This led to him feeling fear and reverence toward Blood Fiend Sect—feelings that he still felt to this day.

Now, upon discovering that Qin Lie cultivated the orthodox Blood Spirit Art, Guo Yanzheng immediately believed that Qin Lie couldn't be an enemy spy. He was basically convinced that Qin Lie really was Xing Lie, a Xing Family clansman.

How could he, Guo Yanzheng, dare to offend the grandson of the Xing Family's seventh master, someone who was a member of Blood Fiend Sect, no less!

He immediately capitulated to Qin Lie.

"P-please forgive this old man, Young Master Xing," Guo Yanzheng said, repeatedly bowing to Qin Lie, sweat dripping from his forehead. "This old man is foolish and didn't know the truth."

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan exchanged looks of shock. They hadn't thought that Qin Lie would be able to resolve the situation in such a simple way.

Xue Moyan found it funny.

She was the true heir to Blood Fiend Sect, but she never thought

of using her identity to suppress Guo Yanzheng.

She also hadn't expected this Guo Yanzhang to actually be a descendant of a force that used to serve Blood Fiend Sect, one that continued to fear the sect even now.

"I suppose that's fine. The ignorant cannot truly commit a crime," Qin Lie said impatiently with a wave of his hand. "Help me hide the fact that I cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. As for what we just discussed... I would prefer that others didn't know about it. That should be all, you can leave. And remember to close the door for me!"

"Many thanks, Young Master Xing!" Guo Yanzheng exclaimed as he backed out of the cultivation room. "Thank you for disregarding this lowly person's offense. This old man understands and will obey."

"Creak!"

The tightly shut door to Qin Lie's set of rooms opened once again. Guo Yanzheng walked out into the hall with a grimace on his face and carefully closed the door.

"Young Master Xing!" he said loudly. "I shall now return to cultivating!"

"As you were!" Qin Lie's proud voice came from the other side of the door.

Out in the hallway, Xing Yao, other Xing Family clansmen, and Qi Jing, another enforcer, stared at Guo Yanzheng in disbelief. They rubbed their eyes, thinking that something was wrong with their eyesight.

"What are you doing, Brother Guo?" Qi Jing asked in shock.

Xing Yao felt just as astonished. "Enforcer Guo, you... what's going on?"

None of them had heard a word of what Guo Yanzheng and Qin Lie discussed in the cultivation room, so all of them were confused.

What they did know, however, was that Guo Yanzheng didn't have a good temper. He had charged into the room angrily, so they originally thought that a fierce conflict would erupt and that Qin Lie and the others would be captured alive.

No one had expected Guo Yanzheng to act so strangely humble before Qin Lie. This made their eyes bulge out of their sockets.

Everyone had one question on their minds.

—What happened in there?

"There is no mistake! Xing Lie is the grandson of seventh grandfather. This old man swears upon his life that this is true!"

After declaring this, Guo Yanzheng shot an icy glance at Xing Yao, then walked back to his own rooms.

He left a crowd of shocked people in his wake.

Chapter 568: Resolution

The crowd of Xing Family clansmen and Qi Jing, one of Gold Sun Island's six enforcers, stood in the hallway in shock. All of them had come out to enjoy a show and laugh at someone else's misfortune, but what actually happened threw them for a loop.

When Guo Yanzheng returned to his own room, the crowd turned to look at Qin Lie's tightly shut door once more. A subtle change occurred in the gaze of every person present.

Out of everyone there, this turn of events shocked Xing Yao the most.

She never could've imagined that the situation would develop this way. Guo Yanzheng, a peak Fulfillment Realm martial practitioner, had barged into Qin Lie's rooms. However, not only did he not argue with Qin Lie at all, they simply went into the cultivation room and spoke in secret.

When he came out, Guo Yanzheng's attitude had completely reversed. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't figure out why.

As Guo Yanzheng left just now, he clearly seemed extremely displeased with Xing Yao. It was as if he inwardly blamed her for getting him to force his way into Qin Lie's set of rooms for no good reason.

Qin Lie had destroyed all of Xing Yao's scheming in a way she

couldn’t possibly imagine.

This made her feel as though she had been thoroughly defeated.

“How boring.” Qi Jing shook his head as he returned to his own room in puzzlement.

The moment he left, the other Xing Family clansmen realized they had no show to watch. One by one, they left as well.

Soon enough, only Xing Yao remained in the long, wide hallway.

Brow deeply furrowed, Xing Yao stared at the door to Qin Lie’s room with a profound intensity. After a moment of contemplation, she ultimately didn’t dare to barge in and try interrogating Qin Lie.

She could only return to her room bitterly.

……

“I didn’t think that Gold Sun Island enforcer would revere Blood Fiend Sect to that extent.”

Qin Lie couldn’t help but voice his opinion in amazement.

“It would seem that Blood Fiend Sect’s status as the previous

ruler of the Heavenly Calamity Continent embedded itself deep within people's hearts."

"In the past, every elite force of the Land of Chaos went to war with Blood Fiend Sect. Even so, my mother and a few elders, and even Jiang Zhuzhe and his men, managed to escape," Xue Moyan said. "Even after fighting Blood Fiend Sect for years, Black Voodoo Sect never gained the upper hand. In fact, we killed many of their experts instead. If Black Voodoo Sect hadn't worked with the other Silver rank forces, borrowing their strength, how else could they have eliminated Blood Fiend Sect?"

Her eyes clearly shone with pride.

"In that case, if I use my identities as a member of Blood Fiend Sect and a Xing Family clansman to make Gold Sun Island believe that Blood Fiend Sect is no longer as weak as it was before and now possessed frightening strength..." Qin Lie paused, rubbing his chin thoughtfully, then said, "If I can do that, we may actually have a chance at recruiting Gold Sun Island."

Xue Moyan suddenly clenched her hands into fists as excitement flashed through her bright eyes.

Her mother and many Blood Fiend Sect elders dreamed of doing exactly that!

Blood Fiend Sect had approached Xing Yumiao and Miao Yangxu many times with the intent to join hands with Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley in opposing the three great families.

Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley had turned them down repeatedly, firmly declaring that they weren't ready to deepen their ties with Blood Fiend Sect. In fact, they no longer wanted to have any connection to Blood Fiend Sect.

If Qin Lie could find the opportunity to use his identity as Xing Lie to win over the Xing Family and rally Gold Sun Island to their cause, Blood Fiend Sect would undoubtedly gain an important ally.

"Have you figured out where these ships are headed?" Qin Lie suddenly asked.

"They're headed to Gold Sun Island," Xue Moyan said with certainty.

She had spent the last two days deducing the destination of these ships using the compass in her spatial ring. She knew that Xing Shengnan was ready to return to Gold Sun Island.

"Is Blood Fiend Sect in the same direction as Gold Sun Island?" Qin Lie asked again.

"We can pass through Gold Sun Island on the way there!" Xue Moyan's eyes shone with a strange light.

"So we don't need to do anything but peacefully wait on this ship?" Qin Lie smiled faintly, nodding in understanding.

“Until we reach Gold Sun Island, yes,” Xue Moyan answered.

“That’s good.” Qin Lie sat down on the floor of the cultivation room.

Xue Moyan was in high spirits and hoped to continue discussing the matter with Qin Lie. However, when she saw that Qin Lie seemed to be in a hurry to cultivate, she had no choice but to give up.

Xue Moyan sighed softly, then after Xie Jingxuan left the cultivation room, she followed her out.

Song Tingyu, on the other hand, stayed behind.

Once Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan had left, Song Tingyu closed the wooden door of the cultivation room and leaned against the wall. She stared at Qin Lie with glittering eyes, and said, “It seems like Xue Moyan hopes that you will help Blood Fiend Sect by convincing both Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley to serve them again.”

“I’m not that capable.” Qin Lie smiled indifferently.

“Qin Lie... what do you think of Blood Fiend Sect? Tell me the truth.” A solemn expression took over Song Tingyu’s pretty face. “As of now, Blood Fiend Sect is still public enemy number one, a force that everyone loathes. It may not be easy to convince them otherwise, especially considering the fact that Jiang Zhuzhe is still

around causing trouble. He'll continue to operate in the Land of Chaos, and until he dies, his slaughter of innocent people and immoral cultivation using human blood will just keep going. That just makes it even more difficult to clear Blood Fiend Sect's name."

"The Demon Sealing Tombstone wasn't able to take all the remains of ancient elites from the Land of Buried Gods. We can assume that Jiang Zhuzhe got his hands on some," Qin Lie said, his face grim. "You're right. After Jiang Zhuzhe and his disciples absorb and refine the remains they acquired, their strength will increase significantly and they'll definitely try to invade the Land of Chaos once more."

"If that's the case, why do you still want to go to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent and meet up with Xue Li?" Song Tingyu asked, confused. "Are you really doing this just because you want to repay Xue Li for teaching you the Blood Spirit Art?"

"One more thing..." She paused for a moment, then asked, "What in Spirit Realm are you planning to do in the future?"

Qin Lie thought to himself for a very long time with a frown on his face.

He eventually said, "My current plan is to find my grandfather and find out who I really am. It would be best for me to grow stronger and climb to higher realms at the same time."

After saying this, Qin Lie fell silent for a long time. His fingers unconsciously drummed against the floor of the cultivation room,

his eyes growing hazy with worry.

Song Tingyu patiently waited for him to sort out his thoughts and continue speaking.

A long time later, Qin Lie took a deep breath and continued, “I have a feeling that a tremendously powerful enemy will be standing in my way in the future! There’s a reason why my memories were sealed, why my grandfather brought me to the Scarlet Tide Continent, and why he left me there!”

Qin Lie knew many ancient languages and was privy to ancient secrets. He was born with the ability to merge spirit arts, and he even held the Soul Suppressing Orb in his head.

He believed many things happened to him in the past.

He needed to find answers and keep getting stronger so he would be able to face terrifying enemies in the future, ones so dangerous and powerful that even his soul would feel oppressed.

“In the Land of Chaos, we don’t have any foundation to rely on. Even Blood Fiend Sect can only barely count as one.” Qin Lie frowned as he spoke. “Lang Xie and the others are cultivating the Blood Spirit Art in the ultimate blood ground underneath the Scarlet Tide Continent and possess extremely potent strength. However, not even the Blood Codex contains any way to connect the Land of Chaos to that ultimate blood ground. Only Xue Li knows how.

“Once Xue Li truly merges with the Blood Progenitor’s body, he’ll be able to unleash the true potential of the Bloodthirsty Dragon. Then he and the elders of Blood Fiend Sect will have the power to rally allies and establish themselves within the Land of Chaos. Along with the eight god corpses I have and the remains of the ancient elites that Xue Moyan has, Blood Fiend Sect may actually have the chance to dominate the Land of Chaos and rule the Heavenly Calamity Continent once more!

“I need somewhere I can firmly set foot and a powerful force that I can control!” Qin Lie declared. “It’s only natural that such a goal would require taking risks. I’ve expected that for a long time!”

“I see,” Song Tingyu said softly. “You planned for this a long time ago.”

She finally accepted the fact that, whether she was willing to admit it or not, Qin Lie had changed.

This change had nothing to do with the merge between the current Qin Lie and his former personality but instead because of the accumulation of experience.

Ever since he left the Scarlet Tide Continent, journeyed into a wider world, and came to understand the minds of others, Qin Lie’s perspective on and attitude toward many things drastically changed.

Song Tingyu knew that this cruel world forced Qin Lie to grow and adapt bit by bit. He now had his own set of principles and beliefs.

“What are you going to do with Gold Sun Island?” Song Tingyu asked.

“I’ll do my best to recruit them,” Qin Lie said, hiding nothing. “I will try to convince them to become our allies using our relationship with Blood Fiend Sect and the resources we currently possess.”

“Blood Fiend Sect tried to do that very same thing for years, yet Gold Sun Island never budged,” Song Tingyu reminded him, clearly less confident in their success. “Don’t you think it’ll be even more difficult for you to achieve that?”

“They couldn’t convince Xing Yumiao because they lacked the strength and the resources,” Qin Lie said with a snort. “Blood Fiend Sect lacked these things in the past… but I don’t!”

……

Deep within a sea of clouds, three giant scarlet phoenixes flew through the air and glowed with prismatic light.

Many Gold Sun Island martial practitioners stood on these phoenixes. They wore golden clothing, the backs of their shirts embroidered with the picture of a sun.

The phoenixes were large flying spirit artifacts called “Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes.” They were one grade higher than Flowing Gold Firecloud Tents and were common amongst the Copper rank forces of the Land of Chaos.

The island master of Gold Sun Island, Xing Yumiao, and his brother, Xing Yuyuan, stood atop the largest Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. Four of the Gold Sun Island’s six enforcers stood beside them as well.

They roamed regions of the sea around Gold Sun Island, entering the water’s depths every so often to search for the remains of ancient elites.

“Big brother! Sis sent us a frantic message saying that she found the grandson of seventh uncle out at sea. She said that we should hurry over if we aren’t far away.”

Xing Yuyuan received a message from Xing Shengnan today. He wore a bitter expression as he informed Xing Yumiao about it.

“The grandson of our seventh uncle?” A strange look came over Xing Yumiao. “A thousand years ago, when our Xing Family was exterminated, our seventh uncle had already perished, right? How in Spirit Realm could he have a grandson?”

“Of course we know about this.” Xing Yuyuan smiled bitterly. “However, we haven’t told our sister because we want to keep the hopes of our people alive.”

“Who dares to be so insolent? Who dares to pass themselves off as the grandson of our seventh uncle and toy with the Xing Family? I can tell they’re not familiar with the word death!” Xing Yumiao said with a cold snort. “How far are we from her?”

“Only a day’s journey.”

“Mn. It’s been a while since we’ve seen Yao’er. Let’s change course and head over to them. We’ll also pay a visit to the foolish brat pretending to be one of us.”

“Agreed!”

……

Chapter 569: New Life!

Numerous Celestial Artifact Sect artificers were hard at work tempering spirit artifacts with the scalding flames that bubbled from the mouths of multiple volcanoes.

Clusters of active volcanoes, and dormant ones that no longer held geocentric fire, made up an isolated land in the Heavenly Fissure continent.

Celestial Artifact Sect owned this land. It used it for forging spirit artifacts, designating it as a forbidden area.

Within the belly of a desolate volcano, around a dozen enormous bodies of Asura Race clansmen, Wood Race clansmen, human experts, and other ancient beings lay on the ground of a vast cave. Rays of bloody light streamed from the heads of several bloody-eyed martial practitioners as they pounced onto the bodies and refined the blood essence that remained inside of them.

These people reeked of blood and wore savage expressions on their faces.

Jiang Zhuzhe and his son, Jiang Tianxing, stood at the entrance to the cave, watching their Blood Fiend Sect disciples quietly feed.

“It’s unfortunate that we only managed to obtain fifteen bodies of ancient elites,” Jiang Tianxing said, his voice tinged with regret.

Jiang Zhuzhe, however, wore an expression as calm as still waters.

“Stay here and watch of them,” he said. “I’m going to meet with Celestial Artifact Sect’s sect master.”

“Father… would Feng Yi betray us?” Jiang Tianxing asked, a worried look on his face.

Jiang Zhuzhe shook his head. “He wouldn’t.”

Then he walked out of the cave, transformed into a bloody ray of light, and flew away.

A secluded valley sat between the clusters of dormant volcanoes and the active ones that bubbled with fire.

In this valley, Celestial Artifact Sect’s sect master, Feng Yi, waited with Luo Han and a couple of elderly bearded men with white hair.

Within this land of volcanoes, this valley was one of Celestial Artifact Sect’s even more restricted zones. Normal disciples weren’t allowed to enter this place, so that naturally applied to outsiders as well.

“Sect Master… is Jiang Zhuzhe really willing to give us the second volume of the Artifact Scripture?” Luo Han’s murky eyes held a glimmer of anticipation. “Where did he even obtain it?”

“No one knows.” Feng Yi shook his head.

When Jiang Zhuzhe suddenly came seeking Feng Yi a hundred years ago, he presented him with the first volume of the Artifact Scripture. In giving him this sacred scripture of artifact forging, he sought Feng Yi’s cooperation in return.

The forging of spirit artifacts was the very core of Celestial Artifact Sect. The progression of this unique force’s spirit arts were closely related to artifact forging. All of Celestial Artifact Sect’s disciples and elders were artificers obsessed with forging spirit artifacts.

Jiang Zhuzhe may have only given them the first volume of the Artifact Scripture, but it alone contained unfathomable knowledge. It held axioms of artifact forging that stunned Feng Yi and every other master artificer of Celestial Artifact Sect.

This volume of the Artifact Scripture convinced Feng Yi to cooperate with Jiang Zhuzhe. He even gave Jiang Zhuzhe a dormant volcano, allowing him and his disciples to hide there and cultivate in secret.

Feng Yi only helped Jiang Zhuzhe find the god corpses, open the Graveyard of Gods, and organize the Trial as part of a deal they made. Feng Yi did all of this… to obtain the second volume of the Artifact Scripture.

“Our relationship with Jiang Zhuzhe has turned every force

against us," an elder worriedly mentioned.

"If we manage to obtain all three volumes of the Artifact Scripture, even helping Blood Fiend Sect restore its reputation and allowing Jiang Zhuzhe to walk out in the open once more would be worth it!" Feng Yi declared resolutely.

"Precisely!" Luo Han nodded.

A ray of bloody light suddenly descended from the sky, materializing into a humanoid shape upon landing in the valley.

Jiang Zhuzhe emerged from the bloody light and glanced at Feng Yi, wordlessly tossing an ancient, yellowed book to him.

Feng Yi snatched the book out of the air, excitement in his eyes. After taking a moment to flip through several pages, poring over their contents under the gazes of Luo Han and the others, he nodded slightly.

"It is indeed the second volume of the Artifact Scripture!" he exclaimed.

Luo Han and the others relaxed, clearly delighted by the news.

Only then did Jiang Zhuzhe speak.

"Feng Yiyou returned to Celestial Artifact Sect... correct?"

A strange expression came over Feng Yi, then he nodded and said, “Yiyou told me you protected him and Yu Men with a ray of bloody light and helped them use a spatial rift to escape the Graveyard of Gods before it collapsed.

Feng Yiyou returned to Celestial Artifact Sect three days ago and told Feng Yi everything that happened in the Graveyard of Gods.

“Now do you believe me?” Jiang Zhuzhe snorted coldly. “I’m not the one who benefited the most from this Trial.”

“Who in Spirit Realm is that Qin Lie person?” Feng Yi asked in a grave tone. “How did he obtain the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s acknowledgment?”

“I don’t know,” Jiang Zhuzhe said with a shake of his head. “At any rate… he now possesses the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the six Pure Soul Springs, around twenty bodies of ancient elites, and even the eight god corpses. Illusory Demon Sect’s Xue Moyan and two Heavenly Sword Mountain juniors named Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang should be by his side as well.”

“Have you managed to get a rough idea of where they landed after they used a spatial rift to escape the Graveyard of Gods?” Feng Yi asked.

“I only saw the sea and a few scattered islands. Space completely shattered after that, so I lost track of their location.” Jiang Zhuzhe frowned, then said, “They should be somewhere in the Land of

Chaos, specifically the regions of the vast sea at the center of all the continents. You should find him if you keep searching."

"What about the last volume of the Artifact Scripture?"

"That'll be business for a different time."

After saying this, Jiang Zhuzhe transformed into a ray of bloody light and shot into the sky once more, swiftly vanishing into the distance.

Before long, Jiang Zhuzhe reappeared in the belly of the dormant volcano. He didn't bother informing Jiang Tianxing of his return and instead went to a secret room on his own.

This room was made entirely of bloody jade. A blood pool sat at the center of the room, its sanguine liquid bubbling quietly. The stench of blood filled the room.

No one but him was allowed into this room. Not even his son, Jiang Tianxing.

Jiang Zhuzhe moved to the blood pool and sat beside it, taking out the second half of the Blood Codex. He then extended a hand in front of him, willing a drop of his blood to emerge from his body and letting it fall into the blood pool.

All of a sudden, a bloody screen of light shot from the second half of the Blood Codex and shone onto the blood pool.

The blood inside of the pool began to boil strangely. A vague wisp of soul consciousness seemed to break through the fabric of space itself, secretly seep into the blood pool, and use the blood to form a body. The soul consciousness slowly took the shape of a large, faceless man made of blood.

“Master,” Jiang Zhuzhe said respectfully.

The bloody man opened its mouth and said, “How did it go?”

“I failed to obtain the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the Pure Soul Springs, and the Blood Progenitor’s body,” Jiang Zhuzhe said, bowing his head. “I only managed to get… fifteen bodies of ancient elites.”

“I gave you the second half of the Blood Codex and the first two volumes of the Artifact Scripture. I even told you how to enter the Graveyard of Gods and explained all of its secrets to you. Now you’re telling me that you still didn’t succeed?” The bloody man shook his head slightly and sighed. “Is this all you’re capable of? You’re in the Imperishable Realm. Upon entering the Graveyard of Gods, the seven spirits shouldn’t have been able to oppose you, let alone any of the Netherpassage Realm juniors that entered as well. Who could have gotten in your way? You severely disappoint me, Jiang Zhuzhe.”

“One of those juniors obtained the acknowledgment of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and helped it unleash its true power.” Jiang Zhuzhe didn’t dare to argue with the bloody man, instead

keeping his head bowed as he explained the truth in detail. “Also, this was the Graveyard of Gods, so I…”

“One of them obtained the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s acknowledgment? But the Heaven Fighting Race refined it specifically for…” The bloody man paused in the middle of speaking, then asked, “What is that junior’s name?”

“That junior seems to be called Qin Lie. I heard from my son that he’s from the Scarlet Tide Continent, not the Land of Chaos. My son happened to encounter him while trying to acquire the Demon Sealing Tombstone. He was even useless to the point of allowing that junior to snatch the Demon Sealing Tombstone out from under him,” Jiang Zhuzhe said. “Please forgive me, master.”

Jiang Zhuzhe didn’t dare to look at the bloody man, keeping his head bowed out of fear and worry.

All he could tell was that, as soon as he said this, the bloody man fell silent for a long time.

The silence lasted for so long that he even began to think that the bloody man had left.

The bloody man eventually opened his mouth once more and said, “Let’s leave it at this for now. If you can find that… Qin Lie… capture him for me. Remember that I want him alive. Do you understand? Alive!”

“Yes, master!” Jiang Zhuzhe exclaimed.

“Mn. Have your men consume and refine the blood essence remaining in the bodies of the ancient elites as soon as possible, then await my next orders.

Having said that, the bloody man began to lose its shape, turning back into a pool of blood once more.

The wisp of soul consciousness that tore through the fabric of space returned to the void and vanished.

……

Out on an immense sea, multiple ships sailing toward Gold Sun Island parted the waves.

Within his set of rooms, Qin Lie quietly sat in the cultivation room and did his best to refine the nine essences that the Demon Sealing Tombstone created using the metal, earth, and water spirits.

He was attempting to merge them with his blood.

“Boom!”

An incredibly intense sensation resounded from deep within the space between his eyebrows.

The Soul Suppressing Orb emerged like a third eye, and three miraculous entities happily flew out of it like newborn babies. They contained Qin Lie's aura and were connected to his soul.

The three entities resembled a small Fire Qilin, a little humanoid figure with skin that resembled the bark of a tree, and a tiny Thunder Crystal Beast.

All three entities were only as big as a fist. Their eyes were clear, their souls were pure, and their bodies were astonishingly extraordinary. They continuously shifted between corporeal and incorporeal bodies.

"Yiya! Yiya! Yiya...!"

The three tiny entities playfully pressed up against Qin Lie's cheeks and neck, forcefully pushing against him. They babbled as if they were babies.

Qin Lie could feel their unconditional love and trust.

They possessed traces of his blood energy and soul aura.

"Th-this is..." Qin Lie was astonished.

Back in the Graveyard of Gods, the Soul Suppressing Orb had sucked the blood essences of the fire, wood, and thunder spirits

into it, just like it had taken the six Pure Soul Springs.

After that, the orb had constantly absorbed his soul energy and blood, forcing him into a weakened state for long periods of time.

The Soul Suppressing Orb had taken this entire time to meld and temper all of these things deep within itself.

These three miraculous entities had been created from a fusion of the blood essences that Qin Lie refined from the fire, wood, and thunder spirits, his soul energy, his blood, and three of the Pure Soul Springs!

Chapter 570: Feeding

“Yiya! Yiya! Yiya...!”

The three miraculous entities, which Qin Lie now realized were tiny versions of the fire, wood, and thunder spirits, were glued to Qin Lie’s face as they shook their heads in excitement and joy.

A grimace took over Qin Lie’s face. He had no idea what was going on.

These three tiny beings basically looked the same as the Fire Qilin, the Thunder Crystal Beast, and the wood spirit. Only the little person with skin that resembled the bark of a tree didn’t look exactly like the wood spirit. Instead, it looked similar to a member of the Wood Race.

The auras of these tiny beings, however, were completely different from those of the Fire Qilin, the Thunder Crystal Beast, and the wood spirit.

These three tiny entities constantly underwent wondrous changes. They would seem tangible one moment, but when Qin Lie looked at them again, they’d be intangible souls that, if he reached out to touch them, would feel like empty space.

This was what Qin Lie found extremely difficult to believe.

A being that could transition between a physical body and a soul

form? One that could easily switch between the two at will?

Qin Lie just couldn't comprehend it.

Once the three little entities appeared, they incessantly bothered him as though they were playing around. This prevented him from focusing on refining the essences of the remaining spirits, leaving him frustrated.

The insulation diagram of the cultivation room could block sound. However, it wasn't good enough to properly block power fluctuations. Once the tiny entities had been out for a while, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan sensed them. They left the rooms they were in and headed for Qin Lie in the cultivation room.

Upon entering the cultivation room, Song Tingyu was the first to shriek in delight.

"What adorable little guys!" she exclaimed, reaching out to grab them without thinking.

As soon as she did, the three tiny beings immediately went intangible. Song Tingyu grasped at them, but realized she didn't touch anything.

It was almost as if she were trying to touch a ghost.

"Dead souls?" Song Tingyu asked in shock. "Are these dead souls?"

“No!” Xie Jingxuan exclaimed, her eyes shining with astonishing light. “They possess strong life forces and biomagnetic fields! They definitely aren’t souls of the dead!”

“Such potent soul fluctuations! These pure, clean souls... these are characteristics unique to a Pure Soul Spring!” Xue Moyan said, going pale.

“What are these tiny beings, Qin Lie?” Song Tingyu asked, a strange expression on her face. “Are they children of the fire, wood, and thunder spirits?”

“I don’t know what they are.” Qin Lie grimaced. He thought for a moment, then explained, “The blood essences I refined from those three spirits mixed with three of the Pure Soul Springs. They were the ones to drain me of my soul energy and blood. It’s as if they were forged within my body like spirit artifacts...”

His words astounded the three women.

“Are they completely new entities separate from the spirits?” Xue Moyan asked warily.

“They probably would qualify as new entities.” Qin Lie nodded.

This statement left Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan even more amazed. They stared at Qin Lie with gazes that seemed capable of spitting fire.

“Yiya! Yiya!”

At that moment, the tiny entity shaped like a Fire Qilin became tangible again, landed on Qin Lie’s shoulder, and sat back on its hind legs. It patted its stomach with its two front hooves.

“It… it seems to hungry,” Xie Jingxuan said in astonishment.

The tiny being’s movements clearly indicated that it was hungry and asking Qin Lie for something to eat.

“Yiya, yiya…”

The two other tiny entities mirrored the first, patting their stomachs as if demanding food.

“They look pitiful!” Song Tingyu said, hurriedly taking some dried meat and fruit to give to them.

Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan also took out food for them to eat.

However, the three tiny beings didn’t even look at the fruit and meat they took out.

They just stared at Qin Lie, continuing to pat their stomachs and cry out in discontent.

“Why don’t you try giving them food?” Song Tingyu asked.

Somewhat surprised, Qin Lie took out fruit and meat from his own spatial ring and handed them to the three little ones.

The tiny beings didn’t even look at the food. They wore anxious expressions that made it seem as if they were extremely hungry.

“They aren’t like us,” Xie Jingxuan said in realization. “They must not eat things like meat or fruit. Try something else.”

“Something else?” Qin Lie frowned.

After a moment of thought, he pulled out everything he had in his spatial ring.

A variety of things including Heavenly Flame Crystals, the Astral Thunder Hammer, the wooden sculpture, spirit stones, an assortment of pills, and materials for forging Terminator Profound Bombs spilled out of spatial ring and onto the floor of the cultivation room.

“Woo~ooh!”

The three tiny beings immediately cried out in excitement, leaping onto the spirit materials and gorging themselves.

The entity shaped like a Fire Qilin grabbed the a Heavenly Flame Crystal Qin Lie got from the Forbidden Land of Fire and began crunching mouthfuls of it as though it were chewing up a bone. Once it broke the Heavenly Flame Crystal into pieces, it happily swallowed them up.

The tiny being that resembled a Thunder Crystal Beast targeted the spirit materials meant for forging Terminator Profound Bombs. It devoured many of the beast cores that contained the power of thunder and lightning and even some of the Thunderblitz wood Qin Lie had taken from the thunder lagoon.

The small person with skin that looked like tree bark circled the pile of materials on the floor. It initially didn't find anything to eat.

However, it suddenly locked on to one of the wooden sculptures, the one that Xie Jingxuan had obtained from the Forbidden Land of Wood. Without warning, it moved to that sculpture and bit off a piece of it, happily munching away.

Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan collectively gasped.

"Damn it!" Qin Lie screamed after a moment of shock.

He then wrenched the wooden sculpture from the tiny person's mouth, immediately putting it and the wooden sculpture his grandfather had left him back into the spatial ring.

These two wooden sculptures were crucial to Qin Lie's quest to find his grandfather. If this little person ate them, he'd lose important clues.

"Ah ah ah! Yiya!"

The bark-skinned little person shouted miserably at Qin Lie, clearly dismayed by him taking the wooden sculpture away.

It seemed to be blaming him for treating it unfairly.

Of the other two tiny entities, one was eating a Heavenly Flame Crystal, and the other was eating the main material needed to make Terminator Profound Bombs. Since it was the only one that didn't have anything to eat, it naturally became unhappy.

"Just as I suspected," Xie Jingxuan said, taking a few tree branches out of her spatial ring and gently placing them on the floor. "They don't eat the same things we do."

Upon smelling something good to eat, the little humanoid entity that had been crying at Qin Lie immediately abandoned him.

It picked up the tree branches and started eating happily.

As it ate, it looked up at Xie Jingxuan, delight showing in its tiny eyes.

“Jingxuan, it feels comfortable with you since you received the inheritance of the Wood Race!” Song Tingyu exclaimed in realization.

Xie Jingxuan focused on the tiny person, a genuine smile appearing on her usually cold face.

“Eat slower,” she said softly. “I have a lot more where that came from.”

Seeing her smile, Qin Lie momentarily lost himself and said, “You look beautiful when you smile.”

The moment he said that, Xie Jingxuan’s smile disappeared and a frown replaced it.

“Don’t be stupid,” she said with a snort.

Qin Lie awkwardly rubbed his nose, then changed the topic saying, “These three little guys are going to be trouble.”

“Trouble?” Song Tingyu said, her curiosity piqued. “I can raise them if you don’t want to. They’re adorable!”

“They may not accept you.” Xue Moyan shook her head. “Their auras are very similar to Qin Lie’s. I feel like they’ll only accept Qin Lie.”

By the time she said this, the tiny being shaped like a Fire Qilin had eaten many Heavenly Flame Crystals.

After playing and satisfying its hunger, it seemed as though it wanted to sleep.

Everyone watched in a daze as it stretched in a lazy, content manner, flew up to the Soul Suppressing Orb in the space between Qin Lie's eyebrows, and disappeared within.

Soon after that, the other two tiny beings quickly satisfied their hunger. They lazily flew up to the Soul Suppressing Orb and slipped into it as well.

"I don't think you'll be able to adopt them, Sister Tingyu," Xie Jingxuan said calmly.

Her eyes held a hint of disappointment.

The small being with bark for skin had given her a wondrous feeling. She felt strangely close to it and wanted to get even closer.

It was a pity that the little guy clearly trusted Qin Lie alone. After satisfying its hunger, it immediately returned to Qin Lie's body.

She couldn't do anything about that.

"Uh... about those tree branches..." Qin Lie said after a moment

of shock. “Could you give me some? I don’t have any of that kind of spirit material. If these little guys get hungry again and come out, I’m afraid that one will continue to try eating my wooden sculptures.”

Xie Jingxuan rolled her eyes at him and took out some tree branches.

“Pay attention,” she said as she gave them to him. “That tiny being probably eats only spirit materials that contain wood energy.”

“Mn,” Qin Lie exclaimed, haphazardly storing all of the spirit materials. “I can see that.”

Chapter 571: Utmost Care

After playing and eating their fill, the three strange beings returned to the Soul Suppressing Orb and went quiet.

Qin Lie used his soul consciousness to try and peer into the depth of the Soul Suppressing Orb and immediately saw the three tiny beings sleeping within. They had yet to go deeper than the space where the four ancient diagrams hovered and were sleeping near them.

The small Fire Qilin radiated a faint scarlet aura of extremely potent fire energy.

In much the same way, the little wooden person gave off a verdant aura that contained a strong life force.

As for the Thunder Crystal Beast, it exuded an eye-catching electric aura. If one were to listen closely, the rumbling of thunder could be heard resonating from its tiny body.

After a moment of hesitation, Qin Lie decided not to disturb the three slumbering beings. He also refrained from refining the blood essences of the other three spirits.

“I’m heading below to check on Gao Yu,” Qin Lie said as he left the room.

When he opened the door and entered the hallway, the door to

Xing Yao's room coincidentally opened as well. Xing Yao emerged and glanced at Qin Lie as he walked away, then silently followed him, her eyes trained on his figure.

Since her set of rooms was right beside Qin Lie's, she had felt the energy fluctuations of the three entities flying out of the Soul Suppressing Orb and happily playing around.

This had piqued her curiosity.

In addition to that, she was worried that Qin Lie had asked for information about Gold Sun Island, so she blatantly followed him and observed his every move.

Qin Lie ignored her as he walked down the hall to the stairs and descended to the lowest level of the ship.

Qin Lie soon began to hear voices.

In a filthy corner of the vast, chaos-filled room that made up the lowest level, amongst the intermingling smells of sweat and piss, Qin Lie saw Gao Yu, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang.

"Qin... Xing Lie!" Du Xiangyang shouted as soon as he saw Qin Lie.

Du Xiangyang greeted Qin Lie loudly, but was forced to change his words when he saw Xing Yao behind him.

“How have the past two days been?” Qin Lie asked as he moved to them, a smile on his face.

“You’ve seen the conditions we’ve had to endure,” Du Xiangyang said, a bitter, pained expression on his face.

Gao Yu and Luo Chen, on the other hand, remained silent. Both of them were similar in personality and only nodded slightly to acknowledge Qin Lie. They didn’t complain like Du Xiangyang did.

However, from the way that both of them furrowed their brows, Qin Lie could tell that they also weren’t satisfied with their current accommodations.

Qin Lie turned around and gestured to Xing Yao with a smile on his face.

“My dear niece…” he said. “Could you help move my three friends here to more… comfortable quarters? Even you can see how horrible the conditions here are, right? You are, after all, covering your nose. I can clearly see the disgust on your face.”

When Xing Yao followed Qin Lie through the room, she had actually put a hand to her face, her expression twisting in revulsion.

This level of the ship had originally been hectic and restless, but the moment Xing Yao appeared, several Netherpassage and

Manifestation Realm martial practitioners of Gold Sun Island converged on the area. This resulted in the atmosphere calming considerably.

Everyone silently focused on the area she was in.

Seeing Qin Lie gesture toward the young miss of Gold Sun Island and refer to her as his “dear niece,” the subservient smiles on their faces were replaced with strange expressions.

“There’s nowhere for them to be moved!” Xing Yao sneered. Then, after pausing for a moment, she said, “Furthermore, I’m not your dear niece! You’re not a member of my Xing Family!”

“Your aunt and Enforcer Guo have confirmed that I am. Why do you still not accept it?” Qin Lie laughed, then sarcastically said, “Earlier, in front of your aunt, did you not call me your dear uncle?”

As Qin Lie said this, all of the Gold Sun Island martial practitioners staring at him became dazed, their eyes filling with respect.

“As long as my father doesn’t acknowledge it, you are not a member of my Xing Family!” Xing Yao declared, steeling her resolve.

Qin Lie chuckled. “He will acknowledge it.”

“You don’t need to worry about us,” Gao Yu suddenly said. He could tell why Qin Lie had come to them. “We’re fine. No one here can harm us.”

He glanced at the Gold Sun Island martial practitioners around them then said, “Go. Focus on your own business.”

“Still… please help us move elsewhere if possible,” Du Xiangyang pleaded. “We don’t need to be in the top level of the ship. Just the middle level would be enough.”

“I’ll try,” Qin Lie replied.

As they spoke, Xing Wu emerged from the stairwell and approached Qin Lie.

“Xing Lie,” he said. “Big sister would like a word with you. She’s at the training area of the second level.”

“Alright.” Qin Lie nodded.

He followed Xing Wu to the large training area on the second level of the ship. Upon arrival, he saw countless early stage Fulfillment and peak Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners of Gold Sun Island cultivating, polishing their spirit arts, and discussing ways to break through bottlenecks.

Xing Shengnan, who resembled a mountain of meat, currently sat in the midst of several Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners,

explaining what they would need to be careful of when breaking through to the next realm.

Xing Shengnan was currently in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. Since no one else here had a higher realm, she was qualified to teach others.

Only then did Qin Lie realize that, although Xing Shengnan's bulk seemed rather unsightly, she was still a warm-hearted person.

Xing Shengnan painstakingly dealt with every question that the martial practitioners presented to her, carefully explaining every detail of her answers without reservation.

She even patiently answered the questions of several nearby peak Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners nearby who had come over seeking her guidance.

Qin Lie could see from the eyes of every Gold Sun Island martial practitioner that they truly respected this woman and trusted her words.

The moment she saw Qin Lie, Xing Shengnan chuckled heartily and waved at him from a distance.

"Little Lie, you've come!" she exclaimed.

Qin Lie smiled a broad, toothy grin as he leisurely walked over and asked, "Were you looking for me, big sister?"

“Yes, I was,” she answered. “It seems to me like you’ve just broken through to the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm and have yet to stabilize it. I called for you because I wanted to let you know what to focus on during this time. The path of your cultivation will be a smooth and straightforward as a result.”

Xing Shengnan gestured for Qin Lie to take a seat on the floor, then turned to the people around her. She had been helping them earlier, and now introduced them.

“This is Liu Qing, and this is Fang He,” she said, pointing to the men one by one. “The one over there is Hu Yun. All of them are in the late stage of the Fulfillment Realm and will soon break through.”

Xing Shengnan then pointed to Qin Lie, her expression growing bright as she introduced him to the others. “This is Xing Lie. He is the biological grandson of my seventh grandfather, the closest family member of my Xing Family!”

“So it is Young Master Lie!”

“Greetings, Young Master Lie!”

“Greetings, Young Master Lie!”

Seeing how formal Xing Shengnan had become, the three men didn’t dare waste time and quickly greeted Qin Lie in a respectful

manner.

“You’re too kind! All of you are too kind.” Qin Lie became flustered and waved his hands. “In the past, I cultivated deep within the mountains of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. It was only recently that I emerged and took a ship to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. There is much that I have yet to understand, so I hope that all of you will take care of me.”

Upon hearing that Qin Lie had been cultivating deep in the mountains, traces of scorn appeared in the eyes of the three late stage Fulfillment Realm practitioners.

The foundation of the path of cultivation was based on the accumulation of experiences. One needed to constantly practice, exchange ideas, and partake in combat to break through to higher realms. They needed to do all three of those things equally and cultivate proper spirit arts, strengthening themselves, and be lucky enough to advance continuously.

In the eyes of these three, Qin Lie was just a boy who had been cultivating deep in the mountains for his entire life that never had any opportunities to exchange ideas or engage in combat with other people. The possibility of him having fortunate encounters or rich experiences was just was nonexistent.

A martial practitioner who only knew how to cultivate would possess mediocre strength at best. They wouldn’t be able to shine in anyone’s eyes.

Although they respected Qin Lie's status as a member of the Xing Family, they considered Qin Lie himself insignificant.

—They didn't believe that Qin Lie would be able to inspire them in any way.

"Little Lie, since you cultivated in solitude, your knowledge and experience are most likely... greatly inadequate," Xing Shengnan said, sighing softly. "I, myself, also need to cultivate, so I cannot personally guide you all the time. So, from this day forth, you must come to this level of the ship and ask your seniors to personally teach you about the secrets of cultivating."

"Yes, big sister," Qin Lie promised obediently. "I will."

"The late stage of the Netherpassage Realm focuses on the condensation of one's True Soul and the accumulation of soul energy. Only by repeatedly cleansing and tempering the True Soul can one's capacity for soul energy reach the amount needed to get a glimpse of the bottleneck before the Fulfillment Realm." Xing Shengnan pondered for a moment, then continued, "You have only just entered the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Don't be in a rush to condense your True Soul. Be patient. Only when your spirit sea is bright and clear should you begin using your spirit energy to temper and refine your body. This will allow you to stabilize your realm in a quick, efficient manner."

Qin Lie knew that Xing Shengnan was speaking from experience, so he carefully committed all of her valuable teachings to memory, nodding his head in agreement the entire time.

“Big brother will be here in two days. He should have several True Soul nourishing pills with him,” Xing Shengnan said. “Once he arrives, I’ll help you ask for one.”

Even with the three other men present, Xing Shengnan didn’t hide a thing and clearly expressed her concern for Qin Lie.

“Yes!” Qin Lie said with a smile. “Then I will first thank big sister.”

Ignoring everyone else, Xing Shengnan continued to explain all of the matters that Netherpassage Realm practitioners needed to pay attention to, speaking to Qin Lie without stopping.

Once she couldn’t think of anything else to explain, she stood up.

“It’s getting late,” she said. “Let’s call it a night. Ah, that’s right. Little Lie, come over again tomorrow. I’ll get some basic spirit arts for you to take a look at. We’ll see if we can find any that suit you.”

“Alright.” Qin Lie nodded yet again.

“I’ll be going up first. Don’t be in too much of a hurry. Take this time to speak with your seniors and listen to the experiences they had when breaking through the Netherpassage Realm to the Fulfillment Realm. It will be very helpful to you.” Xing Shengnan then turned to the others and said, “I ask that all of you spend some time and help Little Lie. It hasn’t been easy for my little

brother.”

“Yes, of course! We will, we absolutely will.”

Before Xing Shengnan, the three men had no choice but to nod in agreement. However, that wasn’t necessarily what they were thinking.

Today’s original plan was for Xing Shengnan to help and instruct them. Yet with Qin Lie’s arrival, Xing Shengnan seemed to have completely forgotten about them, diverting all her time and effort to helping Qin Lie.

This had already made the three of them silently curse their luck.

Then, even after that, Xing Shengnan asked for them to help Qin Lie continue learning. This naturally pissed them off even more.

“Alright, I’m leaving.”

In spite of her gargantuan size, Xing Shengnan disappeared in the blink of an eye, her steps as light as air.

After Xing Shengnan left, Liu Qing stood up as well, stretching his back.

“Well I still have matters to attend to,” he said, taking his leave. “Fang He. Hu Yun. You two discuss matters with Young Master

Lie, okay?”

Immediately afterward, Fang He spoke up as well. “The time has come for me to go and gather spirit energy. My apologies Young Master Lie, but perhaps we can talk tomorrow.”

Without waiting for Qin Lie to so much as nod in response, Fang He got to his feet, dusted himself off, and also left. He clearly didn’t want to waste any time with Qin Lie.

Then Hu Yun opened his mouth too. “I…”

Qin Lie’s expression sunk as he suddenly sneered, “You have something to do as well, right? I understand. Farewell.”

Although he had already stood up and was about to leave, Hu Yun saw Qin Lie’s expression and sighed subconsciously. He silently cursed Liu Qing and Fang He for leaving so quickly.

“To be honest… it’s nothing,” he said, sitting back down. “Well, if Young Master Lie has any questions, please ask.”

Chapter 572: Heart-breaking

Hu Yun felt as though he were full of bad luck.

Like Liu Qing and Fang He, he didn't want to waste time speaking to Qin Lie. He wanted to leave early. However, seeing the displeasure clear on Qin Lie's face, he thought it over for a moment and decided it would be in his best interests to stay.

Qin Lie's current identity was that of a direct descendant of the main Xing Family line, one that Xing Shengnan cherished immensely. If Qin Lie had a loose mouth and ratted him out to Xing Shengnan, Hu Yun wouldn't be able to avoid punishment.

Hu Yun, having come to a decision, sighed as he said, "Ask away, Young Master Lie."

Qin Lie looked at Hu Yun, but didn't immediately start asking questions. Instead, his brow furrowed slightly.

If Xue Li, Blood Fiend Sect, and Lang Xie's group were to merge and appear in the Land of Chaos, they would be an extremely strong force.

That would especially be the case once Xue Li possessed the Blood Progenitor's body. Based on how much he had relied on Xue Li's experience and skills, Qin Lie was certain that Xue Li's power would increase by leaps and bounds once he had the Blood Progenitor's body.

Of course... the body of the Blood Progenitor had a myriad of spirit diagrams inscribed upon it. Qin Lie would be able to use them to secretly control it.

This meant that, even if Xue Li's soul fused with it in the future, Qin Lie would still be able to bind him. This would then allow him to hold great influence over Blood Fiend Sect and force it to carry out his own agenda.

However, even before all of that, he and Blood Fiend Sect needed to gather enough power and people.

To that end, Gold Sun Island was a great place to start.

Qin Lie planned to take over Gold Sun Island and make the Xing Family return to Blood Fiend Sect's control. In order to do that, he first needed to learn more about the Xing Family clansmen. Only after understanding the circumstances of the Xing Family and its members would he be able to determine its strength and adjust his plans accordingly.

To him, Hu Yun was a way to learn more about the Xing Family.

A series of thoughts ran through Qin Lie's mind as he formulated a plan. He casually smiled at Hu Yun, glancing at everyone nearby in a restless manner. Then, he took out two soul crystals and handed them to Hu Yun.

“Although I am a member of the Xing Family, I have only just arrived and thus have no understanding of the Xing Family’s circumstances,” he said. “I presume that Mister Hu has lived on Gold Sun Island for several years. I ask that you answer my questions and enlighten me.”

Seeing the two clear, dazzling crystals in front of him exuding a faint aura of soul energy, Hu Yun’s lips trembled.

“Are… are those soul crystals?” he asked hesitantly.

Qin Lie smiled and nodded.

Without warning, Hu Yun’s eyes shone with shocking light as his hand shot out, snatching the two soul crystals from Qin Lie.

He immediately closed his eyes, trying to absorb the pure soul energy from one of the crystals in his hand with his True Soul.

Qin Lie chuckled.

Three seconds later, Hu Yun’s entire body shook as he immediately stored the two soul crystals into his spatial ring, subconsciously looking around him. Discovering that no one in the area was paying attention to him, his entire body relaxed, and a smile emerged on his face. “Young Master Lie, please ask whatever you want. If I know the answer, I will hold nothing back!”

For martial practitioners in the process of condensing their True

Souls, soul crystals were the scarcest kind of soul energy enhancer. Soul crystals were countless times more precious than spirit stones.

Hu Yun had just broken into the Fulfillment Realm. He was just about to begin condensing his True Soul and increasing his soul energy, so these two soul crystals were extremely beneficial to him.

“How many people are in the Xing Family? And how many key figures are in Gold Sun Island? How are its forces organized? Who holds the most power, and who should I avoid offending? Who…”

Like a repeating crossbow, Qin Lie fired off all of the questions on his mind in quick succession.

“I’ll answer all of your questions one by one,” Hu Yun said once Qin Lie finished.

“Island Master Xing Yumiao has a younger brother and sister. His brother is Xing Yuyuan and his sister is called Xing Shengnan. He has one son and one daughter. His son is Xing Xiao, and his daughter is Xing Yao. Second Island Master Xing Yuyuan has a son named Xing Fusheng, while Third Island Master Xing Shengnan… has yet to marry. They make up the immediate Xing Family.

“The three Xing siblings lead Gold Sun Island’s forces. Beneath them are the six enforcers, and below them are the various island envoys. Island envoys control the smaller islands in the vicinity of Gold Sun Island and follow the orders of the enforcers. Gold Sun

Island currently has a total of thirty-two island envoys. I am one of them.

"The ones with the most power are the Xing siblings of course. The six enforcers come after them. Of the six enforcers, Xiang Xi holds a special status in Gold Sun Island because he used to be its leader when it was still a Black Iron rank force. However, after the Xing siblings joined Gold Sun Island, they used their formidable strength to slowly garner everyone's respect, then quickly raised Gold Sun Island from a Black Iron rank force to a Copper rank force. As a result, Xiang Xi voluntarily gave up the position of island master and became an enforcer.

"As thanks for Xiang Xi's noble action, the island master has always treated him with respect. Furthermore, he even told every member of the Xing Family to be respectful to him as well.

"That's why Enforcer Xiang holds a special status within Gold Sun Island. The other five enforcers are much weaker than him. Of those five, Enforcer Guo and Enforcer Jing are martial practitioners from the Heavenly Calamity Continent that Island Master Yumiao invited to join Gold Sun Island. I heard that they had some kind of intimate relationship with the Xing Family in the past.

"As for the other three enforcers, they served Gold Sun Island before the coming of the Xing Family and are extremely loyal to Enforcer Xiang. Their loyalty to him even surpasses their loyalty to the island master..."

After obtaining the soul crystals, Hu Yun treated Qin Lie's

questions seriously, giving fully detailed answers. Only when he started speaking about the various enforcers did his voice gradually soften until he eventually stopped speaking.

Qin Lie quickly recovered his wits and realized that Hu Yun's words addressed an important internal issue.

"Of the six enforcers, three of them revere Xiang Xi?" he asked. "Their loyalty to him surpasses their loyalty to the island master?"

Hu Yun laughed, then quietly whispered, "If you understand, then I've said enough."

Qin Lie wanted to continue asking questions and figure out all of the details, but he discovered that Xing Yao had suddenly appeared from out of nowhere. She was walking toward him quickly, a cold expression on her face.

Seeing that the expression on Xing Yao's face didn't bode well, Hu Yun hurriedly stood up and left, saying, "I shall be on my way."

The second she arrived in front of Qin Lie, Xing Yao's eyes narrowed, and she sternly said, "I had some people investigate, but none of them found any information about any ships being destroyed in a recent storm!"

She had found Xing Wu earlier and explained the situation to him.

Xing Wu then investigated and told her that he hadn't found any news about the wreckage of a ship appearing in nearby regions of the sea.

As a result, she believed that Qin Lie was lying.

"Your information could be incorrect," Qin Lie replied casually, narrowing his eyes. His posture made it clear that he didn't want to respond to her.

"I know you're lying!" Xing Yao shouted, gnashing her teeth. Hatred filled her voice as she continued, "If you're willing to simply disappear without a word, I will no longer question you or even pay you any mind. I... I'm even willing to give you some spirits stones. As long as you stop deceiving my aunt, I'm willing to take a loss and consider it my own misfortune!"

Qin Lie gave her a blank look.

"Do you agree?" Xing Yao shrieked.

"I truly am your uncle," Qin Lie responded.

Xing Yao's face suddenly filled with rage, murderous intent radiating from her as she stomped away shouting, "You'll definitely die a horrible death!"

Qin Lie just stood there in a daze.

Once Xing Yao left, Hu Yun returned and asked, “What did the young miss say to you? She seemed incredibly angry.”

“She doesn’t trust me. She believes that I’m pretending to be a member of the Xing Family and is afraid that I’m deceiving her aunt,” Qin Lie said with a shake of his head, a tinge of annoyance in his voice. “Because of that, she keeps paying close attention to me.”

“She’s probably just afraid of third island master getting hurt again,” Hu Yun said in a low voice. “Five years ago, a young man like you arrived out of nowhere and claimed to be a member of the Xing Family. Third island master believed him and… treated him just like she’s currently treating you. She treated them like a little brother and told them everything about Gold Sun Island while giving him many precious things. Yet, in the end, that person suddenly attacked her out of nowhere and nearly killed her.

“Fortunately, thank the heavens, island master and second island master had long since seen through that man’s facade. They arranged for Enforcer Guo to constantly watch them from the shadows. When the man made his move, Enforcer Guo appeared in the nick of time and killed him on the spot.

“After that debacle, we confirmed that the man was a Pan Family spy that infiltrated us. Gold Sun Island and the Pan Family couldn’t help but come into conflict because of this, forcing Illusory Demon Sect to come forward as a mediator and calm both sides down. This matter left third island master depressed for quite a while. For the longest time, she wouldn’t come out of the

shadows. She couldn't believe that the "younger brother" she had cherished would suddenly try to kill her. It's taken her a long time to recover from the shock."

A complex expression came over Qin Lie as he asked, "She believed someone so easily?"

"Mn." Hu Yun laughed bitterly and shook his head. "Come to think of it, it is quite strange. When it comes to other things, third island master isn't so confused. Her talent is great, she treats people kindly and is smart when it comes to complicated matters. Yet... she's been deceived so many times, and always in the exact same way. We caught three more enemy spies not too long ago. One of them also gained the trust of third island master by claiming he was a member of the Xing Family.

"How could this be?" Qin Lie exclaimed in confusion. He began to think that this situation was getting stranger and stranger.

"There's a rumor..." Hu Yun paused. Then he lowered his voice and continued, "It's rumored that third island master has a younger brother who was shot in the back with a poisoned arrow as they fled from the Heavenly Calamity Continent. It apparently pierced his heart and he died in the arms of third island master. She loved her little brother dearly, yet she had to watch him get shot and die in her arms... so she's always kept that traumatic event suppressed deep within her heart. Whenever someone shows up and claims to be a member of the Xing Family, posing as her brother, she becomes extremely easy to fool. To put it plainly, third island master just doesn't want to let go of her little brother's memory. That is also the reason why she's been hurt over and over

again.”

At this moment, Qin Lie completely understood why Xing Shengnan trusted him so easily.

“I sincerely hope that you’re truly a member of the Xing Family and aren’t deceiving third island master, Young Master Lie,” Hu Yun said, his expression suddenly becoming incomparably solemn. “If you’re taking advantage of third island master, I swear that, no matter where you flee, I’ll find you and kill you!”

After he said this, Hu Yun turned and left.

Qin Lie furrowed his brow, his face gradually adopting a serious expression as he silently sat there on the floor of the training area.

With Hu Yun’s help, he finally understood why Xing Yao so desperately wanted to get rid of him despite the fact that she knew he was lying. She had treated him like some kind of disease she simply wanted gone. He understood why she was even willing to pay him spirit stones if he left quietly.

Xing Yao was afraid that Qin Lie would harm Xing Shengnan.

She was afraid that her aunt wouldn’t be able to withstand another blow to her heart.

Chapter 573: Playing with Fire

Qin Lie left the training area on the second level of the ship and returned to his rooms, immediately shutting himself within the cultivation room to thoroughly refine the nine drops of liquid essence of the metal, earth, and water spirits that flowed within him.

He would occasionally use his soul consciousness to peer into the Soul Suppressing Orb. Each time he did, he only saw the three tiny beings sleeping peacefully, their bodies surrounded by the gentle glow of energies.

Having eaten, the three tiny beings seemed to have become content as their pocket-sized bodies underwent constant change, shifting between tangible and intangible states in an extremely strange manner while they slept.

“Are they entities with both tangible and intangible states of being? Or can they just freely transition between the two?”

Qin Lie observed them many times, but he still couldn’t understand their mysteries. All he could do was silently give up.

By the time night fell, Xing Shengnan had finished her session of gathering spirit energy. She awakened from her cultivation and went straight to Qin Lie’s room.

Due to how bulky she was, she noisily moved through the hallway and startled many Xing Family clansmen in the middle of

cultivating.

These people opened their doors and peeked into the hallway, complicated expressions emerging on their faces as they saw her walk to Qin Lie's room.

Most of the Xing Family were more or less aware of the knot in Xing Shengnan's heart and how she couldn't let go of her little brother who had tragically died in her arms.

It was clear to to them that this trauma had once again taken over her, causing her to treat Qin Lie like her actual brother.

All of them silently sighed with worry, but they didn't know how they could persuade her otherwise.

Xing Yao stood right behind the door to her own room, watching her aunt move toward Qin Lie's room through a small gap in the doorway. She wore a bitter, pained expression as Xing Shengnan passed by her.

She could still remember how lifeless Xing Shengnan had been after Enforcer Guo executed the spy from the Pan Family.

That lifeless state had lasted half a year. For half a year, Xing Shengnan became a recluse and didn't talk to a single person, her cultivation grinding to a halt.

Xing Yao worried that her aunt would make the same mistake.

“I must use more insidious methods!” Xing Yao thought to herself, silently making a decision.

At the same time, Qin Lie opened the door to his room and welcomed Xing Shengnan into his room saying, “Big sister!”

After entering Qin Lie’s room, Xing Shengnan took several bound scrolls of varying sizes and thickness out of her spatial ring. All of them were related to cultivating, and some of them seemed to contain decent spirit arts.

“I’ve gathered several cultivation scriptures for you. Take a look. Do any of them suit you?” Xing Shengnan asked. “Do you have a vague idea of what direction your cultivation will go? Do you have a particular affinity for any energy?”

“Thunder and lightning energy,” Qin Lie answered, meeting her gaze with a serious expression.

“Ah! Then take a look at these.” Xing Shengnan picked out several scriptures and handed them to Qin Lie. “All of these are scriptures that detail techniques based on thunder and lightning.”

Qin Lie thanked her and put them away without even looking at them.

Xing Shengnan suddenly smiled.

“I heard you have three wives! Why don’t you call them over and let me meet them?” she asked, patting Qin Lie on the shoulder. “Little brother is truly fortunate.”

An embarrassed look surfaced on Qin Lie’s face as he coughed softly and called for Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan.

Knowing they couldn’t avoid it, the three of them disguised their faces with special masks and walked out from the bedrooms. Following Qin Lie’s directions, they turned toward Xing Shengnan.

“We greet big sister,” they said in unison.

“Good, good! Very good.” Joy filled Xing Shengnan’s face.

Her small eyes shined as her gaze moved back and forth across the three women, sweeping over their waists, thighs, behinds, and their general pelvic areas.

Afterward, she emphatically declared, “All of them are good! They’re suited for rearing children. I can finally feel at ease.”

Her words were so straightforward that Song Tingyu’s ears became red as she blushed behind her mask. Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan reacted even more strongly, silently bowing their heads as their necks took on a crimson hue.

“Little brother,” Xing Shengnan addressed him solemnly. “I’m afraid… you are seventh grandfather’s sole heir. Since his

bloodline cannot be lost, you need to work hard and shoulder the heavy responsibility of producing an heir as soon as possible."

Qin Lie could only respond with an awkward chuckle.

The moment Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan realized why Xing Shengnan had chosen to show up at night and speak to them, their faces grew even redder. She wasn't here to bring them scrolls about cultivation and spirits arts.

—She was here to discuss the continuation of her seventh grandfather's bloodline.

Aside from Song Tingyu, who found this entire situation hilarious, Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan helplessly hung their heads, silently cursing Qin Lie for wickedly calling them his wives for no good reason.

"It seems to me that you aren't sleeping together," Xing Shengnan said with a sigh. Then she began to sternly lecture Qin Lie. "You can't just cultivate, little brother. You're seventh grandfather's sole heir, so you must give him a great-grandson as soon as possible. Yes, you heard me. You mustn't shut yourself in the cultivation room all day. You've just entered the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm after all. You don't need to work so hard. You can afford to relax a bit, indulging in some intimacy won't do any harm. And you, my three little sisters, must genuinely encourage him. Some things ultimately don't require a man to take the lead."

Qin Lie coughed loudly.

Although she was normally bold and eager to take the initiative, Song Tingyu had calmed down by this point, but she still felt that the current situation was extremely interesting. In fact, she even dared to tease Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan.

“Big sister’s teachings are absolutely right,” she said. “I believe that you two, my sisters… may have to show more enthusiasm.”

Qin Lie’s coughing became even worse.

Hearing her words, Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan glared at Song Tingyu with embarrassed fury.

Since she possessed a shy demeanor, Xie Jingxuan couldn’t oppose Song Tingyu’s sudden stream of words and could only glare at her.

Xue Moyan, on the other hand, had grown up in Illusory Demon Sect. She wasn’t as passive as Xie Jingxuan and quickly responded.

“You’re right. Big sister’s words do make sense. Let me think…” She paused then said, “It just so happens to be Sister Tingyu’s turn to sleep with husband. Jingxuan, let us leave them to their business.”

With that, Xue Moyan turned around and drifted back into one of the bedrooms.

Xie Jingxuan snapped out of her daze and wordlessly followed Xue Moyan to the bedroom they had been staying in.

“Sister Tingyu, we’ve left a room for the two of you to use,” she said, counter-attacking from a distance. Then she promptly entered the room and shut the door behind her.

Xie Jingxuan wasn’t as good at acting as Xue Moyan. Although she was just pretending, she still couldn’t say the word “husband.”

A sinking feeling spread through Song Tingyu as she realized she had fallen into her own trap. The realization left her stunned, and she secretly cursed that fact that Xue Moyan wasn’t as benevolent, kind, or easy to mock as she expected.

“I see that you’ve still got it, little brother…” Xing Shengnan said happily, her praise for him written all over her face. “The relationship between the four of you is so friendly that everyone can see the big picture.”

Qin Lie couldn’t find the words to reply.

“Well?” Xing Shengnan exclaimed. “What are you just standing there for?”

“I’ll be waiting for you in our room, dear husband.” Song Tingyu took everything in stride, smiling sweetly and glancing at him seductively as she returned to the other bedroom. Once she

reached it, she bewitchingly said, “You can chat with big sister a while longer. I’ll get in bed first and warm it up…”

Qin Lie’s mouth suddenly became as dry as a desert.

Xing Shengnan’s eyes lit up. “I really like this sister-in-law’s attitude!”

Inside one of the bedrooms, an awkward expression appeared on Xue Moyan’s face as surprise shone from her eyes.

“Judging from her actions, it seems like this has been on someone’s mind for a while now,” she said. “Your Sister Tingyu’s really is quite something…”

“She’s a real she-wolf!” Xie Jingxuan whispered.

“What a great description!” Xue Moyan gently nodded in agreement.

Back in the living room, Xing Shengnan admonished Qin Lie, asking, “Why are you still standing here, little brother?”

“Th-this… big sister, you haven’t left yet!” Qin Lie scratched his head uncomfortably. “This is embarrassing! This…”

“Alright, fine. I’ll leave first and take a stroll outside.” Xing Shengnan walked over to Qin Lie and put a hand on his shoulder.

“Put your heart into it.”

“Y-yes…” Qin Lie quickly nodded.

Satisfied with his answer, Xing Shengnan left the room.

She didn’t go far, however, and instead strolled back and forth within the hallway.

“It’s about time we added someone new to the Xing Family tree,” she whispered to herself.

Qin Lie felt helpless. He knew that Xing Shengnan was still paying attention to what went on within the room, so he had to bite the bullet and go into the bedroom that Song Tingyu had entered.

The moment he did, Qin Lie immediately went still with amazement, blood threatening to gush from his nose.

Song Tingyu was actually laying on the bed!

It seemed as if she had even taken off all of her clothes, only using the bedsheet to cover specific parts of her body.

Song Tingyu curled up at the far corner of the bed, exposing her lustrous jade shoulder and extending her long silky legs. Seduction

bloomed on her face as she laughed at Qin Lie, a hint of her charm concept shining from her eyes.

Qin Lie just stood at the doorway in a daze, staring at her provocative movements and the allure in her eyes.

Qin Lie trembled as he turned around and closed the door.

“You really want to play with fire, eh?” he exclaimed, grunting fiercely as he bent over to hide the lower half of his body.

Then he turned back to Song Tingyu, his eyes burning with ferocious flames of lust.

“You brought this upon yourself!”

As soon as she saw the expression in Qin Lie’s eyes, Song Tingyu became nervous.

“D-don’t! I was just teasing you!” she shouted hurriedly. “Don’t actually do any…”

“I can’t stop myself anymore!” Qin Lie pounced onto the bed with a guttural howl and ripped the thin bedsheet from Song Tingyu, revealing all of her.

Song Tingyu wore thin silk clothing that clung to her shapely body, clearly showing off her figure but not revealing anything

else.

Her usage of the bedsheet to present an erotic facade had really just been teasing. She had just wanted to see if her beauty could actually make Qin Lie go crazy with desire.

When Qin Lie turned back to face her, his answer made her rejoice, but also made her panic a little bit.

It wasn't that Song Tingyu didn't want to give herself to Qin Lie.

In all honestly, when Qin Lie carried her throughout all of the Forbidden Land of Wood to cure her of the voodoo toxin, dealing with their pursuers from Black Voodoo Sect and refusing to give up on her, she had already decided to devote her mind and body to Qin Lie.

He had fought Ye Yihao to obtain the blood of the voodoo insects.

He had put his life on the line for hers.

Song Tingyu's heart was a mess because she was aware of what was happening outside the walls of their bedroom.

She knew that Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan were listening to what was happening in their bedroom.

She knew that Xing Shengnan was pacing in the hallway and

paying close attention to their activity.

She knew that Xing Yao stood in her own room, eavesdropping.

Between herself, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan, Song Tingyu was definitely the most promiscuous and straightforward of the three. However, indulging in pleasure with so many people listening in… to make love in a situation that was no different from completely exposing herself…

—Of course she would feel uncomfortable.

“Wait! Calm down! Don’t do this now…” Song Tingyu whispered, pushing against Qin Lie’s chest with both hands, her lithe body writhing like a slender water snake. “As long as you let me go this time, I’ll do it whenever you want to in the future. Don’t—please calm down… ah!”

Her mind froze as she realized that Qin Lie had already torn her thin layer of clothing away.

Her stunning chest was completely bare, her supple mounds swaying gently. They quivered with every breath she took, moving in a way that would make any man go insane with lust.

In the next instant, Qin Lie’s impressive body descended upon hers, his strong scent assailing her senses.

In that moment, Song Tingyu surrendered completely.

Chapter 574: Actually Doing It

Exhilaration rushed through Qin Lie as if he were traveling through an endless wilderness on horseback.

Waves of ecstasy washed over his senses over and over, sheer pleasure seeping into his flesh and soul, into every power and every cell in his body. He had never experienced such a wonderful feeling until now.

He felt like a man that had starved for countless years and was now devouring a table full of delicious delicacies.

He also felt like a man on the verge of freezing to death that had been lowered into a hot spring.

He felt indescribably good.

Song Tingyu lay beneath him, her firm, bountiful breasts pressing into different shapes. She unconsciously spread her long, intoxicatingly beautiful legs so that he could ease his way into her.

Upon looking down, Qin Lie discovered that the dazed, yet impossibly beautiful woman below him wore a shockingly seductive expression on her face, one capable of crushing the mental defenses of any man.

It made him go crazy for her.

“Creak… mmn… creak… aah…. creak… mmph…”

The wooden bed creaked under the pressure of their intimacy, the noise mixing with Song Tingyu’s soft, erotic moans. The sounds reduced him to a wild animal that had lost every shred of rationality.

Qin Lie let out a low, bestial growl as he desperately sought to sate the needs of his mind and body, forcefully ravishing Song Tingyu as if he were never going to stop.

In the bedroom next door, Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan looked at each other. They had removed their masks, revealing exquisite, flushed faces.

The two women stared blankly at the wall separating the two rooms, helpless looks in their eyes. Considerable shock had overwhelmed their delicate hearts.

It took a long time for Xue Moyan to get a hold of herself.

“Th-th… th-they… they can’t actually be doing it, can they?” she exclaimed softly, covering her mouth in shock.

By this point, Xie Jingxuan’s blushing had spread from her face to her neck. In fact, it was gradually making its way throughout her entire body.

“I… I can’t… I can’t believe…” she whispered under her breath,

unable to actually find the words to describe how she felt.

On opposite end of that bedroom, ear pressed against the other side of the wall, Xing Yao was listening closely.

It didn't take long for an astonishing wave of redness to take over her cheeks. Embarrassment shone from her eyes as she gritted her teeth and muttered, "How utterly shameless!"

When Xing Yao realized that Qin Lie and Song Tingyu were engaging in a certain unspeakable act, she felt the urge to go into her own cultivation room and block out all the sounds. However, she couldn't stop herself from listening in a little longer.

She didn't move from where she was, nor did she pull her ear from the wall, struggling with indecision.

As she continued to eavesdrop while hesitating, her face completely red, she didn't forget to curse every so often. Exasperation and confusion tinged her voice.

"How shameless. And lewd. What a vulgar couple..."

In the hallway of the ship's third level, Xing Shengnan's footsteps came to a halt. She was in the Fragmentation Realm, and Qin Lie and Song Tingyu's bedroom wasn't a cultivation room. It hadn't been soundproofed.

As a result, she heard every bit of Qin Lie and Song Tingyu's

intimate sounds and the creaking of the wooden bed.

A satisfied smile leaped to Xing Shengnan's plump face. She nodded and said, "That girl is pretty bold. She's a good kid... little brother sure is lucky to have married her."

Song Tingyu impressed her more and more..

Under the secret scrutiny of at least three parties, Qin Lie had cracked under Song Tingyu's constant teasing, throwing all caution to the wind and taking her on the spot.

Inside the relatively small room, two bodies pressed tightly against one another atop a wooden bed, wrestling each other as if lives were on the line.

"Husband, please come back soon. I will always be waiting for you..."

Qin Lie heard Song Tingyu's devoted pleading and felt as if he had stepped into memories of the past—

—as if he had loved her for two lifetimes.

During his first lifetime, he was a warrior heading off to battle and Song Tingyu was his bride. Before he departed, she lovingly urged him to take care of himself and come home safely.

During his second lifetime, he was a scholar who placed at the top rank of the imperial exam. Song Tingyu was the wife who awaited his return every single day.

Qin Lie was well aware of the fact that these were memories that Song Tingyu's charm concept had given him when he first met her.

Back then, both he and Song Tingyu had been struck those memories and overwhelmed with how real they seemed.

He had resisted the dream in the end, and Song Tingyu had almost succumbed to it instead.

Today, he and Song Tingyu had become one. They pleasured each other, enjoying wondrous sensations like never before.

As they did, the memories of those two lifetimes resurfaced and replayed in his mind once again.

……

A long, long time later, the physical back-and-forth between the Qin Lie and Song Tingyu, the twisting of their bodies against one another atop the bed, gradually subsided.

Now Qin Lie lay on the bed facing upward, and Song Tingyu lay on top of him, her body spread out in a lazy manner. The pleasures of the flesh had yet to fade from her face, making her exude an

astonishing amount of sex appeal.

Qin Lie's hands caressed Song Tingyu's supple body, sliding down it as if it were silk. They moved from her back, down to her slender waist, her plump, shapely rear, then finally her between her legs and into her depths...

Soon enough, Qin Lie withdrew one of his hands from between her legs and glanced at the blood on his fingertips. Before he knew it, a cheerful smile spread across his face.

"Are you satisfied now?" Song Tingyu asked tenderly, rolling her eyes at him. Her jade-white finger softly brushed across his chest, tracing circles around his nipples. She also wore a bright smile on her face.

"This is such a wonderful feeling! I've never felt anything like it. I can't believe how... how heavenly and..." Qin Lie narrowed his eyes for a moment, thinking to himself, then said, "It's literally indescribable."

Seeing Qin Lie's astonishment, Song Tingyu's face blossomed with bliss. Her hands made their way down Qin Lie's body until they reached his most sensitive part, gripping it gently.

"Would you leave me in the future?" she whispered into his ear.

"Not even when I'm dead," Qin Lie exclaimed softly, pleasure tinging his voice.

“At least you know how to give the right answer.” Song Tingyu cast a satisfied glance at Qin Lie, then proudly declared, “No matter what happens in the future, I’m the one that got to you before anyone else!”

Qin Lie’s inexperienced movements and the general awkwardness of his postures made it clear that this was also his first time.

When she thought about this, understanding that she had beaten Ling Yushi, she felt a sense of triumph..

This made her unbelievably happy.

“What are you thinking? Wh... why aren’t you moving your hands?” Qin Lie grew dissatisfied.

Song Tingyu rolled her eyes at him once more and began moving her fingers skillfully. “You bastard...”

Qin Lie immediately closed his eyes, pleasure overtaking his face. He sighed on the inside, thinking one thing—

—My life has been a complete waste until today.

From that night onward, Qin Lie and Song Tingyu no longer spent their time just cultivating like usual.

The two of them emerged from their bedroom and secretly slipped into the cultivation room. Since that room was soundproof, they let go of all their inhibitions and immersed themselves in each other. Their first taste of sex had left them drunk with pleasure, so they could hardly control themselves as they grappled with one another over and over again.

Since Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan stayed in the same set of rooms as Qin Lie and Song Tingyu, neither could calm down nor cultivate properly for the entire night..

Although the cultivation room preventing sound from traveling in or out, both knew exactly what Qin Lie and Song Tingyu were doing inside of it. They couldn’t help but subconsciously think about them. Whenever they thought about a certain couple doing shameless things inside the cultivation room, they became irritated and frustrated no matter how hard they tried to push it from their minds.

Xing Yao was also someone who lost sleep that night.

The thought of Qin Lie and Song Tingyu left only one other person satisfied and happy: Xing Shengnan.

The next day, Song Tingyu snuck out of the cultivation room to the washroom so she could wash up.

When she finished bathing and changing into a new set of clothes, just as she was about to exit the washroom, she ran into

Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan who were just about to enter.

When their gazes met, the atmosphere suddenly became unfathomably awkward.

Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan were the first to lose the battle of nerves, their faces suddenly flushing bright red. Both of them thought the same confused thoughts.

“They did that for a whole night, so why is she bursting with energy? Not only does she not look tired at all, her beauty seems to have climbed to an entirely new level!”

What they didn’t was, the knot that had been holding back Song Tingyu’s charm concept had finally unwound after her night of passion with Qin Lie.

In the past, her attempt to seduce Qin Lie with her charm concept had backfired. She consequently removed its influence, and although she thought she had completely dispelled its effect, she hadn’t actually gotten rid of all of it.

When the two of them faced each other in naked honesty, wrestling in the bed with all their might, they entered the illusion from that time once more.

Since both of them truly loved each other this time, Song Tingyu freed herself from the previous influence of her charm concept, allowing it to break through its limits and grow stronger. Only she

knew about this. Not even Qin Lie was aware of her breakthrough.

Thanks to her breakthrough with her charm concept, she was on the verge of entering the Fulfillment Realm and reaching a whole new level as well. This was why she looked to be in high spirits, her visage incredibly radiant.

Neither Xue Moyan nor Xie Jingxuan knew about this.

Song Tingyu felt happy as she smiled at the two women.

Then she suddenly feigned surprise, exclaiming, “Hm, both of you don’t look too energetic today. Why do you have dark circles around your eyes? Could it be that you couldn’t sleep last night, sisters?”

After of a moment of shock, Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan subconsciously looked at each other. They quickly discovered that Song Tingyu wasn’t just messing with them.

On one hand, Song Tingyu looked absolutely radiant and energetic after an entire night of passionate love-making. On the other hand, both of them looked exhausted and had dark circles around their eyes. In fact, they looked like the ones whose minds and bodies had been completely ravished.

Both of them cursed inwardly, shooting fierce glares at Song Tingyu, thinking, “Aren’t you the cause of this?”

“Sister Tingyu,” Xie Jingxuan said. “From now on, I will share a room with Sister Xue and vacate the other one so you and Qin Lie can… use it…”

Xie Jingxuan’s elegant face blushed intensely. She couldn’t force out the last few words not matter how much she tried.

“So you can work on your baby-making.” Xue Moyan gritted her teeth, finishing Xie Jingxuan’s sentence.

Even Song Tingyu, as natural and unrestrained as she was, couldn’t help but blush at Xue Moyan’s bluntness. She coughed softly, then exited the washroom without replying.

She inwardly recognized that Xue Moyan wasn’t a pushover.

At that same time, Qin Lie took stock of the time and figured that Song Tingyu would more or less be done washing up. Wanting to take a bath himself, he walked out of the cultivation room only wearing a pair of short pants.

Three pairs of eyes met once more.

Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan could clearly see the extremely obvious bite marks on Qin Lie’s robust body and imagine exactly how fierce last night’s “battle” had been.

Both of their faces had barely recovered from their encounter with Song Tingyu, and now they became painted in red once more.

They cursed out loud before quickly jumping into the washroom.

This meeting also left Qin Lie slightly embarrassed.

He let out an awkward laugh and said, “I see that everyone woke up quite early today.”

Unbeknownst to him, Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan hadn’t woken up early.

The simply couldn’t sleep for the entire night.

So he naturally had no idea that both women were inwardly cursing up a storm.

Chapter 575: You Cannot Kill This Person!

Qin Lie wasn't able to continue living such a wonderful, indulgent lifestyle.

On the evening of that same day, three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes slowly came into view above the Wavebreaker, a loud rumbling accompanying their approach.

The warm, evening light made the three flying spirit artifacts resemble phoenixes bathed in blood, dazzling as if they had just been reborn.

"The island master had come!" numerous Gold Sun Island martial practitioners cheered.

Every person that could see the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes looked up into the sky and waved their hands.

Qin Lie's set of rooms had a window facing the sea. Noticing the commotion, he opened it and looked outside. Seeing those flying spirit artifacts as well, he immediately understood that Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan had arrived.

He had a vague hunch that they arrived so quickly because of Xing Shengnan.

—which also meant they had come because of him...

“We have to face these two people eventually,” Qin Lie thought to himself, calm as ever. “The earlier we do… the better.”

The eight god corpses had been hiding in the sea below them this entire time. The moment he gave the order, they would surface and fight Gold Sun Island.

Xing Yumiao was only at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm. If the eight god corpses unleashed all of their power, they would be able to eliminate all of Gold Sun Island.

Even if that Xing Yumiao attempted to ambush him when his guard was down, Qin Lie still had the Blood Progenitor’s body. As long as he used his True Soul to control it, he might not necessarily fall to the Xing brothers.

These contingency plans were the reason he dared to stay in his rooms without worry, unafraid of any unexpected developments.

He calmly awaited their arrival.

“First island master! Second island master!”

As the Xing brothers walked through the air and landed on the deck of the ship, multiple Gold Sun Island martial practitioners there called out to them respectfully.

Xing Shengnan also came out to greet them with a smile.

“Big brother! Second brother!” she exclaimed. “You guys certainly showed up quick.”

“Father! Uncle!” Xing Yao yelled.

Xing Yumiao nodded, a calm expression on his face.

“Let’s talk inside, little sister,” he said, taking the initiative to head toward Xing Shengnan’s room on the level just below deck.

“Of course.” Xing Shengnan looked cheerful.

“Well met, island masters.” The two enforcers, Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing, saluted them respectfully.

“Thank you for your hard work, both of you.” Xing Yumiao gave them his regards with a nod.

It didn’t take long for the three Xing siblings and Xing Yao to make their way to Xing Shengnan’s spacious room.

These four people were the true core of the Xing Family.

Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, and the other Xing Family branch relatives in the top level of the ship did not qualify to join them.

The moment Xing Yumiao sat down within Xing Shengnan's room, he got to the heart of the matter.

"I heard you found seventh grandfather's grandson, little sister," he said solemnly. "Are you absolutely sure he is seventh grandfather's grandson?"

"This time, there is definitely no mistake!" Xing Shengnan said excitedly. She began recounting how Qin Lie revealed Xing Shan's name when they met and how he had lived deep within the mountains, unable to tell anyone his true name. When she finished explaining everything, she exclaimed, "Big brother. Second brother. We can finally add a new name to the Xing Family tree."

After Xing Shengnan finished her detailed explanation, Xing Yumiao frowned deeply, pondering to himself for a moment before saying, "Adding a new name to the family tree is an important matter. We must not be hasty."

He paused once more, then said, "Let us meet this Xing Lie first before we make a decision."

"Mn." Xing Shengnan agreed. "It's true that adding a name to the family tree is no simple matter. Let's do this properly once we return to Gold Sun Island."

"Yao'er, please summon that Xing Lie," Xing Yumiao instructed.

Xing Yao immediately walked out of the room.

The moment she did, she noticed Guo Yanzheng standing just outside the door, a look of hesitation on his face. Xing Yao didn't pay him any heed and only gave him an indifferent nod before leaving.

"Island masters, your subordinate wishes to make a report," Guo Yanzheng called out from the doorway. He had taken a long time to consider what he knew. In the end, he decided that he shouldn't hide it.

"We're discussing something important, Enforcer Guo," Xing Yuyuan said with a smile. "Anything else can wait until tomorrow."

Xing Yumiao frowned and stayed silent.

"My report is related to that... Xing Lie," Guo Yanzheng said, gritting his teeth.

"It has something to do with little brother?" This realization stunned Xing Shengnan.

Shock took over Xing Yumiao's face. Only then did he invite Guo Yanzheng inside by saying, "Please come in and say your piece, Enforcer Guo."

Guo Yanzheng slipped into the room, rushing to speak before Qin Lie showed up.

“Young Master Xing Lie… is also a genuine disciple of Blood Fiend Sect. He cultivates the orthodox Blood Spirit Art. I guarantee that this is completely true,” he said, briefly detailing his meeting with Qin Lie.

Once finished, Guo Yanzheng hastily added, “Young Master Xing Lie told me to keep this a secret, but this matter is related to Blood Fiend Sect. Since I belong to Gold Sun Island, I naturally didn’t dare to hide this from you island masters, so…”

“Please take your leave for now,” Xing Yumiao said with a wave of his hand.

Guo Yanzheng nodded, making haste to leave before Qin Lie arrived.

Inside the room, Xing Yumiao’s and Xing Yuyuan’s expression became grim. Their look in their eyes seemed incredibly conflicted.

Xing Shengnan, on the other hand, secretly rejoiced at this revelation.

“Little brother is fortunate to be able to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art,” she said. “It would seem that seventh grandfather became pretty intimate with the disciples of Blood Fiend Sect while escaping the three great families.”

She became more and more certain the Qin Lie was Xing Shan's grandson.

The thoughts of the Xing Brothers, however, were completely different.

"He actually hails from Blood Fiend Sect..." Xing Yumiao thought to himself. "Why in Spirit Realm is a disciple of Blood Fiend Sect pretending to be a member of the Xing Family? Have they still not given up on recruiting the Xing Family?"

After meeting Qin Lie, Xing Yumiao was originally going to find a suitable opportunity to kill him in secret. He was going to have Qin Lie mysteriously vanish so that Xing Shengnan wouldn't be overcome with grief and confusion like last time.

Yet, now that he knew Qin Lie cultivated the orthodox Blood Spirit Art and was a disciple of Blood Fiend Sect, a headache immediately came over him.

The Xing Family shared a rather complicated relationship with Blood Fiend Sect. Xing Yumiao knew that the Xing Family was once a vassal force of Blood Fiend Sect. Even if Blood Fiend Sect presently had to stick to the shadows, he still felt a trace of respect toward it.

Since Qin Lie was a member of Blood Fiend Sect, his presence here appeared to be Blood Fiend Sect's doing.

If he were to secretly kill Qin Lie, he would definitely upset Blood Fiend Sect. He might even bring unnecessary trouble upon Gold Sun Island.

This point of contention left Xing Yumiao unsure of how to deal with Qin Lie. He could no longer make a decision.

At this point in time, Xing Yao had already gone to Qin Lie's rooms and told him about how the Xing brothers requested that he come to Xing Shengnan's room.

"I told you to leave yesterday, but you just refuse to listen," Xing Yao said as they walked through hallway, a cold expression on her face. Since she also hadn't slept for the whole night, she had black circles around her eyes as well. "You won't die if you don't court death."

"Are you saying that I'm simply courting death?" Qin Lie asked, calm and indifferent.

"You will die a horrible death," Xing Yao declared icily.

Five years ago, her father told her that Xing Shan had died long ago, so she knew that Qin Lie was a fake the second he appeared.

She was well aware of what happened to people who pretended to be members of the Xing Family just to spy on Gold Sun Island.

She knew that Qin Lie wouldn't last three days before...

disappearing.

She also knew that him disappearing would make her aunt sad. That her aunt would try to look for him.

“You’ve come, little brother!” Xing Shengnan stood up and greeted him with a smile.

Qin Lie entered the room with calm, confident strides.

“This is your big brother, and this is your second brother,” Xing Shengnan said hastily, introducing them to Qin Lie.

Qin Lie laughed, nodded, and bowed to them, casually calling out to them.

“Hello, big brother. Hello, second brother.”

Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan exchanged glances with each other. They nodded slightly, complicated expressions on their faces. Both could see helplessness in the other’s eyes.

“Can you tell us what happened to seventh grandfather? Where was he buried?” Xing Yumiao asked calmly.

“He was buried near Blood Cloud Mountain Range.” Qin Lie only had a limited knowledge of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. He was afraid of making a mistake if he said the names of places he

wasn't familiar with, so he could only use what he knew..

"The Blood Cloud Mountain Range..." Xing Yumiao snorted coldly on the inside.

In his opinion, Qin Lie used that detail to purposely expose his identity as a disciple of Blood Fiend Sect. Xing Yumiao also figured that Qin Lie knew Guo Yanzheng would reveal the fact that he cultivated the Blood Spirit Art.

This first impression convinced Xing Yumiao. The more he looked at Qin Lie, the more sure he became about how devious Qin Lie was. He believed that Qin Lie purposely chose to pose as a member of the Xing Family even though he represented Blood Fiend Sect, an unbelievably spiteful act.

"Does seventh grandfather have any other descendants?" Xing Yuyuan asked. He could tell from his big brother's grim expression that he was irritated, but all he could do was interrupt the conversation by asking a question.

"There were other descendants, but..." Qin Lie sighed, regret filling his face. "The three great families killed all of them."

"Fuck!" Xing Yuyuan swore inwardly.

By saying "killed all of them," Qin Lie had cut off all other possible lines of questioning. Even if Xing Yuyuan wanted to get to the heart of Qin Lie's lies and expose him, he no longer had any

way to do so.

By this point, Xing Yuyuan was frowning deeply. He just nodded and said, “How tragic.”

He refrained from saying anything else. Instead, he thought about how he could kill Qin Lie after slipping away from his little sister.

“Let’s leave things like this,” Xing Yumiao suddenly said. “I have an urgent matter I need to discuss with Yao’er. We’ll arrange to have Xing Lie added to the family tree once we return to Gold Sun Island.”

“Big brother! Second brother!” Xing Shengnan exclaimed. “You have a lot of Soul Nurturing Pills on you, right? Would you please lend a few to little brother? He has just reached the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm, so he needs to stabilize it as soon as possible.”

Xing Shengnan wasn’t sensitive to subtle cues of emotion. Not only did she not notice anything amiss, she even requested pills on Qin Lie’s behalf.

The Xing brothers felt their headaches worsen. They had no choice but to force themselves to give Qin Lie a few pills. Their faces were frighteningly grim.

“Thank you, big brother. Second brother.” Qin Lie accepted the

pills with a chuckle.

“Come with me, Yao’er.” Xing Yumiao walked out of the room, a solemn expression on his face.

Xing Yao rushed to follow after him.

“Hahaha… Little sister, I have a small matter I need to take care of. I’ll be returning to the deck,” Xing Yuyuan said and walked out of the room as well. He returned to the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix, preparing to talk with his big brother before making any decisions.

“They…” This situation left Qin Lie somewhat embarrassed.

“Unlike me, they’re quite busy. Just ignore them.” Xing Shengnan said, then nodded at him with a wide smile. “You did well last night. I really like that young woman.”

Qin Lie could only laugh dryly.

At the other end of the hallway, Xing Yumiao arrived at Xing Yao’s rooms and entered the cultivation room. His face grim, he let out a snort and exclaimed, “You knew that seventh grandfather passed away a long time ago! Why didn’t you stop this person from meeting your aunt?”

“By the time I found out about him, it was already too late.” Xing Yao bowed her head, accepting the blame.

Xing Yumiao fell silent, pondering for a moment.

“When are you going to do it, father?” Xing Yao asked hesitantly. “Are we doing the same thing as before?”

“Do what?” Xing Yumiao snorted.

“Kill that fake bastard, of course,” Xing Yao said as a matter of course.

“Haah... if only things were that simple,” Xing Yumiao sighed, shaking his head. “We cannot kill this person.”

Xing Yao was dumbfounded.

Chapter 576: Cannot Forget Your Roots

“Why can’t we kill him?” Xing Yao asked.

“Do not ask why, and do not meddle in this matter,” Xing Yumiao said as he looked at his daughter. “I’ll take care of it.”

Xing Yumiao didn’t want his daughter to know too much about the relationship between Blood Fiend Sect and the Xing Family. For many years, Blood Fiend Sect sent people to try and persuade the Xing Family to rejoin Blood Fiend Sect, but he had always firmly refused.

He thought it was too early for his daughter to worry about matters like this.

Just like that, Xing Yumiao silently waited in Xing Yao’s room.

Once Qin Lie returned to his room from Xing Shengnan’s, there was a light knock on the door just as he was about to enter the cultivation room.

“Who is it?” Qin Lie asked, already knowing the answer.

“Xing Yumiao!” A deep voice resounded from outside.

Qin Lie opened the door and saw Xing Yumiao standing in the hallway with a grim expression on his face.

“I’ll leave after saying a few words!” he said.

Qin Lie nodded. “Please, speak.”

Xing Yumiao turned his voice into a thread of sound that only Qin Lie could hear.

“Seventh grandfather had already been dead when the Xing Family endured the calamity of a thousand years ago,” he said. “He couldn’t have left a descendants behind.”

After saying this, Xing Yumiao paused and looked deep into Qin Lie’s eyes.

Qin Lie was calm. He already knew that, since even Xing Yao didn’t believe him and accused him of being a fake, it would be difficult to fool the master of Gold Sun Island.
Xing Yumiao obviously couldn’t be fooled.

Yet Qin Lie remained calm because of his background. He wasn’t afraid that Xing Yumiao would try to kill him.

“I also know that you belong to Blood Fiend Sect!” Xing Yumiao shouted, his eyes as cold and sharp as knives.

Qin Lie nodded slightly.

“I don’t like the way you do things! You know my little sister’s weakness and exploited it! This greatly displeases me!” Xing Yumiao said with a snort. “The Xing Family refuses to interact with Blood Fiend Sect, so I hope you will give up! I want you to disappear as soon as this ship reaches Gold Sun Island. If you don’t… I won’t give Blood Fiend Sect any more face! Your actions have already crossed the line and harmed my family!”

“Come,” Qin Lie said politely. “Shall we talk inside?”

He tried to turn his voice into a thread of sound like Xing Yumiao had, but he wasn’t as skilled. He couldn’t prevent others from hearing him.

As a result, he invited Xing Yumiao to come inside so they could have a discussion in the cultivation room, a soundproof place.

Unfortunately, Xing Yumiao abhorred the way that Qin Lie passed himself off as a member of the Xing Family. He knew that Qin Lie would say this and immediately refused.

“There is nothing to discuss!” Xing Yumiao exclaimed. “I’ve said my piece. This is my final offer: disappear before we reach Gold Sun Island or I’ll kill you!”

Having made this threat, Xing Yumiao turned and walked away without sparing Qin Lie so much as another look.

He had kept his voice low from beginning to end, so no one but

he and Qin Lie knew what he said.

Qin Lie rubbed his nose and laughed, then casually closed the door.

Just as he walked into the cultivation room and sat down, Xue Moyan knocked on the door and walked in as well.

“What did Xing Yumiao say to you?” she asked.

“He told me that Xing Shan died a long time ago and that someone like Xing Lie couldn’t possibly belong to the Xing Family,” Qin Lie said with a frown. “He also knows I’m from Blood Fiend Sect and hates that I used the fake identity of Xing Lie to fool Xing Shengnan. He told me that he would eliminate me if I didn’t disappear on my own.”

“You using the identity of Xing Lie was just an accident, but it seems like doing that has truly angered Xing Yumiao. Although you weren’t in the right, not all of this matter is your fault.”
Xue Moyan sighed. She was extremely worried about whether or not Qin Lie could form a friendly relationship with Gold Sun Island.

“He didn’t even give me a chance to explain.” Qin Lie grimaced.

It was clear that Xing Yumiao truly was angry. He thought that, in getting close to Xing Shengnan, Qin Lie had ulterior motives. This crossed the line in Xing Yumiao’s opinion, displeasing him to

the point that he didn't even want to talk.

"There's still some time before we reach Gold Sun Island, so you'll still have a chance to explain everything to him," Xue Moyan said softly, trying to comfort him.

"It doesn't matter," Qin Lie said indifferently. "If anything, we'll just make use of their ship, disregard Gold Sun Island, and return to Blood Fiend Sect."

Yet Xue Moyan still hadn't given up.

"If Gold Sun Island and Green Moon Valley could be convinced to serve Blood Fiend Sect once more, it'd still be a great boon for the sect," she said.

"We'll see." Qin Lie didn't give her a definite answer.

……

Xing Yumiao and his brother met up again on one of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes.
"Have you made a decision, big brother?" Xing Yuyuan asked immediately.

"They have to disappear before we reach Gold Sun Island!" Xing Yumiao snorted. "If not, they'll be killed!"

“Aren’t they from Blood Fiend Sect?” Xing Yuyuan exclaimed in astonishment.

“So what if they’re from Blood Fiend Sect?” Xing Yumiao wore a cold expression. “So many years have passed. The current Blood Fiend Sect isn’t the ruler of the Heavenly Calamity Continent that it once was. They’re no longer the benefactors of our Xing Family.”

“But… Blood Fiend Sect has done a great deal for our Xing Family.” Xing Yuyuan sighed.

“And now they’ve almost wounded our little sister yet again! I definitely won’t allow that to happen!” Xing Yumiao shouted, determination on his face. “They also haven’t given up on trying to convince us to join them for years. I’ve grown tired of them! This time, if they don’t leave, I’ll kill them and completely cut ties with Blood Fiend Sect!”

“You’ve truly decided on this, big brother?” Xing Yuyuan asked in shock.

“No one will harm a member of the Xing Family!” Xing Yumiao snorted coldly.

“…what about chief enforcer?” Xing Yuyuan abruptly changed the subject.

A complicated expression emerged on Xing Yumiao’s face.

“He… he’s recently been in close contact with three other enforcers. They’ve been holding frequent secret meetings,” Xing Yuyuan said. “I don’t know what they’ve been discussing, but I don’t think it’s anything good.”

Xing Yuyuan sighed. “Big brother… I’m worried that Xiang Xi harbors ill intent.”

“Don’t speak of such things without evidence!” Xing Yumiao yelled harshly.

Xing Yuyuan grimaced. “I’m afraid that, by the time we have evidence, it’ll be too late.”

“Big Brother Xiang has been good to us. When we joined Gold Sun Island with nothing, he was the one that took us in. In the years after that, we fought for Gold Sun Island, growing in realm and power. It was Big Brother Xiang who stepped aside and gave the position of island master to us.” Xing Yumiao reminisced about the past, then gravely said, “Big Brother Xiang is noble and honest. He has done the Xing Family a great service. We cannot forget our roots!”

“Big brother, when the two of us joined Gold Sun Island, it was just a Black Iron force beholden to the Pan Family. At that time, enemies surrounded Gold Sun Island on all sides, putting it in great danger. We were the ones that fought for Gold Sun Island and helped it overcome that situation,” Xing Yuyuan replied, clearly disagreeing with Xing Yumiao. “Brother, without us, the other forces would have torn Xiang Xi and Gold Sun Island to pieces. They definitely wouldn’t have been able to break free of the

Pan Family's grasp to become a Copper rank force and suppress them in return!"

"The two of us became the masters of Gold Sun Island," Xing Yuyuan continued. "Do you really think that happened just because Xiang Xi is noble and honest? That he moved aside to more capable people lead? He did that because all of Gold Sun Island reveres us. Everyone knows who the true backbone of Gold Sun Island is. They trust and recognize us alone. That's why Xiang Xi had to step down."

Xing Yumiao's expression was dark as he asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"Big brother, the Gold Sun Island's six enforcers oversee thirty two island envoys. Of the six, however, three of them are loyal to Xiang Xi and only listen to him. They ignore our orders." Xing Yuyuan grimaced and shook his head. "How many mistakes has Xiang Xi made in recent years? Those three enforcers, what have they done? Big brother, you've always let Xiang Xi do as he wants because of our past friendship, but do you think he's grateful? No, he isn't! He still isn't satisfied! I think that he stills wants to be the master of Gold Sun Island!"

"Shut up!" Xing Yumiao shouted.

"You're right, I don't have any evidence. But I'm not blind! I can see it, and I don't believe that big brother can't!" Xing Yuyuan sighed. "Big brother has always been vicious and decisive, never showing mercy when it comes to enemies. Why do you fool yourself when it comes to Xiang Xi and our past friendship with

him?”

“When the two of us had nothing, Big Brother Xiang was the one that took us in!” Xing Yumiao took a deep breath and yelled, “Unless he truly does something to harm the Xing Family, I forbid you from taking action!”

“If we’re always passive, choosing only to react to things…” Xing Yuyuan frowned. “I’m afraid that we won’t have the power to act when we truly need to.”

“We will no longer speak of this!” Xing Yumiao stubbornly declared.

Xing Yuyuan sighed, shook his head, and left helplessly.

He knew that Xiang Xi had recently been meeting with three other enforcers in secret for some reason. He knew that great waves were headed for Gold Sun Island and the Xing Family.

It was a pity that Xing Yumiao still valued past friendships so much that he couldn’t make a decision. He continued to allow Xiang Xi do as he wanted, build his power base and form his own faction within Gold Sun Island.

Xing Yuyuan sighed inwardly.

“I hope that Xiang Xi remembers past friendships as well.”

……

“I definitely won’t let the Xing siblings return to Gold Sun Island alive!” Xiang Xi yelled. He was a bearded man with a brawny body, his rough features distinguishing him from the other people present. His skin was dark, and he had two deep scars on his face. When he spoke, the scars wriggled like earthworms, giving him a vicious appearance.

He was currently meeting with Bo Boze, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong, three other enforcers of Gold Sun Island, in a secret room within another Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. The island envoys subordinate to them were there as well.

“Gold Sun Island belongs to us, my brothers!” Xiang Xi yelled once more.

A confused island envoy spoke up, stating his concerns.

“But… Xing Yumiao is at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, and Xing Yuyuan is in the middle stage of the Fragmentation Realm.”

Of the people present, only Xiang Xi and Second Enforcer Bo Boze were in the Fragmentation Realm and only the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. Everyone else was in the Fulfillment Realm.

Although they had more people on their side, if this ended up

actually being a fight to the death, the differences in cultivation meant they wouldn't really have any advantages. The Xing brothers would kill them.

That's what the island envoys were worried about.

"Don't worry about the Xing brothers! They'll be taken care of!" Xiang Xi snarled, a ferocious grin on his face.

"You don't have to worry about a thing!"

Chapter 577: A Clever Plan!

In the days following his confrontation with Xing Yumiao, Qin Lie stayed in his rooms and focused on refining the nine drops of liquid essence from the metal, earth, and water spirits.

The three tiny beings within the Soul Suppressing Orb would occasionally fly out to play with him. They would also eat Heavenly Flame Crystals, the materials needed to make Terminator Profound Bombs, and the tree branches filled with wood energy that Xie Jingxuan had given him.

After filling themselves up, the three tiny beings would return to the Soul Suppressing Orb to continue sleeping.

After a few days of this, Qin Lie noticed that their bodies began to glow and become more distinct, the power within them growing even more astonishing.

Their intelligence seemed to develop as well. They soon became able to understand his thoughts.

Song Tingyu would frequently visit the cultivation room as well, and they would enjoy themselves.

In this small set of rooms, Qin Lie forgot about Gold Sun Island and the rest of his responsibilities. He remained unusually calm, and his realm gradually stabilized.

People would occasionally leave aboard the three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes and explore nearby waters for traces of the remains of ancient elites.

After failing to make any discoveries, they would return to hovering above the five ships, exchange information with Xing Shengnan, then enter the ships to interact with siblings, parents, and children.

Xing Yumiao would never imagine that the remains of the ancient elites he constantly searched for would be in the depths of the sea right below them being pulled along by the eight god corpses.

As expected, the most dangerous place to hide was also the safest. Only now did Qin Lie get a first-hand understanding of how true that was.

The eight god corpses floated deep under the sea. They were so far down that, unless one were at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, their soul consciousness wouldn't be able to reach that depth, let alone sense the god corpses.

The only person of Gold Sun Island at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm was Xing Yumiao. He did enter the water while they explored, but he always looked in the wrong areas and naturally didn't discover anything.

Xing Shengnan commanded the five large ships. Whenever they came across an island, she'd order a search and enter the water

herself.

Unfortunately for them, Qin Lie secretly stayed vigilant and controlled the god corpses, making sure they were deep under the sea.

As a result, Gold Sun Island never found anything.

Qin Lie settled in the midst of Gold Sun Island with ease and thought about whether or not he should tell Xing Yumiao everything before they reached Gold Sun Island or just leave silently.

He still hadn't made a decision.

In these past few days, after searching regions of the sea nearby, the three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes rendezvoused with the fleet of ships once again.

Xing Yumiao descended onto the largest ship, the Wavebreaker, and spoke to Xing Shengnan, learning that Qin Lie and his companions were still present.

He returned to the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix he used, his expression grim.

"They don't appreciate my kindness!" he said with a cold snort.

“We will arrive at Gold Sun Island soon,” Xing Yuyuan reminded him.

“When the time comes, I will not be polite!” Xing Yumiao exclaimed with determination.

“Big brother… I have a suggestion.” Xing Yuyuan laughed softly.

“Speak!” Xing Yumiao said impatiently.

“Xiang Xi and the enforcers loyal to him have been in even closer contact with each other lately, meeting every other day for secret discussions,” Xing Yuyuan said. “I’m worried…”

“I already told you! The Xing Family will not be the first to take action!” Xing Yumiao had obviously noticed the shady activity, but in consideration of their old friend, Xiang Xi, he wasn’t willing to act first.

Xing Yumiao was ready to watch things unfold. He wanted to know what Xiang Xi and the others were thinking.

He wanted to know the truth.

Xing Yumiao thought that the realms of his and his brothers were higher than everyone else’s, so even if Xiang Xi had concocted a scheme, it wouldn’t succeed.

He didn’t bother preparing for anything in advance.

“That lying brat is a member of Blood Fiend Sect, big brother. It won’t be good if you… kill him personally.” Xing Yuyuan’s eyes flashed with intelligence. Then he said, “Why don’t you arrange for him to be on Xiang Xi’s Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix? Just say that other people are coming and they’ll have a change in setting. Little sister is a little oblivious when it comes to schemes, so she shouldn’t get suspicious.”

Xing Yumiao’s eyes shone faintly, then laughed aloud.

“In any case, Xiang Xi and the others don’t know that they aren’t who they say they are,” Xing Yuyuan continued. “We’ll just tell them they’re members of the Xing Family, and that he, specifically, is the grandson of seventh grandfather!

“We can use him to test Xiang Xi and the others. If Xiang Xi harbors ill will toward the Xing Family, he definitely won’t be able to ignore that brat. He’ll think of him as a pawn we’re using to investigate them. Even if Xiang Xi wants to kill anyone, he’ll end up being his first target… and he isn’t even an actual Xing Family clansman. We can use this as an opportunity to see what Xiang Xi is really thinking.

“On the other hand, if that imposter really dies by Xiang Xi’s hand, when Blood Fiend Sect comes, we can say that internal strife caused his death and push the blame onto Xiang Xi.

“In addition to that, as long as neither you nor I kill him

personally, little sister... she'll find it easier to come to terms with his death.

"Ha! If Xiang Xi really has betrayed us, little sister will have an outlet to vent her hate on. After killing Xiang Xi, she won't be too depressed. This way, we can use him to test Xiang Xi, and won't even have to worry about him being killed. If he really is killed, we can avoid Blood Fiend Sect's ire and keep Little Sister from being so hurt. Isn't this actually killing two birds with one stone?"

Xing Yuyuan had always been the brain of Gold Sun Island. In terms of scheming and planning, he was much more skilled than his big brother, Xing Yumiao.

These past few days, the matters regarding Xiang Xi, Blood Fiend Sect, and his little sister had left him frantic, so he decided to connect all of them together.

After a long period of contemplation, he finally thought up a clever plan—

—Use Qin Lie to test Xiang Xi.

In the event that Qin Lie died, Xiang Xi's intentions would be exposed. After killing Xiang Xi, they would then be able to answer to both Blood Fiend Sect and Xing Shengnan.

Qin Lie wasn't really a Xing Family clansman. If he died, the Xing Family wouldn't lose anything. They would even be able to

eliminate a source of trouble.

This was a clever plan from every angle. It connected every troublesome matter and took care of them all at once.

“What do you think, big brother?” Xing Yuyuan asked eagerly.

“Let’s do it!” Xing Yumiao nodded.

Xing Yumiao truly wasn’t picky. His brother’s plan was extremely clever, and he had no reason to refuse.

“You will arrange this,” he said.

Xing Yuyuan sighed in relief. “Leave it to me.”

Xing Yumiao nodded. His approval clearly meant that he wasn’t actually clueless about everything that had been going on recently.

From that tiny detail alone, Xing Yuyuan understood that his big brother didn’t completely trust Xiang Xi.

“If we do this, we need to be careful,” Xing Yumiao warned. “The people who came with that brat could also be from Blood Fiend Sect.”

“I know.”

……

Du Xiangyan finally got what he wanted.

After following Xing Wu's guidance, he, Luo Chen, and Gao Yu now stood on the deck of the Wavebreaker.

Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan were waiting for them, a small crystalline chariot floating beside them.

Xing Yuyuan greeted them with a warm smile.

"Come here, little brother!" he said. "Let's move you to a better environment in one of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes."

"A group of people from Green Moon Valley will be coming here soon, little brother. Some of my friends are among their number, so I've arranged for them to take up residence on the top level of the ship near my rooms," Xing Shengnan explained, looking at Qin Lie helplessly. "But it is good up there. The accommodations in the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes are much better than the ship's. In fact, since you're all in the Netherpassage Realm, you'll be able to experience what it's like to fly by staying on it!"

"Have a nice trip!" Xing Yao exclaimed coldly.

Qin Lie could tell from Xing Yuyuan's fake smile, Xing Yao's

coldness, and the reluctance on Xing Shengnan's face that something was wrong.

He knew that the Xing brothers couldn't tolerate his presence and that doing this would first hide him from Xing Shengnan.

The eight god corpses hid deep in the sea below the ship. If something happened while they were on the ship, he'd be able to summon the god corpses and have them attack at any time.

The three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes, however, were constantly moving all over the place. If the Xing brothers attacked them while they were in one, he wouldn't be able to summon the god corpses and immediately fight back.

This made him hesitate.

He hesitated because, if he were to act now and summon the god corpses to solve the problem, he'd expose his identity.

He would then have to kill many Xing Family clansmen to keep it a secret.

Qin Lie glanced at Xing Shengnan. Hearing her words of concern, he couldn't bear to suddenly kill everyone. He sighed on the inside and helplessly walked toward Xing Yuyuan.

"Come on up! Quickly, come!" Xing Yuyuan breathed rapidly, a broad smile on his face.

Qin Lie and his six companions climbed aboard the small crystalline chariot.

At Xing Yuyuan's command, the chariot flew into the sky and headed for one of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes.

Seeing the direction they were headed, Qin Lie frowned and said, "That isn't the fire phoenix you use..."

"The fire phoenix that my brother and I reside in has already been filled. I've arranged for you and your people to board chief enforcer's fire phoenix. They have many empty residences over there, and I've picked a few of them that I guarantee will satisfy you," Xing Yuyuan said, patting his chest. Then, afraid that people wouldn't hear him, he spoke in a loud voice. "You are a member of the main Xing Family! You deserve the best!"

Before long, the crystalline chariot landed on the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix that Xiang Xi and Bo Boze stood on top of. When Xing Yuyuan told them why he had come with Qin Lie, the ugliest expressions possible appeared on their faces.

Both of them exchanged looks and knew exactly what the other was thinking. They thought that Xing Yumiao had noticed their activities and arranged for trusted people to watch them.

On the surface, they had to follow the orders of the two island masters. In addition to that, they actually did have empty accommodations in the fire phoenix, so they didn't have a reason

to refuse.

They had to let them come aboard.

“Haha, then I’ll have to trouble you two enforcers and help pick some good accommodations for little brother!” Xing Yuyuan laughed as he led Qin Lie’s group to the rows of exquisite wooden buildings on the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Xiang Xi and Bo Boze stared at the backs of Xing Yuyuan and Qin Lie as though they wanted to devour them.

“Control yourself. Just a few more days until… they… arrive,” Bo Boze hurriedly said, trying to calm Xiang Xi. “Then we’ll show the Xing Family…”

Xiang Xi took a deep breath. He wore a vicious expression as his eyes flashed.

“Let them be proud for a few more days!” he growled.

“This one… and this one. These are vacant,” Xing Yuyuan said, smiling as he pointed two buildings out to Qin Lie.

Xiang Xi and Bo Boze watched them from a distance, their expressions becoming uglier and the looks in their eyes becoming harsher..

The two vacant buildings that Xing Yuyuan had pointed out sat right next to Xiang Xi's and Bo Boze's residences.

This clearly meant that they had brought people to watch them.

……

Chapter 578: Rebellious

After choosing rooms for Qin Lie's group and exchanging a few typical words of greeting with Xiang Xi, Xing Yuyuan departed from the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix with a smile on his face.

The two enforcers, Xiang Xi and Bo Boze, swept their gazes over Qin Lie's group, snorted, then took off toward Xiang Xi's residence.

His residence was a six-story wooden building shaped like a pagoda. Low-hanging tassels decorated that pagoda's eaves, giving it an extravagant appearance.

Qin Lie's group of seven stood before the entrances to two other wooden buildings that were three stories tall, the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix dazzling under the light of the evening sun. The beauty of it all left them somewhat stunned.

As a large-scale flying spirit artifact, the main component of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix was flowing gold. Although it was a kind of metal, it was both incredibly tough and astonishingly light, making it very suitable for the building of flying spirit artifacts.

Several small wooden buildings sat atop the flying spirit artifact shaped like a fire phoenix. Since wood was an even lighter material, these buildings didn't add much more weight to the flying spirit artifact. This design prioritized its flying speed.

Standing atop this large flying spirit artifact, Qin Lie felt as

though he were standing on a huge, flaming carpet hovering in midair. It felt both steady and comfortable.

"The three of you will share a residence." Qin Lie smiled and directed Du Xiangyang to the three-story wooden building off to one side. "As for us..."

"Got it!" Du Xiangyang returned his smile with one of his own, showing that he clearly understood what Qin Lie was saying.

"No, not like this!" Xue Moyan said, hastily shaking her head. "You should go with them!"

For the past few days, Qin Lie and Song Tingyu often slipped into the cultivation room back on the ship and indulged themselves in worldly pleasures day and night. It greatly affected how Xie Jingxuan and Xue Moyan thought of their peace and quiet.

She no longer wished to stay in the same accommodations as Qin Lie and subject herself to the sounds that he and Song Tingyu made. This was why she stopped him.

Qin Lie glanced at the six-story building that was Xiang Xi's residence, then turned back to her and blinked.

"But... you're my wife," he said. He was worried that Xiang Xi and Bo Boze could be secretly watching them.

"We'll be heading over first," Luo Chen said, taking the initiative

to start walking to the three-story wooden building.

Gao Yu turned around and followed him.

“Hehe.” Du Xiangyang smiled strangely, then ignored Xue Moyan and moved toward the wooden building next door as well.

The three of them had recently been forced to live in the bottom level of the Wavebreaker and endure its foul conditions. Now that they had their own dwelling, they naturally wished to thoroughly clean up and enjoy a good rest.

“I’ll head in first.” Song Tingyu chuckled as she entered their wooden building. She inspected its interior, making her way to the third floor, then called out to Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan.

“The conditions here are much better than on the ship,” she said. “Every floor has its own set of rooms, each consisting of a living room, a washroom, a bedroom, and a cultivation room. We can have one floor for each of us.”

Only then did Xue Moyan stop opposing the living arrangements. She threw a disapproving glance at Qin Lie then entered the building.

Soon enough, she and Xie Jingxuan came to an agreement and each claimed a floor.

After Qin Lie walked in, both of them pointed up to the third

floor of the building and pushed him, as if sending him to Song Tingyu's side.

Qin Lie rubbed his nose. He tactfully decided to stay silent and went straight to the third floor.

Just as Song Tingyu had said, the layouts of all three floors were exactly the same. They had two separate bedrooms, a washroom, an insulated cultivation room, and a small living room. Every room has already been fully furnished.

The environment and amount of space they had here was on a completely different level compared to the set of rooms in the ship.

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu immediately stepped into the cultivation room. After inspecting their surroundings carefully and forming an additional barrier around them, they finally began to talk to each other.

"The Xing brothers and these enforcers aren't on good terms," Song Tingyu concluded.

"I noticed that as well. The Xing Family probably thinks that I'm a proper member of Blood Fiend Sect. They probably figured that Blood Fiend Sect dispatched me here and that it'd be inconvenient for them to attack me directly. They probably planned to let their enemies do their dirty work," Qin Lie said. He wasn't stupid, and after investigating and observing on his own, he gradually realized the truth. "Xiang Xi and Bo Boze are their instruments of murder!"

“It’s a pity that the god corpses are still under the sea,” Song Tingyu said worriedly.

“No, there’s nothing to worry about.” Qin Lie smiled.

“If we were on the same Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix as the Xing brothers, I’d definitely be so worried that I’d stay vigilant even while cultivating,” he explained to Song Tingyu, meeting her puzzled gaze. “This arrangement, however, is actually a relief…”

“You’re saying that…” Song Tingyu’s voice trailed off as realization struck her.

“Xiang Xi and Bo Boze are not the Xing brothers. They’re only in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. They want to kill us immediately? They don’t have the strength to!” Qin Lie snorted. “I just need to take out the Blood Progenitor’s body and dive into it with my True Soul. Once I do that, I won’t have to fear them!”

Qin Lie might not be a match for the Xing brothers after possessing the Blood Progenitor’s body with his True Soul, but he was confident in his chances against these two enforcers.

“Are you truly confident?” Song Tingyu’s beautiful eyes sparkled.

“Absolutely.” Qin Lie laughed loudly.

“Then all is well.” Song Tingyu bit her plump lips softly, a

seductive look surfacing on her face. “Why don’t we…”

A passionate look immediately appeared in Qin Lie’s eyes.

……

Over in his residence, Xiang Xi snorted coldly within a hidden room.

“The Xing brothers have taken action against us!” he exclaimed treacherously. “They sent some spies over here to watch our every move!”

“Xing Yuyuan noticed our movements a long time ago.” Bo Boze nodded. “The only thing that surprised me is that it took him this long to act.”

“How goes our communications?” Xiang Xi asked.

“The elites of Heavenly Sea Pavilion and Black Cloud Palace have arrived at the Setting Sun Islands and hidden themselves around them,” Bo Boze reported, his eyes ice-cold. “All of the island envoys in charge of them are our men. No Xing Family clansman shall return to Gold Sun Island!”

“With the presence of Heavenly Sea Pavilion and Black Cloud Palace, as well as us working from the inside, taking over Gold Sun Island in one fell swoop shall be all too easy!” Xiang Xi declared, growing excited.

“We’re simply taking back what’s ours!” Bo Boze yelled.

“That’s right!” Xiang Xi nodded deeply. “We are the ones who formed Gold Sun Island in the first place. I’m supposed to be the island master, and you’re supposed to be the second island master!”

“I don’t care about being second island master, I just want to slaughter the Xing Family to the last man!” Bo Boze gritted his teeth. “I want that bitch Xing Yao to suffer before she dies!”

Bo Boze’s only son, Bo Hailiang, had been obsessed with Xing Yao. Three years ago, when his son hindered her, Xing Yao struck his groin.

From that point onward, Bo Hailiang could no longer engage in sexual intercourse.

He was Bo Boze’s only son. His inability to have sex basically meant that the Bo Family line had been completely cut off.

Although the Xing brothers had severely admonished Xing Yao and locked her up for half a year after that, Bo Boze had never been satisfied with that result.

However, he knew that he wasn’t a match for the Xing brothers. All he could do was hide his grudge against them deep within his heart. He had been looking for a way to take revenge this entire

time.

Xiang Xi had always wanted to take his position as island master back, so although he appeared to submit, he had long since been plotting to rebel.

Xiang Xi and Bo Boze became steadfast partners the moment they got to know each other. For a very long time, both secretly plotted to overthrow the Xing Family. During the recent massive deep sea search, they finally managed to contact Heavenly Sea Pavilion and Black Cloud Palace. They were ready to show the Xing brothers their own killing tools.

As long as the Xing Family clansmen were slaughtered at the Setting Sun Islands, after Xiang Xi returned to Gold Sun Island with his level of influence, nothing would stop him from ascending to his rightful place as island master.

“Five days. There are only five days left!” Xiang Xi smiled wickedly. “In just five days, the Setting Sun Islands will be the Xing Family’s watery grave!”

……

A round of pleasure later, her cheeks rosy and her breasts partially visible, Song Tingyu spoke up.

“Give me the cultivation room for a few days,” she said. “You can cultivate in the other rooms.”

“What’s wrong?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

“I’ll be ascending to a new realm any time now,” she replied, joy appearing in her beautiful eyes.

“Congratulations!” Qin Lie exclaimed with a nod, relaxing. “You cultivate in peace. I’ll be inside. There’s nothing to worry about.”

“Mn.” Song Tingyu smiled sweetly.

On that same day, Qin Lie stopped refining the nine drops of essences from the metal, earth, and water spirits.

The Blood Refinement Art was one of Blood Fiend Sect’s spirit arts. Refining blood would cause the clear stench of iron to emanate from his body.

The cultivation room blocked sound and most other energies from getting in or out. Inside there, he didn’t have to worry about being exposed.

Using the Blood Refinement Art outside of the cultivation room could draw the attention of Xiang Xi and Bo Boze, who were nearby.

It could expose his identity.

As a result, Qin Lie cultivated Heavenly Thunder Eradication instead.

The next day, enforcers Xu Changsheng and Xu Jiadong brought their island envoys to the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix, arriving at the scheduled time. They entered Xiang Xi's six-story pagoda-shaped wooden building to discuss an important matter.

Qin Lie quietly cultivated Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

In order to achieve the most results, he even took out the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood and set them up on the rooftop of their three-story building.

Each slab of Thunderblitz wood was around a dozen meters tall, even taller than the three-story building they sat stop.

Once he erected the slabs of wood in an octogonal formation on the rooftop of their wooden building, it made for an extremely suspicious sight.

Qin Lie focused on his cultivation.

Electricity coursed through his body the moment he channeled his spirit art. A potent power of thunder and lightning emanated from the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood as they seemed to spring to life.

The dull rumbling of thunder immediately began to resound

throughout the sky, gradually growing louder and more violent.

Chapter 579: Provocateur!

It had been a long time since Qin Lie entirely focused on cultivating Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

The moment he channeled that spirit art and roused the thunder and lightning inside of his body, he saw violent reactions occur within the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

Streaks of lightning began to arc through the slabs, spreading from the bottom up like exponentially growing vines. A dazzling yet serene blue glow radiated from the slabs of wood as they discharged intense waves of thunder and lightning energy.

“Boom boom boom!”

Thunder rumbled from every pore of his body, echoing off of the slabs of Thunderblitz wood and surging deep into the sky.

All of this happened atop the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix, above the clouds at an extremely high altitude.

The thunder grew louder, intensifying to become much clearer and more frenzied. It made the tips of the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood send electricity arcing into the sky.

“Krak krak ka-krak!”

Thunderous explosions rang out from the depths of the skies, making the True Souls of many people on the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix tremble.

Within the hidden room of Xiang Xi's residence, Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, and the other treacherous martial practitioners temporarily halted their discussion.

"The weather's about to change," Bo Boze muttered.

None of them actually went out to investigate what was happening, so they didn't know that it was Qin Lie that had caused the thunder in the skies.

Whenever they had secret meetings, they would strictly forbid their subordinates from disturbing them or coming in to deliver news.

Adding to the fact that the hidden room they were in could block many sounds and all kinds of energy fluctuations, they weren't aware that Qin Lie had erected the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood. They were practically pillars that stretched into the sky.

The extremely violent booming thunder made them feel as if something were strange.

However, the occasional change in weather didn't worry them. Whether it be flashing lightning, rolling thunder, wild winds, or torrential rain, all of these things were quite common under the

endless sea of clouds, so they didn't think much of it.

They interpreted the thunder as a typical change in weather.

Xiang Xi and the rest of the people in the hidden room continued their important discussion amidst the booming thunder.

This Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix had long since separated from the Xing brothers and was now quietly floating within the clouds.

The other Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix carrying two other enforcers hovered nearby.

The fire phoenix of the Xing brothers was at least a few kilometers away.

Without warning, a world-shaking boom reverberated from the depths of the sky. Thick swathes of lightning descended like an electrical waterfall, targeting the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix in the clouds.

Qin Lie's eyes flung open. He raised his head and saw the streaks of lightning striking downward from the gloomy sky above, inwardly shocked.

Him cultivating Heavenly Thunder Eradication with the help of the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood had triggered a much bigger reaction than ever before.

Amidst the roaring thunder and berserk bombardment of lightning, he felt an extremely wonderful feeling sprout within his True Soul...

“Clap clap clap!”

Streak after streak of lightning shot through the sky like dragons and snakes, all charging toward Qin Lie’s wooden building. Lightning struck the area in the middle of the slabs of Thunderblitz wood, immediately dispersing into them.

“Boom!”

Violent heavenly thunder descended upon everything in sight.

A three story building exploded into pieces amidst the violent electrical assault.

The few martial practitioners loyal to Xiang Xi were in that building, a blast of heavenly lightning burning them to a crisp.

The survivors rushed out of the wreckage, vomiting blood and yelling, “We’re under attack! Enemies! Enemies are attacking!”

Their cries of alarm left many people stunned. One martial practitioner after another came running from every direction, strange looks coming over the ones that noticed what was

happening over at Qin Lie's building.

Du Xiangyang, Gao Yu, and Luo Chen had left their wooden building long ago and were now looking toward Qin Lie in shock.

As soon as they saw Qin Lie sitting on the roof with the eight upright slabs of Thunderblitz wood around him, sparking with thunder and lightning energy, they understood what had happened.

The three of them had gone through all sorts of trials with Qin Lie. They were well aware of his amazing control over thunder and lightning.

Qin Lie had clearly set off all of the heavenly lightning and explosive thunder descending from the skies above.

"What is he doing?" Du Xiangyan asked in astonishment.

"It can't be..." Luo Chen responded, his brow furrowed. "Does he suddenly not want to continue living? Is he trying to go out with a bang?"

In their opinion, if Qin Lie were to suddenly turn on the Xing Family, he ought to be doing so back on the ship.

The eight god corpses were hidden deep within the sea. As long as he summoned them, Qin Lie would be able to slaughter Gold Sun Island like he did with the Pan Family.

Qin Lie was currently aboard a fire phoenix floating through the air. He was nowhere near the sea, so his current course of action didn't make any sense.

After observing the situation for a while, Gao Yu came to a different conclusion.

"All of this is a result of Qin Lie cultivating," he said indifferently. "He, himself, probably didn't know he would cause such a spectacle."

His guess was correct.

At this moment, thunder and lightning filled the sky, becoming more and more terrifying with each passing moment.

Qin Lie had just wanted to cultivate, and this shocking scene stunned him to his very core.

After breaking through to the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm, he seriously hadn't expected to cause such a scene by simply using the Thunderblitz wood to temper his True Soul with thunder and lightning.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan had stopped cultivating as soon as the chaos began. All three of them stood right next to windows in their three-story wooden building.

Concentrated bolts of lightning occasionally flashed before their eyes and struck right outside the building with violent booms, startling them.

They had no idea what in Spirit Realm Qin Lie was doing.

Finally realizing that things were only getting worse, Qin Lie prepared to store the slabs of Thunderblitz wood to stop the thunder and lightning from gathering.

So he put one of the slabs back into his spatial ring.

However, this only disrupted the balance of the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

The thunder and lightning that had been gathering within the clouds for so long immediately went out of control, striking down at him!

In that instant, all of the thunder and lightning filling the sky hurtled downward!

Chaotic lightning and berserk thunder fell through the sky like a meteor shower.

“Boom boom boom! Boom boom boom!”

Another small wooden building on the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix

was promptly destroyed. Each and every martial practitioner in there, all of which were loyal to Xiang Xi, screamed bloody murder as they became engulfed in thunder and lightning.

It was then that everyone realized that Qin Lie was the one behind the thunder and lightning in the sky.

“Kill him!”

“Stop him!”

All of the Gold Sun island martial practitioners present cried out. Seeing the lightning reduce that wooden building to a smoldering wreck and strike their allies, they instantly erupted in outrage and advanced toward Qin Lie.

Once the thunder and lightning went out of control, everyone within Xiang Xi’s hidden room had a strange feeling.

“Something’s amiss. That doesn’t seem to be normal thunder and lightning,” Xiang Xi said. “Let’s go outside and have a look.”

The tightly shut doors of the hidden room finally opened. The traitorous enforcers and ten or so island envoys emerged from it one by one.

As soon as they raised their heads, the expressions on all of their faces changed.

Dozens of lightning bolts resembling flying dragons and an unfathomable amount of fragmented electrical currents filled the sky. Accompanied by berserk waves of thunder, they struck the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix like a relentless waterfall of electricity.

“What is going on here?!” Xiang Xi shouted furiously.

“Chief enforcer, the brat that the second island master brought is causing all this trouble!” someone reported in a loud voice.

“It’s that Xing Lie bastard! It’s him!” another one added.

Xiang Xi turned his gaze to the wooden building that Qin Lie stood on top of and discovered that many of his subordinates had already surrounded it.

The rest of Qin Lie’s group, including Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, and Gao Yu who joined them in the midst of all the chaos, were inside of that wooden building.

The seven slabs of Thunderblitz wood stood upright atop that wooden building, thunder and lightning energy coursing through them. Bolts of electricity pierced into the sky, triggering some kind of unknown reaction and causing thunder and lightning to gather.

“Who told you to do this, you brat!?” Xiang Xi exclaimed, a grave expression on his face. He unleashed his Fragmentation Realm strength.

“Please calm down, chief enforcer!” Bo Boze shouted.

He quickly followed furious Xiang Xi into the air and grabbed him firmly.

“It’s just a misunderstanding!” he said over and over. “A misunderstanding! It’s a misunderstanding!”

He then transmitted his voice to Xiang Xi as a thread of sound.

“Calm down!” he said. “You need to calm down! This must be a scheme of the Xing brothers. They’re trying to get us to reveal our true intentions! If we can’t keep ourselves from attacking him, they’ll have an excuse to take care of us! This brat is a member of the Xing Family. If we can’t tolerate this and end up killing him, we’d just fall into their trap! We haven’t reached the Setting Sun Islands yet and don’t have reinforcements. They’d exterminate us before we even get there! Chief enforcer, you need to remain calm!”

“This is all a misunderstanding!” Qin Lie shouted as well. “It really is!”

As he did, the thunder and lightning that filled the sky continued to hurtle downward and strike the immediate area around the wooden building he stood on top of.

They struck the subordinates of Xiang Xi with deadly accuracy.

Lightning once again struck many of the men that had gathered. All of them yelled in fury, wanting to kill Qin Lie immediately.

“Th-this brat’s trying to provoke me!” Xiang Xi gritted his teeth.

“The more he tries to provoke us, the more confident he is of his backing!” Bo Boze hastily reminded him. “I’m sure that the Xing brothers are nearby! They must be waiting for us to slip up and take action. The moment we do, they’ll immediately attack! What a ruthless, sadistic scheme. They’re practically forcing us to die!”

In the eyes of a schemer, everyone else was a schemer too. Bo Boze considered this accident to be a well-thought-out plan, a ruthless move that the Xing brothers made against them.

“You need to tolerate this!” Bo Boze exclaimed. “You have to remain calm no matter what!”

All Xiang Xi could do was continue tolerating this.

Chapter 580: The Right Move!

Qin Lie hadn't expected to be able to cause such a huge disturbance of lightning and thunder by erecting the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood and just using his True Soul.

After closely examining the seven Thunderblitz wood that were still standing on the rooftop, he discovered dazzling streaks of silver appeared in the grain of their wood after they were struck by thunder and lightning.

Those streaks resembled criss-crossing bolts of lightning!

The grain of this wood... was the purest, most naturally formed spirit diagram!

Qin Lie trembled at this realization.

Qin Lie had set up the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood according to the setup of the eight stone pillars in the belly of Herb Mountain. He wanted to try using the method that his grandfather had left him to attract thunder and lightning, weaken the intensity of the energy, and temper his True Soul.

Yet he never expected that, as he channeled Heavenly Thunder Eradication, the thunder and lightning energy attracted to the Thunderblitz wood slabs would cause such a strange phenomenon.

Blinding streaks of lightning shot through the sky like a flooding

river and descended upon the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix like a waterfall.

The thunderous rumbling that accompanied it was shocking!

The back of the fire phoenix, which spanned hundreds of square meters, held numerous pagoda-shaped wooden building in which hundreds of Gold Sun Island martial practitioners resided. This included those that intended to rebel against the Xing Family.

Xiang Xi and three other enforcers, as well as more than a dozen island envoys, resided in these buildings as well.

However, at this very moment, thunder and lightning struck from the heavens like a calamity.

Amidst ear-splitting thunder, brilliant lightning reduced those wooden buildings to dust.

Scorched martial practitioners emerged from the wreckage of each building, wailing and spitting blood as they cursed Qin Lie.

“Chief enforcer! Second enforcer!” the lover of an island envoy shouted furiously, eyes flashing with the light of the lightning strikes. “H-he’s really gone too far! Way too far!”

“This person is too arrogant!” someone yelled angrily.

“Kill him! Kill him!” people hollered.

Xiang Xi wore a vicious expression as he tried to control his breathing and calm down.

“Remember!” Bo Boze reminded him. “At the moment... you have to tolerate this!”

“All of you leave this fire phoenix for now! Go to the one that carries Enforcer Xu Changsheng,” Xiang Xi shouted, looking around and sweeping the surroundings with his soul consciousness. “Once the thunder and lightning have subsided, we’ll interrogate him!”

Many people stared at him in confusion. They had no idea when the chief enforcer’s temper had become so good.

Someone was outright bullying him at the moment. Considering his usual demeanor, he would’ve started killing them long ago.

Why was he enduring it now?

“Let us leave this place!” Bo Boze ordered grimly.

He swept his gaze across all of the subordinates that had been shouting furiously, the ones that seemed as if they would lose control at any moment and attack Qin Lie.

Under his threatening gaze, all of them gradually calmed down. Listening to the shouts of the four enforcers, the angry martial practitioners that had gathered slowly retreated. They then rode four small crystalline chariots toward the other Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

This left just Qin Lie and his six companions.

Watching the last crystalline chariot depart for the other fire phoenix, Du Xiangyang sat down, sweat pouring from him.

“That frightened me half to death!” he exclaimed nervously.

Luo Chen had gripped the handle of his sword the entire time, his bulging tendons indicating that he had been extremely nervous as well.

Gao Yu gradually relaxed.

He had tensed up, prepared to summon the body of the Evil God to face the attacks of the four enforcers.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan leaned against the walls of the wooden building, releasing long sighs.

All six of them had been terrified...

Xiang Xi and Bo Boze were in the early stage of the

Fragmentation Realm. The other two enforcers were at the peak of the Fulfillment Realm. Including the hundreds of Fulfillment, Netherpassage, and Manifestation Realm martial practitioners, if this furious force had lost control and attacked them, they probably wouldn't have been able to put up a fight.

As all six of them thought about this, they felt bitter and looked at Qin Lie accusingly.

Qin Lie still stood atop the wooden pagoda-shaped building. He turned his attention to the six people in the building below him, a strange expression on his face, and asked, "Why did they tolerate this?"

The moment he said this, the others went still. They suddenly wore thoughtful expressions.

—Why had Xiang Xi and the other Gold Sun Island martial practitioners tolerated this?

As his six companions pondered that question, Qin Lie thought to himself, then took out the slab of Thunderblitz wood he had put away and stood it atop the building.

The eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood regained their balance, and the attractive phenomenon began anew.

At this point in time, all of the Gold Sun Island martial practitioners had left. Only Qin Lie's group remained on this fire

phoenix. No one was there to interfere with their business.

Qin Lie looked at the sun, his gaze appearing somewhat strange as he sat in the center of the slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

As he channeled Heavenly Thunder Eradication, he released his soul consciousness and attracted the thunder and lightning energy to his True Soul to begin refining it.

The moment he released his soul consciousness, a wondrous change occurred!

“Zzt zzt zzt! Zzt z-zzt zt...

His invisible, intangible soul consciousness immediately came into contact with the potent streams of electricity coursing through the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood—

—It suddenly became tangible.

Every thread of his soul consciousness quickly merged with the thunder and lightning energy to become actual threads of thunder and lightning.

The lightning that his soul consciousness had become happily swam between the slabs of Thunderblitz wood like numerous dazzling fish.

These fish multiplied, growing from just a few to hundreds and then thousands. They took up the space between the slabs of Thunderblitz wood and formed a net of lightning.

Strangely enough, the lightning that had been striking in every direction suddenly became a tame beast, striking only the air right above the center of the formation of Thunderblitz wood slabs.

“Clap clap! Boom boom boom…”

Astonishing streams of electricity flooded from the sky, dazzling like collapsing stars and forming thick bolts of lightning.

These bolts of lightning gathered at the center of the space between the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

This barrage of lightning, which should have been extraordinarily destructive, became a thousand times weaker upon striking the net of lightning wrapped around the Thunderblitz wood. Each bolt of lightning became gentle, its furious electricity becoming a smooth flow that slowly spread throughout the net.

Qin Lie sat directly below this with his eyes closed, feeling the lightning with his mind consciousness.

He discovered that threads of electricity radiating pure auras of thunder and lightning energy were slowly entering his mind and filling it.

Those gentle threads of lightning slowly flooded his Soul Lake in a wondrous matter he couldn't even begin to understand.

Like a river flowing into the ocean, these threads of electricity filled his Soul Lake with the power of thunder and lightning. Every single thread contained the purest, most refined energy of thunder and lightning.

This was the third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication—Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement!

Not only did this stage refine one's True Soul, it also refined the Soul Lake that contained it!

Qin Lie had a completely new understanding of Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, the third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication!

Forgetting the dangers that existed in the outside world and swallowing his worries, Qin Lie stayed on the fire phoenix floating through the clouds and focused on refining his True Soul and Soul Lake.

The rest of the group looked up at him atop the building.

Lightning flashed and danced between the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood like happy fish in a pond.

In the depths of the clouds, brilliant lightning formed blazing

pillars of energy that struck down and connected with the space at the center of the Thunderblitz wood formation.

Qin Lie sat amidst the lightning's blinding light, his body a vague blur as countless bolts of lightning seemed to be striking and enveloping him.

"I think he really is just cultivating." Du Xiangyang grimaced.

"Xiang Xi and those other people have really good tempers," Luo Chen said, a strange expression on his face.

"According to my knowledge, Gold Sun Island's chief enforcer is usually savage and impulsive," Xue Moyan said, a serene look in her eyes. "I've never heard about him having a good temper."

Song Tingyu smiled faintly and said, "It seems as though... Gold Sun Island may be more complex than we imagined."

Xie Jingxuan had a weird feeling. "A great upheaval will probably occur in the not-so-distant future."

"What to do now?" Gao Yu asked, frowning.

"We wait for Qin Lie to finish cultivating," Song Tingyu replied. "And for chaos to take hold of Gold Sun Island."

.....

Hundreds of kilometers away, Xing Yuyuan stood atop the Flowing Cloud Fire Phoenix that carried him and his brother atop sea of clouds. He listened intently to a flashing crystal ball with an astonished expression.

A short while later, Xing Yuyuan's expression became one of disbelief, and he soon began to snicker strangely.

His figure flashed, and he appeared next to Xing Yumiao inside of one of the buildings atop the fire phoenix.

"Big brother!" he said. "I've received an interesting piece of news."

Xing Yumiao cautiously led him to a room and said, "Get in here and tell me."

Soon enough, both brothers entered a secret room.

"My spy over on Xiang Xi's Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix gave me an interesting bit of info," Xing Yuyuan said. "Apparently, when that fake was cultivating, he caused a huge commotion and summoned thunder and lightning down from the heavens. He destroyed many of the buildings on Xiang Xi's fire phoenix, killed at least thirty Manifestation Realm martial practitioners, and heavily wounded more than a dozen Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners."

“He can do such a thing just by cultivating?” Xing Yumiao asked, clearly surprised. “Did he use any spirits artifacts?”

“Yes! He had the help of eight strange wooden pillars,” Xing Yuyuan said with a chuckle. “But that’s not the point! The important thing is, Xiang Xi tolerated it!”

“He tolerated it?” Shock finally showed on Xing Yumiao’s face. After a moment of thought, he asked, “When did Big Brother Xiang’s temper become so good?”

“His temper has never been good. I also find it illogical that he suddenly managed to tolerate something like that.” A cold smirk appeared on Xing Yuyuan’s face as he said, “Big brother, according to the information I’ve received, the reason he and the others tolerated this... was because they thought we were in the area! They thought we deliberately arranged for that brat to provoke them!”

“You arranging for the boy to go over there actually was provocation!” Xing Yumiao snorted icily.

“Hahaha!” Xing Yuyuan laughed happily. “Yes, arranging for him to stay there was supposed to be a provocation, but this brat has really exceeded my expectations! Hah... if he weren’t a member of Blood Fiend Sect, I would probably like him!”

“Big Brother Xiang’s actions are a bit strange,” Xing Yumiao said, worry showing in his eyes.

“If he didn’t have other intentions, would he tolerate this?” Xing Yuyuan asked, his expression grim. “Both of us understand how he is, how he conducts himself! In the past, even when facing Yao’er, he never had such a good temper!”

“I hope that Big Brother Xiang will remember his past with us and not do anything to disappoint me.” Xing Yumiao said with a sigh.

Now that the situation had progressed this far, he could also tell that something wasn’t right. He knew that Xiang Xi had a goal. Otherwise, things wouldn’t have gone this way.

“Ha! It seems like arranging for that brat to go over there was the right move after all!” Xing Yuyuan thought.

Chapter 581: Direct Disciple of Forefather Terminator

Qin Lie's cultivation continued for a day and a half.

Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, and the other Gold Sun Island martial practitioners initially watched him cultivate from the other fire phoenix in the distance. A short while later, they grew impatient, gave up, and left.

They left Qin Lie's group alone on that fire phoenix.

In the darkness of night, a lightning bolt struck through the sky. They criss-crossed, heading straight for the center of the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

This was a peerlessly bright spectacle.

The thunder and lightning attracted the attention of numerous martial practitioners of scattered factions that were passing through nearby waters.

However, they quickly received messages detailing the situation. After watching from a distance for a while, they would silently leave.

These waters had always belonged to Gold Sun Island. Every martial practitioner received a message from the Xing brothers. It

said that a martial practitioner of Gold Sun Island was attempting to make a breakthrough and warned other people to stay away.

Thus, many inwardly shocked martial practitioners stayed away from that Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. They only watched from a distance before leaving.

In the cloudy night sky, Xing Yuyuan pointed to an area where lightning crackled and thunder boomed.

“Over there,” he said to Xing Yumiao. “It’s been going on for a day and a half.”

The two brothers weren’t riding their Flowing Gold Fiery Phoenix. They first approached this fire phoenix using a crystalline chariot, then snuck in using the flight granted by their Fragmentation Realm cultivation bases.

Xing Yumiao looked at the blinding pillar of lightning and felt the reverberating thunder. A puzzled expression appeared on his face as he exclaimed, “What potent thunder and lightning energy!”

“I also find it quite strange,” Xing Yuyuan said in a low voice, his brow furrowed. “According to Enforcer Gu, that boy cultivates the orthodox Blood Spirit Art. However, considering the energy coming off of him and the way he used those spirit artifacts to summon thunder and lightning, he’s clearly more skilled in a thunder spirit art.”

“He’s so young... with such a realm and skill with lightning and thunder...” Xing Yumiao thought to himself for a moment, then firmly declared, “This person must also be a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator!”

“What do you mean?” Xing Yuyuan asked, a confused expression surfacing on his face.

“Only a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator could cause such a change in lightning and thunder. Those eight spirit artifacts around him are most likely made from Thunderblitz wood, an extremely valuable, immensely rare kind of thunder-type spirit material! Only Terminator Sect would have such large amounts of Thunderblitz wood!” Xing Yumiao shouted. He took a deep breath, his expression becoming solemn. “This boy is probably a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator. His status in Terminator Sect may be even higher than Chu Li’s!”

“Ah!” Xing Yuyuan exclaimed in astonishment. “But... he clearly cultivates the Blood Spirit as well!”

“I believe that he’s the child of one of Blood Fiend Sect’s core elders. Since Blood Fiend Sect is in a precarious situation, they must’ve sent the boy to Terminator Sect to cultivate. He appears to be extremely talented, and as a result, he probably garnered Forefather Terminator’s favor. Forefather Terminator must have taught him an extremely powerful thunder spirit art!” Xing Yumiao said, confidently clarifying his thoughts. “In all of the Land of Chaos, only Forefather Terminator could have taught such a disciple! Even Chu Li probably hasn’t received his true guidance!”

“B-but… isn’t that unlikely?” Xing Yuyuan grimaced. “If Forefather Terminator indeed took him on as a disciple, wouldn’t he have seen that the boy already cultivated the Blood Spirit Art?”

“So what?” Xing Yumiao asked in return. “Do you really think Forefather Terminator would care about that? That he’d be afraid of the boy’s identity as a survivor of Blood Fiend Sect? Of other people’s gazes? To recruit a disciple with such excellent talent… such an identity would be nothing to Forefather Terminator!”

Xing Yumiao snorted, then continued, “Even if Forefather Terminator publicly proclaimed that his disciple was a survivor of Blood Fiend Sect, what would happen? Would Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families dare to demand that he hand over the boy?”

Xing Yuyuan froze in thought, nodding inwardly and saying, “You’re right, Big Brother. With his temper, Forefather Terminator wouldn’t be afraid of any of that. Even if he knew that this boy cultivates the Blood Spirit Art and is a descendant of Blood Fiend Sect… once he saw the boy’s exceptional understanding of thunder and lightning and took a liking to him, he’d definitely take him as a direct disciple! Forefather Terminator is one of the Land of Chaos’ top experts. He wouldn’t fear Black Voodoo Sect and the three great families.”

“This has become even more difficult.” Xing Yumiao sighed. He could feel a headache coming on as he watched the dazzling pillar of lightning.

Xing Yuyuan furrowed his brow deeply, his face twisting into a grimace. He shook his head and sighed as well.

“This boy… we can’t lay a hand on him,” he said.

“Your plan to use him will have to be adjusted,” Xing Yumiao said, his headache growing stronger. “Forefather Terminator is nothing like the current Blood Fiend Sect. If Xiang Xi kills him… all of us, all of Gold Sun Island would most likely be buried as well.”

He sighed again. “For them to send this boy… Blood Fiend Sect is despicable. We can’t do a thing.”

A thousand years ago, Blood Fiend Sect inspired both respect and fear in every other force. They terrified the Xing Brothers. The current Blood Fiend Sect, however, was nowhere near that powerful.

Forefather Terminator was different.

Terminator Sect had dominated the Heavenly Silence Continent. For a thousand years, Forefather Terminator reigned as one of the most terrifying existences in the Land of Chaos.

Even Illusory Demon Sect, the force that Gold Sun Island served, would have to think long and hard about fighting Terminator Sect.

The Xing brothers found themselves in quite a predicament.

At the same time, the other Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix that had left earlier that day slowly returned.

From a distance, Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, Xu Changsheng, Xu Jiadong, and dozens of island envoys watched the dazzling river of lightning pierce through the night. They stared at the silhouette sitting in the center of the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood.

After more than a day, the four enforcers returned with their men under the cover of night to find that the disturbance had become even more stunning than before. That the furious thunder and lightning from earlier... had been tamed.

“This...” Bo Boze inhaled sharply, shouting in terror, “Th-the thunder and lightning have been tamed! This skill... this is clearly a skill that only Forefather Terminator has!”

The moment he said this, the faces of the other three enforcers went pale.

“How did it come to this?” Xu Changsheng asked dejectedly. “How did it come to this!?”

Xiang Xi wore an extremely grave expression.

“I think... I think that boy is from Terminator Sect! He must be a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator!” Bo Boze shook his head, a grimace on his face. He reached the same conclusion that Xing

Yumiao had, bitterness filling his face.

Xiang Xi clenched his hands into fists. Cracking noises came from his bones, expressing the rage and displeasure he felt.

“Even if he truly is a member of the Xing Family… I think we need to reconsider our plan.” Xu Changsheng said, clearly feeling the urge to withdraw. “Who cares if we exterminate the Xing Family? Who can escape the furious retaliation of Forefather Terminator?”

As soon as they realized that Qin Lie could be connected to Forefather Terminator, the rebels that wanted to overthrow the Xing Family started to consider the possible consequences.

“If we exterminate the Xing Family, Gold Sun Island would still be a vassal force of Illusory Demon Sect. We wouldn’t have much of a problem there. If we do, we’ll just leave Illusory Demon Sect. Even joining Black Voodoo Cult would be fine. Illusory Demon Sect wouldn’t take action on behalf of the Xing Family because they don’t have close ties to them.” The fourth enforcer, Xu Jiadong, also grew worried. “Looking at the boy’s control over lightning and thunder, he has clearly received the secret skill of Forefather Terminator and is his closest, most favored disciple. If we kill him and enrage Forefather Terminator… don’t even think about it!”

“You’re usually clever, Brother Bo,” Xiang Xi said, an ugly expression on his face. “Do you have any ideas?”

Bo Boze’s eyes moved back and forth in thought.

“First, we need to learn the true connection between the boy and the Xing Family,” he said. “It would then be best to figure out if he is in contact with Terminator Sect. If they don’t know he’s here, they won’t know that he died here.”

“Multiple random martial practitioners saw him cultivating as they passed by.” Xiang Xi furrowed his brow. “These people have long since disappeared.”

“So if he dies, Terminator Sect will be able to trace it back to us.” Bo Boze sighed.

“He isn’t a member of the Xing Family!” Xiang Xi exclaimed.

Bo Boze went still. “What?”

“A thousand years ago, the three great families killed almost every member of the Xing Family,” Xiang Xi said in a low voice. “Xing Shan, the seventh master of the Xing Family, died right then and there!”

His three fellow enforcers looked at him in shock and disbelief.

“Chief enforcer… are you sure?” Bo Boze asked, inwardly alarmed. He finally realized that Xiang Xi was still hiding things from him. “Where did you learn that?”

“I… have secretly been in contact with the three great families.” Xiang Xi had no choice but to tell them the truth. “The people reinforcing our attack on the Xing brothers… include members of the three great families.”

Bo Boze and the others looked at him strangely.

None of them thought that Xiang Xi could be so ruthless. He knew that, of all the people in the Heavenly Calamity Continent, the Xing brothers hated the three great families the most. Yet he still communicated with them in secret.

What kind of great grudge was this?

Some of them even started to feel disdain for Xiang Xi.

“The three great families promised that, once this matter has been concluded, Gold Sun Island will receive great rewards!” Xiang Xi gritted his teeth. “I guarantee that everyone will get a share!”

Xiang Xi originally wanted to take all of the spirit materials and spirit stones that the three great families had promised. Now he had no other alternative but to say he’d share them with the others.

When Xiang Xi said this, the eyes of everyone who had begun feeling disdain for him suddenly lit up. They smiled, nodded, and voiced their respect.

“As expected... chief enforcer is very wise. This subordinate admires you!”

“We should be calling him island master!”

“Yes, haha! Island master! Island master!”

“Since the boy isn’t a member of the Xing Family, that makes everything much easier.” Bo Boze smiled softly. “If he’s impersonating a member of the Xing Family, he definitely has a goal in being here. We’ll find out what he wants and give it to him. Since we can’t find him, we’ll pull him over to our side. That shouldn’t be much of a problem.”

“Pull him to our side?” An idea gradually formed in Xiang Xi’s mind.

“Since he’s an imposter, he definitely hasn’t come to Gold Sun Island to oppose us. In fact... he may even be an enemy of the Xing Family.” Bo Boze’s mind moved quickly as he snickered and said, “If that’s the case, our chances of success are now much higher. Maybe... just maybe... we’ll be able to form a relationship with Forefather Terminator through him.

After he completed his analysis, everyone grew excited. His words made sense to them.

“I will completely defer to Brother Bo in this matter. I believe you will make us proud!” Xiang Xi patted Bo Boze on the shoulder and

solemnly said, “Let’s find out what the boy likes. As long as we know that… we’ll use it to pull him to our side!”

“We don’t need to find out what he likes.” Bo Boze flashed a suspicious smile. “The boy is young, but he has three wives. Isn’t it apparent?”

“Beauty?” Xiang Xi exclaimed in realization.

“It’s painfully obvious, right?”

“I see…”

Chapter 582: Significant Change In Attitude

As Qin Lie stopped channeling Heavenly Thunder Eradication, the lightning coursing through the eight slabs of Thunderblitz wood gradually faded and the roiling noise in the clouds calmed.

When morning arrived, the first ray of sunlight streaming down through the sky, Qin Lie opened his eyes.

He put the slabs of Thunderblitz wood away, and the furious thunder and lightning that had rampaged for almost two days finally subsided.

Wreckages of wooden, pagoda-shaped buildings and dozens of charred corpses littered the back of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. It was an awful sight.

Song Tingyu and the rest of Qin Lie's companions had been hiding within their pagoda-shaped building. Only after the terrifying waves of thunder stopped did they finally emerge from their hiding spots.

At the same time, Qin Lie descended from the roof of the building and went down into its third floor.

The others quickly gathered around him, gazing at him accusingly.

Qin Lie spread his arms helplessly. "I didn't think I'd make such

a huge commotion."

As he spoke, electricity sparked from his flesh, giving him a strange appearance.

"The chaos you caused made Xiang Xi and the others furious." Du Xiangyang grimaced. "I actually started to worry about whether we'd live through that."

"You've caused a great deal of trouble this time," Song Tingyu said, pointing to the wreckages of the other wooden buildings. "By my count, the lightning that gathered while you were cultivating destroyed at least a third of the wooden buildings, killed thirty five people, and left more than a dozen heavily wounded. Even if Xiang Xi really does have a good temper, he couldn't possibly tolerate this."

"Your cultivation session left this Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix in shambles," Xue Moyan added.

"Unintentional." Qin Lie wore a relatively calm expression.

He used his mind consciousness to look at the world within him.

Weak strands of lightning filled his Soul Lake where his True Soul resided. The lightning was inextricably mixed with his soul energy, thoughts, and consciousness.

Stage three of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Thunder

Lightning Soul Refinement, made his Soul Lake and True Soul undergo a wondrous change.

He attempted to use his thunder and lightning energy to channel Heavenly Thunder Eradication...

...and a burning ball of lightning slowly formed between his hands like a tiny blinding sun.

Strong energy fluctuations radiated from this ball of lightning, furious and potent. Its electricity was stunning, the power of thunder and lightning within it peerlessly vast!

A thread of Qin Lie's soul consciousness suddenly entered it.

"Boom!"

The moment Qin Lie entered the world within that thunder and lightning, he strangely felt as if he were drowning in it.

At the same time, he discovered that he seemed to have merged with this ball of lightning.

This was an unimaginable experience!

As far as he could tell, he seemed to be deep inside of the lightning ball, possessing a new body made of thunder and lightning energy.

Electricity sparked from Qin Lie's eyes as he tried using his soul consciousness to control the ball of lightning and have it silently float beside him.

Song Tingyu and the others stared at him in shock.

Qin Lie then formed a second ball of lightning and gathered his soul consciousness within it.

The wondrous feeling of being in control of a third body rose within him.

Qin Lie's eyes were unusually bright. He ordered this ball of lightning to float beside him as well and then formed a third...

Fist-sized balls of lightning that resembled tiny suns took shape one after another.

Five minutes later, nine balls of lightning floated around Qin Lie. Each one released intense sparks of lightning and radiated powerful reverberations of thunder.

A twister of thought suddenly flashed through Qin Lie's mind.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh...!"

Nine miniature electric suns revolved around Qin Lie, whirling

furiously as they released waves of thunder and lightning energy that grew stronger and stronger.

Within the living room of the wooden building's third floor, Song Tingyu and the others grew alarmed and just stared at him, following his every move.

Qin Lie stood in front of them motionlessly, his eyes half-closed. He had a faint smile on his face.

The nine balls of lightning he created, however, seemed to be alive. They spun constantly, flying around as if they were intelligent.

"Spirit Energy Animation?" Du Xiangyang exclaimed in a hoarse voice, licking his lips nervously. He wore a strange expression.

"That's impossible!" Luo Chen shouted grimly, shaking his head.

Legends told of the strongest individuals at the peak of the martial way, people capable of releasing spirit energy and using it to manifest new life when fighting enemies. That spirit energy possessed great intelligence and had countless shapes and forms.

When that spirit energy touched the air, the water, and everything else in the world, they would become completely new beings.

That was Spirit Energy Animation.

It was just a legend.

“This isn’t Spirit Power Animation.” Qin Lie smiled and explained, “I just put nine wisps of my soul consciousness into these balls of lightning. I’m splitting my concentration nine ways to control them.”

He paused for a moment, then continued, “This is a new experience though. I currently feel as if… I have ten bodies overall. Other than my actual body, I now have lightning bodies. It’s an extraordinary experience.”

Everyone was shocked.

“It seems that, after your distracting cultivation, you’ve made a new breakthrough in your comprehension of thunder and lightning energy,” Gao Yu said calmly.

“I’ve understood some things.” Qin Lie smiled. He absorbed the thunder and lighting energy from the lightning balls and dispersed them, then returned his wisps of soul consciousness to his Soul Lake.

“Xiang Xi won’t let this matter rest,” Xue Moyan suddenly said.

Her words made everyone’s face turn grim.

“I know a little bit about Xiang Xi,” Xue Moyan said, voicing her thoughts. “He’s arrogant, savage, extremely impulsive, and possesses a straightforward temper. You pretending to be a member of the Xing Family is probably what made him refrain from trying to kill you. He most likely left in a hurry to talk to the Xing brothers. Once he gets their permission… he will definitely return to accuse you of killing his subordinates on purpose. He’ll capture us alive and pursue this matter to the very end.”

Xue Moyan wasn’t aware of the fighting between Xiang Xi and the Xing brothers, so she naturally made predictions based on what she did know. She thought that Xiang Xi had tolerated Qin Lie out of respect for the Xing brothers.

“If I were him, I definitely wouldn’t be able to endure.” Du Xiangyang nodded in agreement with Xue Moyan’s speculation. “Xiang Xi is Gold Sun Island’s chief enforcer, but the Xing brothers are still the true power behind Gold Sun Island. Xing Yuyuan personally arranged for you, Xing Lie, to stay on Xiang Xi’s Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. Xiang Xi definitely wouldn’t dare to attack you on his own.”

“I don’t know what the Xing brothers will do.” Song Tingyu felt a headache coming on.

“They’ll obviously want to hand us over to Xiang Xi and his cronies,” Luo Chen said gravely.

All of them thought that Xiang Xi would no longer tolerate their actions once he returned and that he’d capture them alive.

“Maybe Xiang Xi left to find the Xing brothers and get justice,” Xue Moyan said. “When he turns, maybe the Xing brothers will be with him.”

Everyone felt that was probably the case and nodded in agreement.

“What are you going to do, Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang frowned.

“If Gold Sun Island sends forces to capture me just to have me answer for killing their men…” Qin Lie said softly.

“I’ll fight back.”

“Then let’s prepare to fight,” Xue Moyan declared with a grave expression.

All seven people present grew tense and were convinced that nothing good would occur when Xiang Xi and the others returned.

An hour later, the other Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix flew through the air, returning as expected. It carried the four Gold Sun Island enforcers, Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, Xu Changsheng, Xu Jiadong, and their island envoys.

“Get ready!” Qin Lie cried. He prepared to summon the Blood Progenitor’s body at any moment.

Gao Yu closed his eyes and used his soul to connect with the body of the Evil God, anticipating the moment the situation turned sour.

Qin Lie's group of seven nervously watched Xiang Xi and his men approach.

Soon enough, a small crystalline chariot slowly ferried them to the fire phoenix.

Just as Qin Lie and the others were about to attack, Xiang Xi suddenly roared with clear, friendly laughter.

"My apologies!" he shouted. "Since you caused such a commotion, my young friend, we had to temporarily leave the area. We also had to follow the island master's orders and search for the remains of ancient elites. Of course, we ultimately left to avoid disrupting your concentration as you cultivated. Hahaha, please don't take offense."

Instead of bringing up the deceased scattered across the fire phoenix, Xiang Xi simply laughed. He didn't seem intent on capturing Qin Lie and the others.

He appeared to be asking for forgiveness.

This made Qin Lie and the others pause. They had no idea what Xiang Xi was thinking or what his goal was.

The seven of them exchanged looks. They didn’t dare to let their guard down.

“Haha, you must have come from Terminator Sect, right?” Xiang Xi asked warmly, stepping onto the fire phoenix and walking over. “It’s our fault we didn’t realize it from the start. As a result, we’ve offended everyonething.”

He thought that all of them were disciples from Terminator Sect adventuring to gain experience.

Chapter 583: Mutual Understanding

Xiang Xi's enthusiasm somewhat surprised Qin Lie. He secretly suspected that the enforcer had an ulterior motive in feigning niceties.

Qin Lie didn't dare let his guard down. He was ready to become hostile and go on the offensive the moment things went awry.

"Rumor has it that the forefather has already stepped into the late stage of the Imperishable Realm and is preparing to ascend to the Void Realm," Xiang Xi said with a smile. "I wonder if that's true?"

"Which forefather are you talking about?" Qin Lie asked, a gleam in his eyes. He slowly began to understand what was going on.

"Hahah! I'm talking about your respected teacher, Forefather Terminator, of course!" Xiang Xi exclaimed confidently.

Qin Lie rubbed his chin, a smile forming on his face. "How did you know?"

"I'm not blind." Xiang Xi flashed a toothy grin. He somehow managed to force the two sinister scars on his face to look like kindly lines. "Who else in all of the Land of Chaos could've taught a genius like you except Forefather Terminator? Considering how impressive your skill in that thunder spirit art is, anyone could've figured it out. We don't need to waste time guessing at the obvious."

Upon hearing Xiang Xi's explanation, the tension inside of Qin Lie completely dissipated. He subconsciously smiled calmly at Luo Chen and Gao Yu, gesturing with his eyes to indicate that they could relax as well.

Forefather Terminator was famous throughout the Land of Chaos. Since he was one of the most terrifying existences throughout the land, Terminator Sect's might was publically acknowledged as well. Considering how big of a commotion that Qin Lie caused by cultivating Heavenly Thunder Eradication during these past two days was, it made sense for Xiang Xi and his men to misidentify who he was.

As soon as he figured out the reason behind the significant change in Xiang Xi's attitude, Qin Lie smiled softly and took a Terminator Profound Bomb out of his spatial ring, sending a spark electricity into it from his fingertip.

A shocking amount of violent thunder and lightning energy immediately radiated from the Terminator Profound Bomb like an aura.

Astonishment filled the faces of Xiang Xi and his men.

Qin Lie chuckled and put the Terminator Profound Bomb back into his spatial ring. Then he turned to Du Xiangyang and the others and said, "I guess our identities have been exposed."

"This is all your fault, you know," Du Xiangyang answered

carefully, taking the opportunity to glare at Qin Lie.

Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, and the other enforces exchanged glances. By that point, they were completely sure of who everyone in Qin Lie's group was.

All of them knew about the might of the Terminator Profound Bombs and how the core disciples of Terminator Sect would carry a few of them as a life-saving measures while adventuring.

What else would the metallic sphere that Qin Lie showed them, the one that radiated a terrifying, thunderous aura, be if not a Terminator Profound Bomb?

Upon connecting the appearance of that Terminator Profound Bomb to the huge commotion that Qin Lie caused while cultivating Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Xiang Xi became certain that Qin Lie's group belonged to Terminator Sect.

A moment of hesitation later, Xiang Xi delicately revealed the doubt in his heart.
"So... why have you come to Gold Sun Island?"

The group of Gold Sun Island martial practitioners became serious as they nervously watched Qin Lie's group.

All of these people were trying to rebel against the Xing Family and seize power and authority within Gold Sun Island for themselves. They were afraid that, upon learning this, Qin Lie

would use this information to help the Xing brothers.

If that were the case, they would have to readjust their plans to include Terminator Sect as a threat.

“I believe you’ve already received the news,” Qin Lie said in a low voice. “The Graveyard of Gods has collapsed and some remains of ancient elites escaped destruction, scattering across the sea at the center of every continent.”

Xiang Xi’s men nodded in confirmation, solemn expressions on their faces.

“Illusory Demon Sect ordered us to search for the remains of ancient elites,” Xiang Xi said. “Are you…?”

“Correct!” Qin Lie exclaimed. “That’s why we’re here.”

“Why here?” Xiang Xi asked, suddenly growing excited. “Could it be? Could the remains be somewhere in our Gold Sun Island’s region of the sea? Do you have some kind of information about this?”

“We dare not say for sure, but…. the possibility is huge,” Qin Lie said, a mysterious look on his face.

Xiang Xi wasn’t the only person getting excited. Even Bo Boze and the others had secretly grown excited at the news, their eyes alight.

They assumed that Qin Lie and his group were here because they obtained trustworthy information about remains of ancient elites being somewhere in the region of the sea that Gold Sun Island controlled.

Furthermore, judging by his skill in his thunder spirit art, Qin Lie was obviously Forefather Terminator's most beloved disciple.

If the information they obtained wasn't solid, these people definitely wouldn't have come all the way to the Heavenly Calamity Continent searching for the remains of ancient elites... right?

The remains of ancient elites were the main topic of recent discussions for every force in the Land of Chaos. Nobody knew how many forces were doing everything they could to find them, hoping to use them to vastly improve themselves.

One such force that tried to use the remains of ancient elites to change their fortune, hoping to become a Silver rank force in the future, was the Pan Family.

To that end, they were willing to kill even Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang to prevent the information from being leaked.

"You're not a member of the Xing Family, are you, my friend?" Xiang Xi's smile widened with joy.

His demeanor indifferent, Qin Lie said, “Surnames don’t matter. I only care about achieving my goals.”

Xiang Xi glanced at Bo Boze.

Bo Boze understood his meaning, walked over while smiling and said, “The wooden buildings on this fire phoenix are a bit too damaged to carry on this discussion. Shall we… move to a new location? We may be able to assist all of you in searching for the remains of ancient elites.”

“Sure.” Qin Lie nodded. He also wanted to know what in Spirit Realm these fellows were up to.

Song Tingyu and the others had relaxed by this time. They knew that Xiang Xi’s men wouldn’t dare to raise a hand against Qin Lie now that they had mistaken him for a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator.

“Let us leave senior brother to discuss things with them,” she suddenly said. “There is no need for us to… go.”

She was currently at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm and could break through at any moment. She didn’t want to waste her energy on chatting.

She also knew that Xie Jingxuan, Luo Chen, and Gao Yu weren’t interested in this kind of thing.

As expected, Xie Jingxuan, Luo Chen, and Gao Yu all nodded in agreement. They didn't wish to come interact with Xiang Xi's group more than necessary.

Xue Moyan and Du Xiangyang wanted to participate in the discussion, but since Song Tingyu had already spoken for all of them, they had to give up on the idea.

—All of them agreed that they would obey senior brother's decision.

This was exactly what Bo Boze had hoped for, which was why he hadn't tried to invite all of them out of courtesy. He exchanged looks with Xiang Xi, and the four enforcers brought Qin Lie to a five-story pagoda on Xu Changsheng's Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Considering how impressive Qin Lie's skill in his thunder spirit art was, they saw him as Forefather Terminator's direct disciple—the true treasure.

Judging by the auras of the rest of the group, they clearly didn't cultivate thunder spirit arts. They believed that Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Gao Yu were just Qin Lie's subordinates. Insignificant people.

As for Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan, they had already declared themselves as Qin Lie's women when they arrived. Since Xiang Xi and the others had another arrangement in mind, having the three women participate in this meaning would've been a bit inconvenient.

They were naturally glad to see Qin Lie's six companions depart.

Inside of a wide hall on the fifth floor of the wooden pagoda-shaped building, one laden with soft carpet, Xiang Xi directed Qin Lie to a seat. Once he did, he suddenly clapped his hands.

Five women with wonderful figures draped in thin clothing, all of whom looked either innocent or seductive, rushed Qin Lie out of nowhere. They wore sultry smiles, carried trays of fruit in their uncovered arms, and shook their assets to try and appeal to Qin Lie.

"Please enjoy some tea, young master."

"Come and eat some fruit, young master."

"How about some dimsum, young master?"

The five beautiful girls surrounded him from every direction and presented him with all kinds of drinks and delicacies. They also massaged his legs, shoulders, and head, instantly immersing Qin Lie in a sea of worldly pleasures.

The spectacle initially caught Qin Lie off guard. However, he quickly calmed down and relaxed, allowing these enchanting women to service him.

All five women had different figures and dispositions, but all could be considered quite attractive. Their white legs and delicate breasts they hid beneath the thin fabric of their clothing were extremely tempting.

Qin Lie had recently learned about the true wonders of a woman from Song Tingyu. That meant that his self-control in the face of women was currently at its weakest.

As a result, when the five beautiful women flooded him, looking as if they would follow his every command, his did lose some control over himself.

However, these women drastically paled in comparison to the likes of Song Tingyu, Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan. To be honest, they were a little beneath Qin Lie's current standards.

"Tell me what you wish to speak of." Qin Lie said nonchalantly.

The four enforcers glanced at each other, inwardly puzzled by how unclouded Qin Lie's eyes were. He obviously didn't feel any lust for the women around him.

When Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan faced outsiders, the always disguised themselves to look like ordinary women.

They figured that if Qin Lie would take such plain women as wives, he either had an unusually strong appetite or... he didn't

have many chances to venture out into the world—that Forefather Terminator restricted his movements so much that he could only seek out his junior sisters for companionship.

The ended up assuming that the five women they sent to service Qin Lie would definitely succeed in drawing out the pervert inside of him and force him to reveal his true character.

—But things didn't go the way they planned.

After pondering for a moment, Xiang Xi suddenly spoke up.

"What do you think of the Xing brothers, my young friend?" he asked tentatively.

"Eh. They're okay," Qin Lie answered ambiguously.

"What... what is your relationship with the Xing brothers?" Xiang Xi asked again.

"Until ten days ago, I had nothing to do with the Xing Family," Qin Lie said with a smile. "Now, however, I'm called Xing Lie..."

Xiang Xi understood what he meant and chuckled. He nodded and said, "I understand, haha. Well, about the search for the remains of ancient elites. Actually, we can help you with that. The only thing that we request of you is..."

“Request?” Qin Lie narrowed his eyes.

“We request that you ignore anything that may happen later on,” Xiang Xi said solemnly.

“Our only goal here is to find the remains of ancient elites. We aren’t interested in anything else,” Qin Lie firmly declared his stance. “The internal affairs of Gold Sun Island is none of our concern.”

“Haha, that’s good… that’s very good!” Xiang Xi sighed in relief and hurriedly said, “Don’t worry. As long as you are in Gold Sun Island, anything in our possession will be yours if you wish for it! We have absolutely no problem with helping you search for the remains of ancient elites. Even if you point us in a rough direction, I’ll immediately send my men to take a look. If we really do find anything, we can arrange for ships to help you transport them in secret. We… can even hide this information from Illusory Demon Sect!”

“You’re too considerate, Enforcer Xiang!” Qin Lie laughed loudly. “Hehe, I am quite fond of your behavior!”

“You don’t seem to be satisfied with these five women, do you? That’s fine. Once we reach Gold Sun Island, I’ll definitely arrange for even better women to please you!” Xiang Xi began making promises.

“Hmm… then I’ll have to give my thanks to you in advance, Enforcer Xiang.” Qin Lie nodded in satisfaction.

It seemed as though both parties had come to a mutual understanding.

Chapter 584: Inside Job

Within a freezing hidden room built out of ice jade crystals, a giant blood cocoon hung in midair. Numerous blood vessels and muscle tissue ran from the walls of that vast room to that cocoon, holding it aloft and making it resemble a heart.

Wisps of spirit energy and blood energy constantly flowed through the blood vessels and into the blood cocoon, maintaining Mo Lingye's life force.

Xue Li's soul quietly floated beside the blood cocoon like a ball of sanguine flame.

A dozen or so martial practitioners in long, red robes also stood within the hidden room. All of them sighed softly as they watched Xue Li's soul.

One of them looked extremely similar to Mo Bei, the young man that Qin Lie and Xue Li had met at the Blood Cloud Mountain Range.

This was none other than Mo Bei's father, Mo Jun.

"Sect master..." Mo Jun called out softly.

"I haven't been Blood Fiend Sect's sect master for a long, long time." Xue Li shook his head.

“...Big Brother Xue,” Mo Jun said. “The madam is currently in a precarious position. If her life force can’t be replenished with the Spring of Life, she might not be able to hold out for more than three years.”

He sighed deeply. “This is all our fault. We’ve been useless for the past thousand years, only living as if we were encumbered by chains, not bothering to try and revive Blood Fiend Sect. If we were the Blood Fiend Sect of a thousand years ago, we would’ve gotten something as cheap as the Spring of Life a long time ago. Look at how powerless we are now!”

The rest of the Blood Fiend Sect elders within the room bowed their heads in shame.

It had been over a thousand years, but none of them, none of the members of Blood Fiend Sect that had escaped from the Blood Cloud Mountain Range, were able to rebuild the sect.

In fact, they didn’t even dare to reveal themselves to the outside world because of Black Voodoo Cult’s and the three great families’ relentless ongoing hunt. They could only hide in the shadows.

“None of you are at fault.” Xue Li’s bloody eyes shone with pain. “If anyone deserves blame... it would be me! I was the one who wasn’t careful enough. I gave Jiang Zhuzhe the opportunity to capture me and wound me greatly!”

Everyone else hung their heads in sorrow.

All of a sudden, Xue Li's eyes burned with hope.

"Has there been any news from the Graveyard of Gods?" he asked. "Qin Lie is in the Graveyard of Gods with... her. I heard that the Spring of Life could be in there. They may yet succeed!"

Xue Li had placed all of his hopes on Qin Lie and his daughter. He hoped that they'd be able to obtain the Spring of Life from the Graveyard of Gods, enough of it to help both Xue Moyan and Mo Lingye escape their predicament.

"We haven't received any news." Mo Jun forced himself to answer. "I've only heard... that the Graveyard of Gods completely collapsed and almost all of the Trial participants perished. Only the remains of ancient elites, which are unfathomably tough, were able to endure the shock waves of the spatial collapse and escape."

"That can't be," Xue Li said and began to constantly reassure himself. "Qin Lie won't die. He won't! He'll definitely escape the Graveyard of Gods with Xue Moyan! That kid is extraordinary. He can do it!"

Mo Jun and the others looked at him, their eyes filled with sympathy, and sighed inwardly.

All of them pitied Xue Li's family.

Xue Li had been imprisoned for a thousand years, but even after he managed to escape from his confinement, Jiang Zhuzhe refined

his body and half of his soul. In addition to that, his daughter was born with an extremely short lifespan. His wife was in a coma and her soul consciousness was now so weak that she couldn't communicate with the world outside of the blood cocoon. Her life was like a candle flame on the verge of being extinguished by the wind. It could go out at any moment.

The tragedy that befell this family was as heartbreaking as one could imagine.

Mo Jun and the others didn't think that Qin Lie, a person they'd never heard of before, a person that Xue Li had high hopes for, could change this family's fate.

All of them assumed that Xue Li simply didn't wish to accept the fact that his daughter had died in the Graveyard of Gods.

"I know you don't believe it, but I do!" Xue Li exclaimed softly. "I've known Qin Lie for a long time. I understand him. He isn't normal, and he holds many secrets I cannot begin to fathom. He'll definitely exit the Graveyard of Gods with Moyan and bring new hope to Blood Fiend Sect!"

Mo Jun and the others shook their heads and exchanged bitter smiles.

They simply couldn't believe his words from the bottom of their hearts.

They no longer thought that Blood Fiend Sect had a future.

They believed that it was their destiny to hide in the shadows, living as if burdened by chains.

……

Day changed to evening, and the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix of the Xing brothers hovered above the five ships of Gold Sun Island. Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan descended to the deck of the Wavebreaker as Xing Shengnan, Xing Yao, several other Xing Family clansmen, and Gold Sun Island martial practitioners came out to greet them.

“Big brother. Second brother. Where is Xing Lie?” Xing Shengnan asked the moment she saw them. “Why have we not seen the fire phoenix of the enforcers yet?”

“We will be arriving at the Setting Sun Islands in two days,” Xing Yao said, clearly more concerned about something else. “Xiang Xi, the three enforcers with him, and their islands envoys have always managed those islands. Shouldn’t we be more vigilant?”

Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan glanced at each other, bitter expressions on their faces.

Ever since they confirmed that Qin Lie was Forefather Terminator’s direct disciple, both brothers had been wracked with headaches. They weren’t able to come up with a plan capable of

dealing with Qin Lie.

"It's fine," Xing Yuyuan said with a smile. "Today's the day we'll be speaking with them. They should be arriving soon enough."

According to the spies he had planted in the midst of Xiang Xi's men, Xing Yuyuan knew that Qin Lie's group of seven was fine. He also knew that Xiang Xi and his men didn't dare to act recklessly after discovering Qin Lie's other identity.

Xing Yuyuan was even more aware of the fact that Xiang Xi and Qin Lie seemed to be getting along quite well. In fact, they now appeared to be rather close to one another.

This made the Xing brothers grow increasingly worried.

If Xiang Xi's men successfully pull Qin Lie to their side, how were they supposed to treat him, a Blood Fiend Sect disciple that had the support of Forefather Terminator?

This matter left the two brothers at a loss.

"They are here!" Guo Yanzheng exclaimed softly.

The moment he did, a bright, beautiful Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix and the same type of flying spirit artifact that looked as though it had weathered a storm flew over at the same time.

Then a small crystalline war chariot rumbled from a distance, descending through the air and approaching the ships.

The chariot carried Xiang Xi, Bo Boze, and Qin Lie, all of whom were standing shoulder to shoulder.

Xiang Xi and Qin Lie chatted with each other cheerfully. They looked incredibly close to each other, as if they'd been friends for countless years.

The members of the Xing Family on the deck exchanged glances, their expressions becoming grim.

"How utterly shameless!" Xing Yao yelled harshly. "He's just as bad as the rest of them!"

Astonishment filled Xing Shengnan's face.

"When did little brother become such good friends with chief enforcer?" she asked with a frown.

She had no idea that Xiang Xi and the others had long since been planning a rebellion, but she did know that the relationship between them and her brothers wasn't nearly as amicable as it seemed. She herself disliked Xiang Xi from the bottom of her heart, so when she saw that Qin Lie had become friendly with Xiang Xi, she immediately assumed that he had been fooled.

She thought about finding an opportunity to warn Qin Lie so

Xiang Xi couldn’t continue fooling him.

Enforcers Guo Yanzhen and Qi Jing, as well as many other martial practitioners on the ship, were trusted servants of the Xing Family. All of them knew about the relationship between the Xing Family and Xiang Xi’s side.

In light of this, their faces twisted into ugly expressions the moment they saw Qin Lie and Xiang Xi standing side by side and laughing loudly together.

Words couldn’t even begin to describe the frowns on the faces of Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan.

The brothers mistakenly thought that Qin Lie was a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator. When they saw Xiang Xi being so friendly with Qin Lie, they immediately assumed the worst—

—that Xiang Xi and Qin Lie were on the same side!

The Xing brothers immediately believed that the situation had become several times more complicated than before. Dealing with Xiang Xi was no longer a simple matter.

When the crystalline war chariot approached the ship, Xiang Xi immediately laughed loudly and struck the Xing brothers with a low blow.

“Hahaha, I see! Someone of my temperament truly has many

things in common with Xing Lie," he shouted. "Many thanks, first and second island masters! Thank you for sending Xing Lie to my side. If you hadn't, I wouldn't have had the chance to get to know a young genius who understands me. Hahaha!"

The faces of the Xing brothers became even uglier than before.

Qin Lie inwardly sneered as he stood atop the crystalline war chariot and looked down on Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan.

He knew exactly what the Xing brothers had been planning when they sent his group to Xiang Xi's Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

They had hoped to use Xiang Xi as an instrument of murder to get rid of him. This way, Qin Lie wouldn't be around to hurt Xing Shengnan, and they'd be able to easily justify their actions if Blood Fiend Sect came looking for answers.

Xiang Xi took the initiative to ask, "Would you like to speak with your clansmen, Brother Xing Lie?"

"There's no need for that. I wouldn't have anything important to say to them anyway." Qin Lie shook his head then looked at Xing Shengnan from afar. As seriously and sincerely as he could, he said, "You don't have to worry about me, big sister. I'm fine."

When he saw Xing Shengnan open her mouth to speak, Qin Lie cut her off, saying, "We can talk once we return to Gold Sun Island. I'll explain everything then."

Xing Yumiao, on the other hand, spoke with a heavy voice.

“Come down here, little brother!” he called out. “There’s something we need to discuss!”

Since the current situation required it, even though the title was false, this was the first time he referred to Qin Lie as little brother.

Xing Yumiao finally gave Qin Lie the attention that he deserved.

A few days ago, he had simply stood outside of Qin Lie’s door and couldn’t be bothered to enter his room. He even went as far as threatening Qin Lie, warning him to disappear before they reached Gold Sun Island or be killed without question!

He hadn’t given Qin Lie any chance to explain himself!

Xing Yumiao did that because he believed that the current Blood Fiend Sect couldn’t get him to truly submit. He no longer held Blood Fiend Sect in high regard.

In much the same way, he believed that Qin Lie didn’t deserve his respect.

Yet... things were different now.

Qin Lie now had Forefather Terminator and Terminator Sect

looming behind him like a terrifying shadow. Xing Yumiao had no choice to reconsider his opinion of Qin Lie.

Qin Lie stared at Xing Yumiao, an almost imperceptible sneer playing at the corner of his lips. He thought that having a powerful backer and a mighty force was more important than anything else.

Even now, he understood that Xing Yumiao didn't care about him at all. What he cared about was the non-existent Forefather Terminator behind him.

"We'll talk once we return to Gold Sun Island. I'm just here to see big sister," Qin Lie answered with a casual smile. He didn't refer to Xing Yumiao as his big brother. Then he turned to Xiang Xi and said, "I'm tired. Let's go back."

"First island master. Second island master. Third island master. Cultivating for the past two days has left Xing Lie tired, so... we'll be leaving for now," Xiang Xi said as if mediating the conversation and chuckled. He then quietly ordered his men to leave without bothering to have the crystalline war ship land on the deck of the ship.

Xiang Xi had obviously grown bolder after becoming certain that Qin Lie was Forefather Terminator's direct disciple. This was why he dared to openly defy Xing Yumiao even though they had yet to properly end the conversation.

Every Xing Family clansman wore an ashen expression.

Everyone could clearly see that Qin Lie had gone against Xing Yumiao's instructions. He obviously didn't think of himself as a Xing Family clansman or consider Xing Yumiao his big brother.

Other than Xing Shengnan, whom he showed real concern for and actually deferred to her as her little brother, he treated everyone else with indifference that might as well have been arrogance!

None of the Xing Family clansmen could understand or tolerate his behavior.

Where in Spirit Realm did he get the nerve to behave in such a way?

"This kid's gone crazy, hasn't he? His surname is Xing! Why is he at Xiang Xi's side?"

"What a blind fool. He had no idea where he belongs!"

"I think he's even more arrogant than Xiang Xi! How dare he not listen even to the first island master! How utterly shameless!"

The Xing Family clansmen and the other martial practitioners who cared about the Xing Family scolded Qin Lie with righteous indignation.

All of them thought that Xing Yumiao would immediately punish him.

However, surprisingly enough, Xing Yumiao neither spoke up nor attacked Qin Lie in any way. He simply wore an ugly expression on his face and maintained his silence.

Only Xing Yuyuan understood why his big brother didn't act.

Xing Yumiao had to tolerate Qin Lie's insolence because he believed that Forefather Terminator loomed behind him.

……

Chapter 585: Setting Sun Islands

“Why?”

In a completely new five-story building, clad in a humble light-green martial practitioner uniform, Xue Moyan frowned at Qin Lie.

This wooden building was situated on Xu Changsheng’s Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. It sat in the crook of the fire phoenix’s left wing, far from the clusters of wooden buildings at the center of the it’s back. This left it quiet and free of disturbances.

As long as they didn’t scream to communicate, there was no way for any Gold Sun Island martial practitioners to hear what Qin Lie’s group talked about.

Qin Lie had specifically requested to reside in this place.

“Why what?”

Qin Lie stood by the window gazing into the distance. He could vaguely make out the shapes of five big ships that resembled fish swimming across the water.

“Did you insist on joining Xiang Xi only to infuriate the Xing brothers?” Xue Moyan couldn’t quite understand his intentions.

After pondering for a moment, Qin Lie said, “Xing Yuyuan purposely sent us here so that Xiang Xi would kill us with his own hands. Once he did, even if Blood Fiend Sect demanded an answer in the future, they’d be able to explain themselves.”

“I know.” Xue Moyan nodded slightly. “But... the Xing Family shared a past connection with Blood Fiend Sect, not Xiang Xi’s group. Why have you joined them to pressure the Xing Family?”

In the past few days, Xue Moyan noticed that Qin Lie had gotten closer to Xiang Xi and his men. She secretly felt anxious on the inside.

She feared that Qin Lie would work with Xiang Xi to attack the Xing Family.

Although Qin Lie was only a single person and didn’t possess a high realm, she was well aware of the fact that the eight god corpses hidden under the sea made his killing potential outright scary.

If Qin Lie walked with Xiang Xi and treated the Xing Family as a sworn enemy... then the Xing Family would definitely suffer unfathomable losses!

Xue Moyan hoped that he would be able to attract Gold Sun Island and persuade the Xing Family to become an ally of Blood Fiend Sect. She didn’t want him just kill them off.

She still had emotional attachment and unreasonable hopes for the Xing Family.

“If we want the Xing Family to willingly serve Blood Fiend Sect, we mustn’t befriend them entirely. A suitable amount of intimidation and pressure may result in a better and stronger response,” Qin Lie said with a smile. “Don’t worry, senior sister. Once we reach the Setting Sun Islands, everything will become clear.”

“The Setting Sun Islands?” Xue Moyan asked in surprised.

“Xiang Xi has made preparations to face the Xing Family there,” Qin Lie said, nodding. “I will arrange for the eight god corpses to head there in secret and get ready for a great upheaval.”

“Then… whose side will you be on?” Xue Moyan asked.

“Xing Shengnan has always treated me with sincerity,” Qin Lie said in a soft voice.

Xue Moyan gave him a profound look, emotions softly rippling through her bright eyes.

Then she smiled and said, “I can rest easy then.”

She realized that she was starting to understand him better.

When she first met Qin Lie in the Graveyard of Gods, she assumed that he was the one who killed her sisters from Illusory Demon Sect and tried her best to make him pay for it. However, Qin Lie restrained himself and avoided her again and again, unwilling to clash with her directly.

After that, Qin Lie helped her during every critical moment, causing her to mistakenly believe that he liked her and wanted to court her.

When she finally understood that Qin Lie did all of that because of a promise to her father and not specifically for her, she felt both happy... and slightly disappointed.

After fighting beside him within the Graveyard of Gods, she slowly came to know what kind of person he was.

Yet Xue Moyan still hadn't been able to understand Qin Lie. She felt as though he were a fickle person, as if there were some kind of unknown force compelling him to do irrational things every so often.

Plenty of instances occurred where she thought he had a good heart and wouldn't take extreme actions, that he would be leave some room for compassion. However, that wasn't actually the case.

For example, when Pan Qianqian exposed them to the Pan Family, Qin Lie decided that they had to kill her.

He had also demonstrated such capacity for ruthlessness to the Xing Family.

However, the moment Qin Lie said that Xing Shengnan treated him with sincerity, Xue Moyan understood that Qin Lie clearly knew when to hold a grudge and when to show gratitude.

He had not been eroded by malevolence and hatred.

This was why she could rest easy.

……

Two days later, the bright red evening sun made its slow descent through the sky and bathed the Setting Sun Islands in bright golden light.

The sun shone from a distance and looked as if it were sinking into the ground.

This gorgeous view was what the Setting Sun Islands were named after.

Five enormous ships forged from refined steel gradually came into view, cutting through the reflective waves and heading toward these islands.

“Be a little more careful, everyone!” Xing Yao called out. She

stood atop the deck of the Wavebreaker, her attractive face a bright gold in the sunlight. “The Setting Sun Islands are fully developed islands under the control of four of our Gold Sun Island’s enforcers. Xiang Xi supervises them.”

Xing Yumiao never hid the conflicts between the Xing Family and Xiang Xi—not from her. This was why those four of the six enforcers had always disgusted her.

Back when she destroyed the reproductive ability of Bo Boze’s son, Xiang Xi had been the one to jump out and constantly call for proper punishment. He forced the Xing Family to imprison her for a long time, a terrible punishment in contrast to her supposed crime.

She never treated Xiang Xi and the other enforcers as seniors.

“The chief enforcer and his men cannot change anything.” Qi Jing wore an indifferent expression.

Xiang Xi and Bo Boze were only in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. Overthrowing the authority of the Xing brothers within Gold Sun Island was just wishful thinking.

So Qi Jing wasn’t worried.

“They won’t be able to overthrow the Xing Family,” Guo Yanzheng said. “But that only holds true so long as they do not borrow outside strength.”

As he said this, three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes gradually flew over from another direction.

According to the travel plan, Gold Sun Island's five ships and three fire phoenixes would stop at the Setting Sun Islands to rest. Only after making a few preparations would they actually return to Gold Sun Island.

Guo Yanzheng sighed softly as he watched the fire phoenixes approach from a distance.

"I just don't understand," he said. "Why did Young Master Lie join Xiang Xi? You must have failed to inform him about the grudges between Xiang Xi and the Xing Family. He must have mistakenly thought that both sides are close."

"He isn't a member of our family!" Xing Yao shouted coldly. "No one who sides with Xiang Xi shall meet a good end! This fellow who showed up out of nowhere... hmph! In my opinion, he's nothing but Xiang Xi's lackey!"

She had no doubt in her mind that Xiang Xi had invited Qin Lie over to cause trouble.

"That's impossible." Guo Yanzheng shook his head. He was well aware of Qin Lie's status as a member of Blood Fiend Sect. "Xiang Xi doesn't have the ability to invite someone like him."

“That is irrelevant. He will never reach Gold Sun Island alive!” Xing Yao declared, an icy smile spreading across her face.

Xing Yumiao hadn’t kept his threat a secret from Xing Yao, so she knew that he would personally kill Qin Lie if he didn’t choose to vanish before they reached Gold Sun Island.

Especially considering how Qin Lie stood beside Xiang Xi two days and publicly taunted the Xing Family, she was completely certain that Qin Lie would die.

Qin Lie had enraged every Xing Family clansman but Xing Shengnan!

“He has come yet again!” Qi Jing exclaimed in astonishment.

Xing Yao and Guo Yanzheng looked up, raising their hands to their foreheads to shield their eyes from the evening sun. They watched as a crystalline war chariot flew down from a Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix as expected and approached the deck of the Wavebreaker.

The chariot carried only one person—Qin Lie.

The crystalline war chariot stopped ten meters above the ship’s deck.

Qin Lie looked down at Xing Yao, and in a calm tone, he said, “I’m looking for big sister.”

Xing Wu suddenly appeared out of nowhere, his face grim as he started shouting at Qin Lie.

“She isn’t your big sister!” he yelled. “And no one in the Xing Family turns on their own kin!”

“Leave! You’re not welcome here!”

“Go away! Stop bothering us!”

“Buzz off! Go and hang out with Xiang Xi like the villain you are!””

“Someone like you isn’t a part of the Xing Family!”

Xing Family clansmen emerged from the stairway to the third floor one by one, the anger they had been suppressing for days finally exploding forth.

All of them pointed at Qin Lie accusingly and berated him.

Since Xiang Xi and the other three enforcers weren’t around, they yelled without restraint. They treated Qin Lie like the most despicable, shameless person they had ever seen and made sure he knew it.

Qin Lie smiled indifferently. He seemed as if he didn’t care and

simply said, “I’m only here to speak with big sister.”

“Shut up!”

Xing Shengnan’s voice boomed from within her cultivation room. She had no choice but to stop cultivating and make her way to the deck of the ship.

Upon arrival, she began screeching at every Xing Family clansman, especially Xing Yao.

“Little brother simply doesn’t know about the relationship between our Xing Family and Xiang Xi,” she cried. “He has only mistakenly placed his trust in Xiang Xi! What in Spirit Realm are all of you doing? Why do you hide the truth from him, then blame him when he makes the wrong decision, huh?”

“Aunt! Can you just… please wake up!” Xing Yao could no longer stand Xing Shengnan’s confused beliefs. “Why don’t you understand? How many times have you been tricked? Why must you make the same mistake over and over again?”

“I am awake! I am more awake than anyone here right now!” Xing Shengnan yelled. “Xing Lie is seventh grandfather’s only grandson. He is my little brother, and a direct descendant of the Xing Family! Why are you treating your own family like this? Are you truly this heartless?”

“Seventh grandfather died more than a thousand years ago! You

don’t know about that because father and uncle were afraid that you’d succumb to sadness!” Xing Yaoou screamed, frantically pointing at Qin Lie. “He isn’t a member of the Xing Family! This man… this person that appeared out of nowhere… he’s just like all of those spies who previously pretended to be members of the Xing Family. All of them are despicable, vile scum who want to take down the Xing Family! Aunt… you can’t keep making the same mistake over and over. You can’t keep living in the past. Seventh grandfather died… a-and… fourth uncle died in your arms. You were there when he did.”

Driven by her outrage toward Qin Lie and her disappointment in Xing Shengnan constantly making the same mistake, Xing Yao finally made the truth public.

Many Xing Family clansmen weren’t aware of the truth. The two enforcers on the side of the Xing Family, Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing, were even more shocked by this revelation.

Then numerous gazes fell upon Xing Shengnan.

Everyone pitied her.

Xing Shengnan’s bulky frame collapsed to the ground. It was as if she had suddenly lost the strength that had supported her all this time. Helplessness shone from her small eyes as she unconsciously muttered to herself.

“D-dead,” she whispered. “All dead. They’re… all dead…”

Standing atop the crystalline war chariot, Qin Lie watched Xing Shengnan break down in both mind and spirit. A complicated look appeared in his eyes.

All of a sudden, he spoke up.

“No matter what my surname may be... in my heart, you will always be my big sister.”

His words made Xing Yao go insane with anger.

“Go away!” she screamed. “Get the hell away from us! Get as far from this place as you possibly can!”

“Kill him! Kill this traitor!”

“Kill him!”

“Don’t let him escape!”

Chapter 586: Falling Out

Qin Lie had come to the Wavebreaker alone.

At this moment, his crystalline war chariot hovered around five meters above the deck of the ship, far from what anyone would consider a safe distance.

The anger of the Xing Family clansmen had been completely set ablaze.

Xing Wu was the first to act, gathering wisps of silvery-white spirit energy around him to form a ferocious snow-white tiger. It was around eight meters long, looked incredibly lifelike, and its figure superimposed onto him.

Sacred beasts like Qilins were signs of good fortune. In much the same way, the Green Dragon, White Tiger, Vermillion Bird, and Black Tortoise were also sacred beasts, all of which possessed high levels of intelligence.

The White Tiger that Xing Wu formed was his own cultivated interpretation of the White Tiger. He borrowed its killing aura to enhance his heart, soul, and combat strength.

“Grrraaaaaaugh!”

Xing Wu and the White Tiger erupted into a roar at the exact same time, their superimposed figure pouncing into the air and

flying toward the crystalline war chariot. A shockingly potent killing aura rolled off of Xing Wu in waves, and the White Tiger ferociously swiped at Qin Lie with its savagely sharp claws.

After Xing Yao confirmed that Qin Lie wasn't a member of the Xing Family, Xing Wu no longer had any qualms about killing him.

He respected Xing Shengnan from the bottom of his heart and wouldn't allow anyone to borrow the name of the Xing Family and hurt her!

"I am not an enemy of the Xing Family."

Qin Lie wore a strange expression as he unleashed a killing aura of his own, pushing his palm toward the White Tiger's giant ethereal head.

"Zzzt zzzt zzzt!"

Dense bolts of crisscrossing lightning poured from his hand like a dazzling waterfall of electricity.

They washed over the White Tiger's head like curtains of beads.

"Crackle!"

The White Tiger made out of Xing Wu's spirit energy collapsed under the rampaging lightning and swiftly dissipated.

In the blink of an eye, the roaring White Tiger completely vanished.

The destruction of the White Tiger made Xing Wu's breath grow ragged. Hatred gushing from his eyes, he moved to do something else, but stopped when Enforcer Qi Jing spoke up.

"You aren't a match for him." Qi Jing snorted coldly, a frown on his face. "Your realm is lower than his and your spirit energy is much weaker as well."

However, just as Qi Jing was about to try and capture Qin Lie himself, Guo Yanzheng moved to him and put a hand on his shoulder. He coughed slightly, shook his head, and said, "Don't."

Astonishment covered Qi Jing's face.

"Why?" he exclaimed in a low voice.

Guo Yanzheng smiled bitterly, then secretly transmitted his voice to Qi Jing so that only he could hear what he said.

"He is a member of Blood Fiend Sect and cultivates the orthodox Blood Spirit Art..." Guo Yanzheng's voice echoed softly in Qi Jing's ears. "Both first and second island master know about this."

Qi Jing's expression changed subtly.

Like Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing hailed from the Heavenly Calamity Continent, and the Xing brothers had invited him to join Gold Sun Island in much the same way.

More importantly, both his and Guo Yanzheng's families had been vassal forces of Blood Fiend Sect in the past. Both men had received benefits and care from Blood Fiend Sect in the past, so it held a special place in their hearts.

Furthermore, both respected and feared Blood Fiend Sect even now. This kept them from carelessly attacking any member of Blood Fiend Sect.

"The island masters know about this?" Qi Jing asked in a heavy voice.

Guo Yanzheng nodded.

Qi Jing pondered for a moment, then looked up to Qin Lie and asked, "What in Spirit Realm are you trying to do?"

Qi Jing had kept his voice low while speaking to Guo Yanzheng. Guo Yanzheng had even turned his voice into a thread of sound, transmitting it to Qi Jing to secretly reveal Qin Lie's identity.

As a result, none of the Xing Family clansmen had no idea what was going on.

In their eyes, it looked as if Qi Jing had suddenly changed his mind just as he was about to attack Qin Lie. This confused them to no end.

They became even more astonished when they heard Qi Jing ask about Qin Lie's plans. To them, it seemed as if he were giving in to Qin Lie.

"Enforcers! What in Spirit Realm are you doing?" Xing Yao yelled. She knew that she probably wasn't a match for Qin Lie. In fact, she had hoped that Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing would kill him, but for whatever reason, they stopped short of carrying out the deed. This left her extremely frustrated. "You already know that person isn't a member of the Xing Family! What are you waiting for? Kill him!"

Multiple Xing Family clansmen echoed the sentiment at the same time, yelling, "Kill him!"

Weak and dazed, Xing Shengnan continued to lay on the deck in a fetal position. She seemed to be in unfathomable pain, incapable of crawling out of the abyss made from her memories.

She was the only one here with the authority to give orders, and right now, Xing Yao could only be considered a leader in name.

Unfortunately for her, since Guo Yanzheng had told him that Qin Lie was a member of Blood Fiend Sect and couldn't be harmed, Qi Jing didn't dare to act.

This only infuriated Xing Yao even more.

Qin Lie didn't look at anyone but Xing Shengnan.

After pondering for a moment, he said, "I will give you a proper explanation today, big sister."

Choosing to no longer hang around the Xing Family, he directed the war chariot back to the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix on which he currently resided.

Qin Lie left behind the deck full of Xing Family clansmen who were cursing him and hollering about making sure he died.

Just like that, he quickly returned to the fire phoenix.

Xiang Xi, the other three enforcers, and the rest of their men stood in crystalline war chariots of their own, hovering around the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

The moment he saw Qin Lie, Xiang Xi laughed loudly. A wide grin spread across his face, making it seem as if he were about to devour someone.

"Did you go to harrass the Xing Family once again, my friend?" Xiang Xi asked.

Everyone could see that Xiang Xi was a bit excited today.

“Mn. I went down there and toyed with them for a little,” Qin Lie answered nonchalantly.

“Heheh! There’ll be a good show today.” Xiang Xi winked at him. “All you need to do is watch!”

Qin Lie shrugged.

“Then I shall wait and see,” he said, an indifferent smile on his face.

“Haha, you definitely won’t be disappointed!” Xiang Xi slapped Qin Lie’s shoulder without reservation. He then spoke in a grandiose tone. “When the day is done, I shall have the prettiest girl in all of Gold Sun Island entertain you. Once we arrive at Gold Sun Island, you may enjoy any woman you want, haha!”

Qin Lie smiled and kept silent.

All of a sudden, an idea flashed through Xiang Xi’s mind and he smiled strangely.

“Ah!” he exclaimed. “Xing Yao… how about that bitch, Xing Yao? That bitch’s gaze has recently made me quite uncomfortable! Heh, I noticed that she was quite unfriendly to you as well, but she won’t be able to act so arrogantly much longer. Starting today, I’ll have her kneel before you and service you to your heart’s content!”

“Oh?” Qin Lie raised an eyebrow, looking at Xiang Xi skeptically.

“Just watch.” Xiang Xi laughed loudly.

Then he suddenly released a shrill howl and drove his crystalline war chariot toward the ships below, stopping to hover above the Wavebreaker.

Bo Boze, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong also howled and drove their chariots toward the ships below..

Soon after they began howling, numerous crystalline war chariots shot from the countless Setting Sun Islands, swarming like locusts.

When Qin Lie focused on the swarm, he realized that there were probably close to a hundred chariots of all kinds of colors and sizes.

Every war chariot carried somewhere from three, to five, to even a dozen people. As far as he could tell, a total of around five hundred martial practitioners, all of whom were in the Fulfillment, Netherpassage, and Manifestation Realms, rode those chariots.

All of the crystalline chariots approached the five ships from every direction, surrounding them and the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix of the Xing brothers.

With the four enforcers in the lead, the swarm of war chariots

flew through the air like four torrential streams.

Xiang Xi suddenly laughed boisterously and shouted, “Xing Yumiao!”

At that moment, realization spread across the face of every Xing Family clansman.

Even a dimwit would understand what Xiang Xi’s actions meant.

In fact, Xiang Xi’s men controlled three of the five ships. The Xing Family actually controlled just one of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes, the Wavebreaker, and one other ship.

Terror and worry filled Xing Yao, Xing Wu, Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, and every singly Xing Family clansmen.

Even Xing Shengnan, who had experienced a mental breakdown earlier, forced herself to calm down when she saw the commotion occurring around her.

She suddenly trembled, pulling herself out of her painful memories through sheer force of will.

“What is Xiang Xi planning?” she murmured, struggling to stand and glaring at the sky.

Nearly a hundred chariots filled the sky, flying above the two

boats and the fire phoenix in four groups that resembled streams.

The insane, earsplitting laughter of Xiang Xi and Bo Boze constantly rang throughout the air. Their combined laughter was so loud that it made all of the Setting Sun Islands rumble.

“Xing Yumiao! Xing Yuyuan! Today, I will take revenge for my son! I will slaughter your family to the last man! I will use your blood to wash away the humiliation you put him through!” Bo Boze shrieked.

Standing atop the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix, Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan wore grim expressions.

“Do you understand now, big brother?” Xing Yuyuan sighed.

Xing Yumiao wasn’t as flustered as he could’ve been. He simply nodded and said, “I didn’t think their hatred for me would run so deep.”

Just like with the three great families, not all grudges can be resolved peacefully,” Xing Yuyuan said, a bitter smile on his face.

“Only through the bloodshed and destruction of one side can such a grudge be dealt with!”

Chapter 587: You Need to Die!

Xing Yuyuan busied himself, trying to console his big brother in the face of Xiang Xi's and Bo Boze's insolent, grating laughter. It resounded across all of the Setting Sun Islands.

The Xing brothers didn't ride their crystalline war chariots out to face them. Instead, they emerged from their Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix and appeared before everyone's eyes.

Xing Yumiao wore golden spirit armor forged from a type of light metal. The surface of the spirit armor looked like liquid gold. The armor shone brightly, the power of light coursing through it.

Xing Yumiao resembled a frightening golden war god that had appeared from an ancient battlefield, cutting through the void.

A bright golden halo burst from him, radiating outward and transforming into an aura of immeasurable sharpness that intimidated everyone nearby.

Xing Yuyuan, on the other hand, wore bright dazzling silver armor. Patterns of celestial bodies and spirit birds were engraved into it, making him appear impressive and refined.

Both brothers floated into the air and put their late stage Fragmentation Realms on display. This instilled the Xing Family clansmen, as well as the Gold Sun Island martial practitioners loyal to them, with confidence.

Upon seeing how calm the Xing brothers were, all of them shed their panic and regained their composure.

They believed in the Xing brothers.

“Xiang Xi must be tired of living!” Xing Yao cried. Instead of leaving her shocked, this outcome cheered her up. “Considering my father’s realm, he can kill all four of those traitorous enforcers by himself. These people are literally committing suicide right now!”

“It can’t be this simple.” Guo Yanzheng shook his head, a grim expression on his face. “Xiang Xi may have a horrible temper, but he isn’t stupid. There must be a reason why he dares to take such a reckless approach!”

“Bo Boze is on his side,” Qi Jing added. “He is full of evil tricks and never fights a war he isn’t sure he can win.”

They knew that the situation definitely wasn’t as simple as Xing Yao thought.

Numerous Xing Family clansmen stared up at the enforcers led by Xiang Xi. Their group of four drove their crystalline war chariots through the sky, slowly approaching the Xing brothers.

Qin Lie’s group had emerged from their five-story wooden building on Xu Changsheng’s fire phoenix long ago. All of them

watched this scene unfold from a distance.

"Fighting the Xing brothers head on is suicide," Xue Moyan said softly. "Xiang Xi must have a trump card."

She used her soul consciousness to pay close attention to the surroundings islands, trying to see if she could figure out where that trump card was hiding.

"This is quite a spectacle!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed in excitement.

"It has nothing to do with us," Luo Chen said.

All of a sudden, Qin Lie spoke up.

"Don't bother searching for their trump card anymore," he said. "It's under the sea."

Everyone immediately turned to Qin Lie, questioning looks in their eyes.

"The eight god corpses are around two thousand meters deep within the sea," Qin Lie said calmly. "Xiang Xi's trump card is about a thousand meters above them."

"You can sense them?" Xie Jingxuan asked, somewhat surprised.

“With my realm, it obviously isn’t possible for me to actually sense them. But god corpses can,” Qin Lie explained. “I share a… unique connection with them.”

When he had the god corpses stealthily make their way to the depths of the sea around the Setting Sun Islands, they’d already noticed powerful signs of life there.

The eight god corpses weren’t completely dead. They still possessed some of their fragmented soul. These god corpses had reached a terrifying realm prior to their deaths. Just their fragmented souls alone were like bright lamps capable of revealing people hidden in the shadows.

The people hidden in the depths of the sea were so inferior to the god corpses in realm and quality of soul that they had no idea that the god corpses were in the waters far below them.

“How many of them are there?” Xue Moyan asked hurriedly. “What are their realms?”

Since she still wanted to convince the Xing Family to serve Blood Fiend Sect, she was still concerned about them. She clearly hoped that the Xing Family would be able to weather this calamity.

“It isn’t really possible to investigate all of them closely,” Qin Lie said. “There are, however, quite a few of them, and there are a few auras that… should be no weaker than those of the Xing brothers.”

The moment he said this, a solemn expression came over Xue Moyan's beautiful face. She sighed and said, "The Xing Family is definitely in great danger this time."

"That's good news!" Qin Lie exclaimed gravely. "Without Xiang Xi's inescapable death trap, how else would we recruit the Xing Family?"

"You're saying that...?" Xua Moyan suddenly became excited again, her eyes lighting up.

"Are you going to stick your hand where it doesn't belong again?" Xie Jingxuan asked with a slight smile on her face.

"Even if I only care about Xing Shengnan, I can't just stand by and watch the Xing Family get slaughtered to the last clansman," Qin Lie declared in a calm voice.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Xue Moyan couldn't help but give him a second, closer look.

"Your taste is seriously..." Before he could finish what he was saying, a sudden realization struck Du Xiangyang and he shut his mouth.

Du Xiangyang quickly thought about the matter and understood that Qin Lie didn't want to help Xing Shengnan because she was a woman. He wanted to help her because she truly thought of him as her little brother, and in recent days, had clearly shown how

genuine her concern for him was.

That was all.

Upon looking at Qin Lie once more, Du Xiangyang wore a complicated expression and couldn't help but inwardly nod in understanding.

Floating in the air, Xing Yumiao sighed. That sigh contained a hint of loneliness.

"Why, Big Brother Xiang? Why have you done this?" he asked. "I truly miss the days we shared back then. When the three great families hunted us Xing siblings and cornered us, we sought your help and hid in Gold Sun Island. You were the one who gave us a home. It was thanks to your care that the three of us were able to set foot on Gold Sun Island.

"We fought many forces for the sake of Gold Sun Island. With our combined efforts, not only did Gold Sun Island escape the oppression of the Pan Family, it even became a Copper rank force capable of standing amidst the surrounding forces as an equal.

"You were a noble person of unquestionable integrity, Big Brother Xiang. You insisted on giving us the positions of island masters so us Xing siblings could lead Gold Sun Island."

"……"

Xing Yumiao paused for a moment, clearly reminiscing about the past.

“I have always been grateful to you, Big Brother Xiang,” he eventually said. “I never thought you would do something like this.”

He gave Xiang Xi a deeply profound look and said, “If you truly want to be Gold Sun Island’s island master, Big Brother Xiang, you can just say so. I, Xing Yumiao, am willing to surrender it to you.”

“Big brother!” Xing Yuyuan exclaimed. “Have you gone insane?”

“Big brother!” Xing Shengnan cried out from below.

“Cease your hypocrisy!” Xiang Xi suddenly yelled.

All eyes turned toward him.

“If you truly felt grateful to me, you would’ve left a long time ago, in secret. Why would you have waited until this very moment?” Xiang Xi snorted coldly, then continued. “Yes, my talent doesn’t compare to that of you Xing siblings. I admit that I’m inferior to you. When I led Gold Sun Island, it was just a Black Iron rank force under the Pan Family’s control. Thanks to the three of you, Gold Sun Island is able to enjoy what it has today. I’m well aware of how outstanding your achievements are and that you do deserve to be island masters!”

“But?” Xing Yuyuan sneered.

“I created Gold Sun Island!” Xiang Xi yelled, pointing to Xu Changsheng and Xu Jiadong. “I, Old Xu, and Jiadong risked our lives to conquer Gold Sun Island and raise it to glory! What I don’t understand is… how Gold Sun Island suddenly became the Xing Family’s!”

“I just told you I would relinquish control over Gold Sun Island,” Xing Yumiao said solemnly.

“No, you won’t.” Xiang Xi shook his head. “Not only will you not give up control, you just can’t! I know you, and I know what you’re trying to do.”

Xing Yumiao frowned.

Looking deep within himself, he realized that Xiang Xi was right. He couldn’t give up Gold Sun Island. He would at most take the Xing Family and his subordinates and leave Gold Sun Island.

But doing that would be no different from taking away the very core of Gold Sun Island. He would be taking the elites and the people that made it… it.

The only thing he’d leave Xiang Xi and his men was an incomplete Gold Sun Island—a force that would fall back to Black Iron rank.

“I know about your plan to kill your way back to the Heavenly Calamity Continent and slaughter the every last member of the three great families.” Xiang Xi frowned. “I know you want to take revenge for the Xing Family’s destruction from a thousand years ago. You’ve spent a large amount of resources in the past few years sending men there and making preparations. I know what you’re trying to do.”

A dark expression covered Xing Yumiao’s face.

—He didn’t bother explaining anything because Xiang Xi spoke the truth.

“I’m not rebelling today because others convinced me to. I’m not even doing this for myself. I’m doing this so that Gold Sun Island will live on!” Xiang Xi exclaimed, his voice gradually growing louder and more spirited. “Fighting against the three great families in the Heavenly Calamity Continent is no different from walking to our own deaths! Victory is impossible! Gold Sun Island would only be buried along with your selfishness and hatred. The Gold Sun Island that my brothers and I risked our lives to create… you’ll destroy it all!

“I’ve chosen to rebel against you because you’ve been blinded by hatred. All you care about it revenge and striking back at the Heavenly Calamity Continent!

“I’ve chosen to rebel against you because your actions are no longer in the best interests of Gold Sun Island. You are acting out of selfishness and concern for just your family!

“I’ve chosen to rebel against you because you are leading Gold Sun Island to its doom!”

Xiang Xi’s words rang loud and clear.

Every martial practitioner loyal to Xiang Xi, such as Xu Changsheng, Xu Jiadong, and many other veterans held their heads high when they heard this.

Everyone on the side of the Xing Family, however, fell silent.

Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, and most of the other martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family came from the Heavenly Calamity Continent. All of them were people that had been harmed by the three great families and were later invited by the Xing brothers to join Gold Sun Island. The reason for this didn’t need to be stated.

Xiang Xi was right.

From the very beginning… from the day that Xing Yumiao stepped foot on Gold Sun Island and began fighting for it… his goal was to borrow this force’s strength to fight his way back to the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

Hearing Xiang Xi’s words, both Xing Yumuiao and Xing Yuyuan wore grim expressions. They had no response.

“The idea of a mere Copper rank force fighting against three Silver rank forces is just wishful thinking,” Xu Changsheng shouted. “You, Xing Yumiao, are a madman!”

“We do not wish to die with you,” Xu Jiadong said.

This was the main reason they decided to stay on Xiang Xi’s side, rebel against the Xing Family, and seize control of Gold Sun Island.

In recent years, the Xing brothers sent many people to assassinate martial practitioners of the three great families. They sometimes slipped into the Heavenly Calamity Continent personally. They had long since attracted the attention of the three great families.

In the eyes of Xiang Xi’s men, the Xing brothers had already gone insane.

Xiang Xi decided to rebel during this voyage because the three great families had already figured out what the Xing brothers had done and even took the initiative to seek Xiang Xi out personally.

The three great families had two choices.

They could either assist Xiang Xi in eliminating the Xing brothers and ending Gold Sun Island’s internal strife. By doing that, they’d be able to avoid a breakdown in relations with Illusory Demon Sect and starting a war to the death...

—or they could risk completely destroying relations with Illusory Demon Sect and eliminate the threat that Xing Family and Gold Sun Island represented.

Xiang Xi didn't have much of a choice, and this one was one he hadn't wanted to make.

Because he understood Xing Yumiao. He knew that once Xing Yumiao made a decision, there would be no way to stop him.

If Xing Yumiao didn't die here, he'd still ignore all the consequences and fight the three great families to death all the same.

He would lead Gold Sun Island to a bitter end.

This was why Xing Yumiao needed to die.

Chapter 588: A Surprising Turn of Events!

“Is this Xiang Xi telling the truth?”

From their wooden building in the crook of one of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix’s wings, Du Xiangyang wore a surprised expression as he rubbed his chin and watched Xiang Xi off in the distance.

He realized that he needed to take another look at the person called Xiang Xi.

Du Xiangyang wasn’t the only one thinking this. Even Qin Lie wore a look of astonishment as his brow slowly furrowed.

Qin Lie thought of Xiang Xi as stubborn, opinionated, arrogant, conceited, and recklessly ambitious. In his opinion, Xiang Xi had no redeeming qualities whatsoever.

Yet, after hearing Xiang Xi’s side of things, the image of the man that Qin Lie had in his head underwent a drastic change.

If Xiang Xi really was telling the truth about Xing Yumiao using Gold Sun Island’s resources just to plot against the three great families... if Xing Yumiao was sending men to the Heavenly Calamity Continent to assassinate members of the three great families, and even personally carrying assassinations himself... then yes, Xing Yumiao actually had been quite reckless.

Gold Sun Island was just a Copper rank force. If the Xiahou, Su, or Lin families ever decided that Gold Sun Island needed to be regarded as a target to exterminate with extreme prejudice, then Gold Sun Island would quickly meet its end.

Xing Yumiao was the one who constantly provoked them. Even Illusory Demon Sect might not necessarily be able to defend Gold Sun Island.

If this were the case, Xing Yumiao's actions were definitely problematic and extremely detrimental to Gold Sun Island.

If Xiang Xi wanted to protect Gold Sun Island, making sure it continued to exist by opposing Xing Yumiao's madness, then he really couldn't be blamed for rebelling.

Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment, then smiled. "This is getting more and more interesting..."

"It certainly is more interesting than I thought it'd be," Luo Chen chimed in, his interest piqued.

"Why are you wasting so much of your breath on the Xing brothers, Chief Enforcer?" Bo Boze asked grimly, the first among the rebels to grow impatient. "The Xing Family needs to be eliminated or they'll kill all of us once this is over! It isn't like you don't understand how ruthless they are. Do you really think they'll turn over a new leaf? That they'll surrender just like that?"

Bo Boze paused to glance at the water below, then added, “Besides… it’s too late to turn back now.”

He was well aware of the fact that experts of Heavenly Sea Pavilion and Black Cloud Palace were hiding under the sea. The second Xiang Xi gave the order, they’d immediately charge out and slaughter the Xing Family.

Aside from them, experts of the three great families were probably nearby as well, observing in secret.

Xiang Xi needed to prove himself and eliminate all of the Xing Family clansmen here.

“I’m curious, Bo Boze. Just where are you from?” Xing Yumiao asked, a grave expression on his face. “You aren’t an elder of Gold Sun Island. After obtaining Big Brother Xiang’s trust fifteen years ago, you joined Gold Sun Island. Your son attempted to… humiliate and rape Yao’er, and I believe that crushing his family jewels was already an act of mercy! Furthermore, I imprisoned Yao’er for a long time even after that matter concluded. How are you still not satisfied with that outcome?”

“How could I possibly have been satisfied with just that?” Bo Boze hissed like a venomous snake whose tail had just been stomped on. He glared at Xing Yumiao, hate gushing from his eyes as he yelled, “Your daughter is a whore! She’s the one who purposely seduced my son and made him lose control of himself just so she would have an excuse to ruin his life! How could such an outcome possibly satisfy me? Unless I kill all of the Xing Family and have that whore Xing Yao kneel before my son and beg for his

forgiveness, I'll never be satisfied!"

"You're the whore! Your entire family is full of whores!" Xing Yao screamed at the top of her lungs.

The Xing brothers could no longer tolerate Bo Boze's vicious words.

"I'll kill you first!" Xing Yumiao shouted.

A golden spear suddenly shot from within his sleeves, its tip burning with bright golden flames as it stabbed toward Bo Boze like a ferocious dragon that had just left its lair.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh...!"

Clusters of golden sparks flew from the body of the spear, making it look like a magnificent golden dragon swimming in a sea of shimmering flames.

This sudden attack caused shock to leap to Bo Boze's face. He rushed toward Xiang Xi, seeking his protection.

He and Xiang Xi were both in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. Xing Yumiao's attack, which contained his late stage Fragmentation Realm strength, wouldn't pose a problem if they worked together to block it.

If they could buy even a moment of time and allow Xiang Xi to summon their reinforcements hiding in the surroundings, the Xing brothers would definitely meet an unfortunate end.

“Come to me!” Xiang Xi yelled.

A five meter tall bronze cauldron with three feet appeared before Xiang Xi. Giant threatening pythons were engraved into its metal, and five colors of smoke that seemed extremely toxic surrounded its mouth.

“Zzzt zzzt zzzt!”

Giant dark blue pythons writhed across the surface of the cauldron like sparks of electricity. All of them unleashed a strange collective cry as if they all came alive at the same time.

In that same instant, a violent, fearsome energy exploded from within the giant cauldron, and it rammed toward Xing Yumiao’s golden spear.

This sight made Bo Boze secretly sigh in relief.

However, as he stopped in midair and moved to brandish his own spirit artifact, intent on working with this giant cauldron to oppose Xing Yumiao’s attack—

—a surprising turn of events occurred!

The giant bronze cauldron with three feet, which was supposed to fly past Bo Boze and ram Xing Yumiao, changed directions in midair. Its strange movements brought it toward Bo Boze and slammed into him instead!

Catching him completely off guard, the force of the cauldron cracked Bo Boze's bones and covered his entire face with his own blood.

Then the golden spear flew over.

"Pwack!"

The spear pierced straight through Bo Boze, leaving a gaping hole in his stomach.

"Xiang Xiiiii!" Bo Boze howled, locking onto the chief enforcer with an intense glare. Never had he dreamed that his life would end in such a way.

"Heavens!" Du Xiangyang cried. "What in Spirit Realm is going on!?"

Qin Lie shuddered suddenly, also stunned by this strange twist.

The rest of the group that had escaped from the Graveyard of Gods with him was also utterly confused by this surprising turn of

events. Their eyes seemed as if they could form question marks.

"Could the Xing brothers have teamed up with Xiang Xi to kill Bo Boze?" Xue Moyan asked, her eyes alight. "Maybe they did this so they could deal with the people hiding under the sea?"

"That seems very likely!" Song Tingyu grew excited as well. "Who would have thought that the situation would change yet again? Today's spectacle continues to grow more interesting!"

Enforcers Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing, as well as the Xing Family clansmen and other martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family, also stared at the sky blankly.

Xing Shengnan suspected the same thing that Xue Moyan did. "Could big brother and Xiang Xi have…"

She thought that Xiang Xi and Xing Yumiao had come to a secret understanding a short while ago.

However, when everyone looked at Xing Yumiao, they immediately realized that probably wasn't the case.

—That probably wasn't the case because shock also covered Xing Yumiao's face.

"Big Brother Xiang," he said. "You…?"

Xing Yumiao turned and looked to Xing Yuyuan. After a moment of hesitation, he tentatively asked, “Did you come to an understanding with Big Brother Xiang?”

Xing Yuyuan shook his head, a bitter smile on his face. “If I really had come to an understanding with him, would I hide it from you? I don’t know what’s going on either.”

Xiang Xi snorted.

“I investigated Bo Boze quite a while ago,” he said. “He was a member of the Pan Family. Ever since he joined Gold Sun Island, he sowed discord among our ranks and constantly tried to persuade me to attack the two of you. His hatred for you was as deep as the sea, and he planned to kill every Xing Family clansman. For many years, we lost many men whenever we clashed with the Pan Family because he leaked information to them. I killed him for you because he deserved to die, not because I had a change of heart. I eliminated Bo Boze to take revenge for my dead brothers and keep him from becoming a thorn in my side in the future!”

Xiang Xi looked at Xing Yao who stood on the ship below them. If one were to look closely enough, they’d notice a hint of gentleness in his eyes.

“I stood by Bo Boze back then and forced your father to imprison you for more than half a year… for your own sake.”

Xing Yao couldn’t think of what to say for a very long time.

An eternity later, she eventually spoke in a soft voice and said, “Thank you, Uncle Xiang.”

“You haven’t called me that in many, many years,” Xiang Xi said, letting out a sigh. “I don’t think I’ll ever hear you call me that in the future… since I’m still going to kill your father, your uncle, and your aunt.”

As he watched Xiang Xi, a thought appeared in Qin Lie’s mind.

—Just what kind of person was he?

Qin Lie had already figured out that Xiang Xi’s promise to capture Xing Yao and have her service him had just been a way to pull the wool over Bo Boze’s eyes.

Although it was extremely well hidden, a hint of kinship could be seen in Xiang Xi’s eyes as he looked at Xing Yao. Qin Lie believed that Xiang Xi would never hurt Xing Yao.

He began to realize that Xiang Xi, a person who had built Gold Sun Island from the ground up, accepted the Xing siblings, and surrendered his power at a critical moment for the greater good, possessed a unique charisma.

Qin Lie slowly came to understand why Xu Changsheng, Xu Jiadong, and so many veteran Gold Sun Island martial practitioners trusted Xiang Xi so much. He gradually realized why they were so determined and willing to accompany Xiang Xi on his

path of rebellion.

Xiang Xi... was a man that others could trust.

“Big Brother Xiang, I...” Xing Yumiao’s voice trailed off, a complicated look on his face. He clearly still wanted to try and persuade Xiang Xi to give up this rebellion.

However, Xiang Xi had already begun calling for the reinforcements hiding under the sea.

“Come out!” he roared.

Only then did he look at Xing Yumiao. After a moment of contemplation, he said, “I’m different from Bo Boze. I do not act purely out of hatred, selfishness, or the desire to exterminate the Xing Family to the last man. I’ve promised others and convinced myself to take only the lives of three people: you, Xing Yuyuan, and Xing Shengnan. As for the rest of the Xing Family clansmen and... Yaoyao... I will allow them to leave Gold Sun Island once this matter has been resolved.”

All of a sudden, a heavy, droning voice reverberated from under the sea.

“You truly are an inflexible person, Xiang Xi. If you let these Xing Family clansmen go, more of them will pop up a hundred years from now. None of them will feel grateful to you. They will only seek your death.”

Everyone turned to look at the person who had spoken. He had already burst from the surface of the sea and flown into the sky.

This man wore gray robes covered in patterns that resembled dark clouds. His skin was dark, and his eyes were terrifying.

Numerous Xing Family clansmen and Gold Sun Island martial practitioners cried out in shock.

“It’s Black Cloud Palace’s palace master… Zheng Zhihe!”

Multiple willow-leaf-shaped boats gradually appeared on the surface of the sea. Each of them carried martial practitioners dressed like Zheng Zhihe. All of them were Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners.

“If you cut weeds without digging up their roots, they will just grow back when the spring breeze blows. You must understand this saying, don’t you, Old Xiang?”

Another person emerged from the sea.

This person wore clothing with patterns of waves embroidered into them. They were tall, had rough features, and stood atop the waves.

This was none other than Jiang Hao, the pavilion master of

Heavenly Sea Pavilion.

After he emerged, several Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners rose from under the water one after another.

Chapter 589: Leave None Alive!

Black Cloud Palace's palace master Zheng Zhihe and Heavenly Sea Pavilion's pavilion master Jiang Hao emerged from the depths of the ocean and shot into the air.

At the same time, with the loss of support from his spirit energy, Bo Boze's corpse plunged into the sea with a small splash.

"Zheng Zhihe! Jiang Hao!" Xing Yuyuan exclaimed coldly, a grim expression on his face. "How dare you conspire with Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion, Xiang Xi! Have you ever considered what Illusory Demon Sect would do with you once they found out about this?"

Xing Yumiao had fallen silent when Zheng Zhihe and Jiang Hao emerged from the sea. He currently wore a solemn expression.

He understood that Xiang Xi had made up his mind.

"We agreed that we would only kill the Xing siblings... that I'd be the one to deal with the rest!" Xiang Xi glared at the two men.

"And we're fine with that, of course..." Zheng Zhihe said, calm and indifferent. "Our problem with the Xing brothers is entirely based on conflicting interests. We neither hate them nor intend to slaughter all of their clansmen. However..."

His voice trailed off as he and Jiang Hao looked at the sea below.

“Whether or not the others will show such generosity is a completely different question.”

Xiang Xi frowned and looked at the sea as well.

A thin man with gray and white hair that seemed to be around fifty or sixty years old suddenly appeared on a Sword Leaf Boat.

That man looked up at Xiang Xi, his voice rough and faint as he said, “Every direct descendant of the Xing Family must be slaughtered. Branch family members may live, but they must have their realms crippled so that they will never again be able to cultivate!”

The instant this man appeared, Xing Yumiao’s and Xing Yuyuan’s eyes went crimson with anger and madness.

“Xiahou Sheng!” they roared.

Aboard the ship, Xing Shengnan looked at this person. Her entire body trembled, and her eyes shone with bone-deep hatred.

“When we last met, not killing you three along with your youngest brother was my biggest mistake,” Xiahou Sheng said, his face icy cold. “Today, I have come to rectify that!”

Xiahou Sheng was the one responsible for hunting down Xing

Family descendants forty years ago, but he had only managed to kill the youngest of the Xing siblings. He had allowed Xing Yumiao, Xing Yuyuan, and Xing Shengnan to escape.

Forty years ago, the Xing siblings had only been in the early and middle stages of the Netherpassage Realm. Time passed in the blink of an eye, and now the three were in the Fragmentation Realm.

Xing Yumiao had even reached the peak of the Fragmentation Realm and was just one step away from the Nirvana Realm. He was basically as strong as Xiahou Sheng.

Xiahou Sheng felt deeply threatened by this.

If Xing Yumiao continued to improve and managed to enter the Nirvana Realm, not even Xiahou Sheng would be a match for him. He posed a serious threat to the Xiahou Family.

“Kill him, big brother!” Xing Shengnan wailed from the ship, her voice filled with pain. “Kill him now!”

Since the Xing brothers had instantly become enraged the moment Xiahou Sheng showed up, they didn’t hesitate. They immediately tore through the air, fiercely stabbing toward Xiahou Sheng like two sharp swords.

They hated Xiahou Sheng to the very core of their beings!

In that instant, Xiahou Sheng looked at Xiang Xi, Zheng Zhihe, and Jiang Hao, snorting coldly.

“What are you waiting for?” he asked.

The three of them trembled, immediately brandishing their spirit artifacts and howling to summon their subordinates.

Three martial practitioners, all of whom were in the Fragmentation Realm, rose to join Xiang Xi, Zheng Zhihe, and Jiang Hao in the air. This reinforced group then charged toward the Xing brothers.

Although Xing Shengnan was supposed to stay on the Wavebreaker, she shot into the sky without hesitation.

Xiahou Sheng slowly floated in the air, his dark, icy eyes surveying the surroundings.

“All Xing Family clansmen that belong to branch families and people loosely related to the Xing Family!” he yelled. “You will be allowed to live if you stand by, watch, and destroy your own realms! If not, all of you will be killed without exception!” “

He then pointed at Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing.

“Your ancestors had close ties to Blood Fiend Sect, so you two must die as well!”

Burning flames and shimmering ice immediately filled the skies above the Setting Sun Islands. Beams of spirit energy surged into the air as potent clashes of power created terrifying explosions of sound.

Xing Yumiao brought swathes of golden flame surging into existence, swinging his golden spear and transforming the flames into a brilliant sea of fire.

His golden spirit armor made him look powerful and fearless.

Xing Yuyuan took out a fan made of refined steel and channeled his spirit energy into it, using it to conjure lifelike spirit birds. The birds flapped their wings and released long shrieks, forming tiny tornadoes in front of their wings and shooting them into the enemy's ranks.

Hurtling through the sky, Xiang Xi, Zheng Zhihe, Jiang Hao, and three other Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners collectively attacked the Xing brothers.

The giant dark blue pythons engraved into Xiang Xi's enormous bronze cauldron hissed, spitting out wisps of green smoke. This smoke held potent energy that had the power to erode flesh and blood.

Zheng Zhihe, palace master of Black Cloud Palace, laughed loudly as he used pitch black flags brimming with dark, cold evil energy to lock down the area with clusters of black clouds.

Jiang Hao, pavilion master of Heavenly Sea Pavilion, assumed a sitting position in midair, the spirit energy around him condensing into a tidal wave that flooded toward the Xing brothers.

The other three Fragmentation Realm experts with them fired countless shards of ice that transformed into a freezing storm. They used it to assault the Xing brothers, surrounding them with its stinging energy.

Surprisingly, Xiahou Sheng didn't do anything but rise into the air in a slow, calm manner.

"Xiahou Sheng!" Xing Shengnan bellowed from below. "Your despicable life is mine!"

She resembled a tiger whose eyes gushed with the fire of hatred, gripping her axes and savagely swinging them at Xiahou Sheng.

A dazzling river of spirit energy formed as the axes swung downwards. It contained a shocking amount of power and seemed terrifyingly sharp, as if it could split the heavens and the earth.

Xiahou Sheng frowned as he slowly floated up into the sky, then thrust a hand toward Xing Shengnan.

His hand swelled to an unbelievable size, and a wave of heat rushed from his palm.

“Graaaauugh!”

A scarlet Kui ox charged out of Xiahou Sheng’s enormous hand with a tremendous roar, heading directly for Xing Shengnan. As it did, the ox fearlessly spat a sanguine tongue of flame at Xing Shengnan’s double axe attack.

Xing Shengnan’s river of spirit energy split the scarlet Kui ox and its sanguine flame in half. However, they still managed to strike both of her arms.

This brought her roaring charge to a sudden halt. Both halves of the Kui ox shrouded her arms and burned like sanguine flames.

Xing Shengnan seemed to lose every bit of her strength. Her bulky body plummeted into the sea with a heavy splash.

Xiahou Sheng looked down at where she fell and snorted coldly. He then nodded at a man standing on the water’s surface.

That man’s realm was incredible, and he wore clothing that identified him as a member of Black Cloud Palace. He acknowledged Xiahou Sheng with a smile then instructed the people around him in a soft voice.

“Move out,” he said. “Kill all of them.”

“What about branch family members and others related to the Xing Family?” a Black Cloud Palace martial practitioner asked in

astonishment.

“Leave none alive!” the man exclaimed softly.

“Understood.”

Crystalline war chariots and nimble Sword Leaf Boats immediately moved out. They headed for the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix, the Wavebreaker, and the other ship that the Xing Family controlled.

From their wooden building on the fire phoenix’s wing, Qin Lie stared at the part of the sea where Xing Shengnan had fallen, a somber expression on his face.

“She isn’t going to die that easily,” Xie Jingxuan said. She knew what Qin Lie was worried about, so she spoke up accordingly. “She may look fat, but she possesses incredibly powerful life energy.”

Not long after Xie Jingxuan spoke, Xing Shengnan’s bulky figure emerged from the sea as expected.

Traces of despair and sadness flashed through her small eyes as she looked up into the sky.

“Aunt! Are you okay?” Xing Yao cried out to Xing Shengnan who floated in the water beside the Wavebreaker.

“Watch out, third island master!” Guo Yanzheng shouted.

At that moment, multiple Sword Leaf Boats crowded with Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners approached her. Those martial practitioners took out their spirit artifacts and attacked her mercilessly.

Prismatic rays of light, bolts of lightning, and blazing flames merged washed over Xing Shengnan like a sea of light.

The moment she resurfaced, Xing Shengnan immediately realized she had become the target of every enemy nearby.

Panic filled her face as she faced attacks from every direction. She had no choice but to sink back into the sea to avoid them.

“Ignore her,” the man ordered in a relaxed tone and waved a hand. “Kill the Xing Family clansmen first.”

All of the Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners thus spread out, and began slaughtering the Xing Family clansmen on the three vehicles that the Xing Family still controlled.

They rushed aboard the fire phoenix, the Wavebreaker, and the other ship, explosions continuously erupting from the vehicles as they slaughtered everyone aboard.

Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan had seen their younger sister fall

into the sea, blood nearly dripping from their eyes. Now they watched their clansmen and trusted subordinates die one after another.

Yet they couldn't do anything to stop the carnage.

—They were too busy keeping themselves alive.

Under the combined assault of six Fragmentation Realm experts, the fact that they'd managed to hold on without being severely injured or killed was already proof of their strength.

They had no energy to spare on helping their clansmen.

The two brothers could smell death approaching. A feeling of despair welled in their chests, one that was even worse than the despair they felt when the three great families hunted them long ago.

Back then, their seniors had been killed one after another while they escaped. Only the three of them survived in the end.

Today, they couldn't escape because they were the seniors. Their daughters, relatives, and trusted subordinates were by their side.

All they could do was fight to the death!

"What should we do? What should we do!?" Xing Yao screamed

from the deck of the ship. She had succumbed to the pressure of the most desperate situation in her entire life.

"All you can do is escape, First Miss! You need to do your best to survive!" Guo Yanzheng yelled and gritted his teeth. "Just like how your father, uncle, and aunt managed to escape from the three great families before, you must be strong today! You must do your best to survive just as they did!"

"B-but..." Xing Yao stammered, tears streaming down her face. "All of the seniors that protected them back then... they died!"

"You need to be strong and face reality, First Miss!" Guo Yanzheng roared. "Today... there is no way the island masters will survive!"

"We'll open a path for you," Qi Jing said hurriedly. "You must do your best to survive and return to Gold Sun Island!"

"I... I'm not leaving," Xing Yao said. "Even if I die, I want to die with aunt... with uncle... with my father."

In spite of their urging, Xing Yao gave up.

She had lost her will to live.

Chapter 590: Stealing Food from the Mouth of a Tiger

“Qin Lie… are you still going to continue waiting?” Xue Moyan asked.

Xue Moyan had been watching from the sidelines for a very long time. After seeing Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion begin their slaughter of the Xing Family, she could no longer suppress herself.

Qin Lie didn’t answer immediately.

He focused his attention on the surface of the sea below, releasing a wisp of mind consciousness and using it to probe the water.

Tiny sparks of electricity flashed through his eyes every so often.

Qin Lie narrowed his eyes. A strange feeling came over him as he discovered that the speed at which he released his soul consciousness was faster than he expected.

An idea suddenly occurred to him, and he had his soul consciousness sink into the depths of the sea like a tentacle. He used it to examine the sea for signs of activity.

He found plankton, fish, and fresh corpses underwater. He could

even clearly sense the fragments of their consciousnesses dissipating.

His soul consciousness reflected all of this into his Soul Lake.

The range of his soul perception was now several times larger than it used to be. Now it could cover a more expansive area!

Qin Lie currently stood atop a Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix at least several hundred meters above the sea... yet he could sense the tiniest of changes in its depths.

“Netherpassage... netherpassage...” Qin Lie muttered to himself, carefully thinking the matter through. “So this is what netherpassage truly means...”

“How much longer do we have to wait?” Xue Moyan hurriedly asked again.

The tiny sparks of electricity in QIn Lie’s eyes slowly faded. He cast a sideways glance at Xue Moyan and said, “You guys should stay here. We can’t be careless just yet, so I’ll be the first to go down there.”

“You’re going down there?” Song Tingyu asked in surprise.

Black Cloud Palace and Sea Pavilion were currently engaged in pitched battle with the Xing Family. Countless martial practitioners were going to die in this fight.

The possibility of something happening to Qin Lie or him getting accidentally injured was extremely high.

Song Tingyu was worried about him. After a moment of thought, she said, “Let me go with you.”

“No need, just stay here!” Qin Lie shook his head, a smile on his face. “I’m a meddler, so I naturally know how to protect myself. Don’t worry!”

Qin Lie immediately left the wooden building and leaped onto a crystalline war chariot, preventing them from trying to persuade him any further.

He had long since memorized how to control such a chariot. The moment he entered the war chariot, it roared to life and swiftly descended from the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Song Tingyu gritted her teeth. “That bastard!”

“Relax!” Du Xiangyang said lazily, clearly not worried about Qin Lie at all. “There’s no way he’ll get hurt. Xiang Xi probably told Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Pavilion about Qin Lie’s ‘backer.’ That Xiahou Sheng should know too.”

“You mean Terminator Sect?” Luo Chen asked in surprise.

“Hahahah! Of course I’m talking about Terminator Sect. You couldn’t possibly be thinking that Blood Fiend Sect would influence them in any way, right?” Du Xiangyang smiled and glanced at Xue Moyan. Then he calmly said, “Blood Fiend Sect in its current state is nothing to be afraid of, after all. Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families are particularly aware of that.”

“Would they really yield to him because of Terminator Sect?” Song Tingyu asked, somewhat shocked.

“They believe that Forefather Terminator is Qin Lie’s backer,” Du Xiangyang said, an easygoing expression on his face. “Heh... in all of the Land of Chaos, not many people would dare to offend him.”

Only after Du Xiangyang explained this did Song Tingyu finally relax.

“That being said...” Du Xiangyang continued. “I’m pretty sure that Qin Lie is planning to butt heads with those people, so...”

Frowns returned to everyone’s faces as his voice trailed off.

Around a hundred crystalline chariots glowed with impressive translucent light, making them look like enormous crystal lamps in the sky. They rumbled as they descended upon the Xing brothers’ Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Explosions reverberated from that flying spirit artifact, and it

immediately erupted in flames.

Many Xing Family clansmen and Gold Sun Island martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family had already begun engaging the enemy.

At the same time, numerous Sword Leaf Boats surrounded the Wavebreaker where Xing Yao and the others were. Chains shot from boats and smashed into the ship, tethering them tightly. Figures then disembarked from the boats, using those chains to climb aboard.

Guo Yanzheng took a deep breath. “Are you certain you don’t want to leave, First Miss?”

He and Qi Jing had already made up their minds to grievously wound or kill any enemies that came at them even if they died in the process..

“Yes, I’m certain.” Xing Yao’s face was pale. Despair now occupied her originally bright eyes. “I am not my father, my uncle, or my aunt. I am not talented at cultivating, nor do I have impressive skills. Even if I manage to barely survive this, I won’t be able to revive the Xing Family or avenge them by fighting the three great families. In light of that, I might as well die with everyone.”

“I see that you aren’t completely oblivious, Miss Xing.”

A derisive voice echoed from a corner of the deck. A youth leading a group of Black Cloud Palace experts walked over.

This youth was called Zheng Yun and was none other than the youngest son of Black Cloud Palace's palace master. He was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm, only one step away from the Fulfillment Realm.

"Back off!" a Xing Family clansman shouted angrily, attacking Zheng Yun with glittering silver daggers that looked like dense fish scales.

"Watch out, young palace master!" a person behind Zheng Yun cried out.

"Haha!" Zheng Yun laughed as a giant pitch black flag suddenly emerged from the back of his neck.

Black clouds covered this pitch black flag. It radiated cold spirit energy.

"Whoosh!"

A strange humanoid spirit beast suddenly appeared atop the giant flag. It was pitch black and had tentacles all over its body.

This spirit beast seemed as if it had been imprisoned within the black flag for years. When it saw the shower of silver daggers flying toward it, it trembled violently, using its tentacles like

whips and lashing at the incoming assault.

The dozen or so daggers shattered as soon as the tentacles struck them. Not a single one of them hit Zheng Yun.

The enormous black flag roared, engulfing the Xing Family clansman like a cluster of black clouds.

“Krak! K-krak!”

After a series of disturbing noises rang through the air, blood dripped from the flag.

Before that Xing Family clansman could even scream, the demonic spirit beast within that enormous flag actually consumed him.

The entire time this took place, Zheng Yun hadn’t even bothered to look at his victim. He laughed loudly and walked straight toward Xing Yao.

“Long time no see,” he said.

Xing Yao’s face was pale.

“My father once attempted to repair the relationship between our Black Cloud Palace and your Gold Sun Island through a political marriage. Back then, he told me to marry you and take

you back to Black Cloud Palace." Zheng Yun sighed. He then regretfully said, "It's unfortunate that you don't consider me marriage material."

The Black Cloud Palace elders standing behind him wore sinister smiles on their faces.

"Young palace master!" one of them said. "You can still marry her and make her your bride for one night! Hehehe!"

All of the Fulfilment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace began laughing and wickedly, voicing their agreement.

Their words made Xing Yao's pretty face twist in anger and shame. "Zheng Yun! Even if doing so means immediate death, I refuse to do as you wish!"

"Oh! Oh no. Please, don't. Don't be angry!" Zheng Yun exclaimed in pretend panic. "I couldn't possibly let you die, could I?

"Heheh! Even if you have to die, you should die after everyone else does, right?" Dropping the act, Zheng Yun looked behind him and viciously said, "Starting with Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing, kill everyone but Miss Xing!"

The moment he gave this order, Black Cloud Palace's elders immediately charged toward the Xing Family clansmen, ferociously beginning their bloody work.

At nearly the same time, Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners had climbed aboard the other ship and begun their slaughter.

“Bang!”

A crystalline war chariot suddenly plunged from the sky and crashed between the martial practitioners of Black Cloud Palace and the Xing Family clansmen.

The terrifying impact shattered that section of the tough wooden deck and sent bits of wood flying.

The people near Zheng Yun couldn’t help but cover their faces to avoid the sharp debris.

“Who goes there?” Zheng Yun yelled coldly.

“It’s that boy who pretended to be a member of the Xing Family!” Qi Jing exclaimed in astonishment.

Qin Lie jumped from the war chariot as wood scattered across the deck, suddenly appearing beside Xing Yao and Guo Yanzheng.

Qin Lie flashed a bright smile and nodded at Zheng Yun politely, saying, “Xiang Xi promised to have this little bitch service me. I’m quite sorry about this, but you wouldn’t take what I was promised, would you?”

“Who are you?” Zheng Yun frowned slightly.

A yellow-faced Black Cloud Palace elder moved closer to Zheng Yun, a meaningful look in his eyes, and whispered to him. “This person is a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator. Within Terminator Sect, he’s even more important than that Chu Li.”

Obvious fear leaked from Zheng Yun’s eyes.

Qin Lie grinned at the Black Cloud palace martial practitioners, casually fishing a couple of Terminator Profound Bombs from his spatial ring and playing with them.

Dense sparks of electricity coursed through these metallic balls. The ferocious thunder energy they contained was extremely shocking.

“Terminator Profound Bombs!”

All the Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners and Xing Family clansmen cried out at the same time. The faces of everyone on both sides turned ugly.

Zheng Yun hastily put on a smile. “Haha... brother, what are you...?”

Qin Lie nodded and winked at Zheng Yun, saying, “You

understand, right?”

Zheng Yun had no choice but to maintain the smile on his face. Although this turn of events depressed him, he obediently set the delicious piece of meat in his mouth back down.

“A gentleman doesn’t take what isn’t theirs,” he said. “Since Enforcer Xiang already promised Xing Yao to you, I can only resign myself and part with her.”

After learning of Qin Lie’s “true” identity, no matter how much he wanted to obtain Xing Yao, Zheng Yun had no choice but to give her up.

Black Cloud Palace was just a Copper rank force. In fact, just to survive up to this point, they had to attach themselves to Black Voodoo Cult. Compared to Terminator Sect, a force who controlled the entire Heavenly Silence Continent alone, Black Cloud Palace was nothing at all.

He believed that Qin Lie was the direct disciple of Terminator Forefather. He would have to be crazy to try and snatch what Qin Lie wanted.

“Thank you!” Qin Lie saluted Zheng Yun pretentiously, clasping a fist with a palm.

All of a sudden, Xing Yao exploded and pounced at Qin Lie like a madwoman.

“I’ll kill you!” she shrieked.

She hated Qin Lie even more than she hated Zheng Yun. This fake Xing Family clansman had sown so much discord amongst her people and pushed her to the limit again and again. Now that he was going to take her for himself, Xing Yao could no longer tolerate him for even one second more.

But she was only in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

She said it herself: her talent in cultivating was ordinary, and her skills were average at best. He strength was nothing impressive.

She was absolutely harmless to Qin Lie.

Qin Lie simply smiled and watched Xing Yao take a stance that resembled a bird, her eyes shining with bone-deep hatred. A chirping sound echoed through the air, and spirit energy gushed from her palm, taking the form of an ethereal emerald bird.

“Riiip!”

The ethereal bird swiped at Qin Lie’s chest, tearing his clothes and leaving deep indentations on his skin.

However, the attack couldn’t even break through his skin.

Making a pulling gesture in front of him, Qin Lie pulled Xing Yao to his side and summoned countless chains of lightning into existence. They wrapped around Xing Yao, restraining her.

Just like that, Xing Yao was instantly subdued.

Chapter 591: You Are My Big Sister

“Even if I die, I’ll come back and haunt you!”

Restrained by chains of lightning, Xing Yao gritted her teeth and stared at Qin Lie with unbridled hatred.

The sight of Qin Lie actually daring to capture Xing Yao made Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing go blind with rage.

At this moment, neither enforcer cared whether Blood Fiend Sect or Forefather Terminator stood behind Qin Lie. They were going to kill him then and there.

Zheng Yun laughed loudly. “You have a truly amazing temper, brother. I really am impressed.”

Following his earlier order to kill Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing, the Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners behind Zheng Yun immediately rushed forward.

Two martial practitioners instantly intercepted the two enforcers, both pairs possessing similar levels of strength. The rest of the Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners attacked the other Xing Family clansmen.

Xing Yao couldn’t move an inch.

All she could do was watch the enemy overwhelm the clansmen and elders that cared for her.

It looked as if her eyes were about to spit fire.

“You never thought you’d experience a day like this, did you, Miss Xing?” Qin Lie said in a mocking tone.

The battle had progressed to the point where the Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan flew through the sky, drenched with blood. Countless crystalline war chariots bombarded the martial practitioners aboard their Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix. Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners had surrounded the Wavebreaker, and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners had surrounded the other ship that the Xing Family still controlled. Aboard those ships, every person on the Xing Family’s side died one after another.

Explosions and screams continuously echoed throughout this territory that belonged to Gold Sun Island.

Truth be told, Gold Sun Island wasn’t weaker than Black Cloud Palace or Heavenly Sea Pavilion. Xing Yumiao was just as powerful as Zheng Zhihe or Jiang Hao.

Unfortunately, Xiang Xi’s rebellion weakened Gold Sun Island considerably. Both Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan were forced to face an encirclement of Fragmentation Realm experts, including Zheng Zhihe and Jiang Hao who were both at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm.

In addition to that, Xiahou Sheng hovered off to the side of that encirclement, watching the Xing brothers like a hawk. He was ready to join the fray at any moment to prevent them from escaping.

Nearly thirty other Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners in the Fulfillment Realm were positioned nearby. They wielded conch-shaped spirit artifacts that disturbed the spirit energy in the area each time they blew them. The chaotic spatial fluctuations they caused prevented the Xing brothers from using an escape art.

Gold Sun Island had suffered an internal schism. Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion had sent out all of their experts, and Xiahou Family martial practitioners had blended into their ranks as well.

Regardless of how anyone looked at this situation… this time, the Xing Family had no way to escape death.

Zheng Yun, having nothing else to do, couldn't help but speak to Qin Lie.

"Brother!" he said with a smile. "About that girl… could you pass her to me once you've finished playing with her?"

"I'll haunt you after I die!" Xing Yao shrieked.

“Why don’t you commit suicide then?” Qin Lie asked, an indifferent expression on his face. “I’ve restrained your body and paralyzed your meridians to keep your from gathering spirit energy, but you can still talk. This means that you can still move your mouth. You can bite off your tongue and kill yourself whenever you want.”

“B-brother!” Zheng Yun hastily exclaimed, his voice filled with anxiety. “Quickly! Paralyze her tongue! It’ll be boring if she actually kills herself!”

“How I want to toy with her is my choice. You don’t have the right to tell me what to do!” Qin Lie’s face darkened.

Zheng Yun laughed awkwardly in response. “Haha… my mistake. Me and my big mouth…”

Even though Qin Lie openly scolded him, Zheng Yun didn’t dare to lose his calm. He was wary of Qin Lie’s identity, so he simply fell silent.

“You can bite your tongue off and kill yourself!” Qin Lie continued coldly, turning his attention back to Xing Yao. “I guarantee that I won’t stop you!”

All of a sudden, the harsh look in Xing Yao’s eyes slowly faded. She seemed as if she had lost every ounce of strength within her.

In spite of how she kept yelling about haunting Qin Lie after

dying, a strange expression leaped to her face.

“I... I can’t believe I don’t even have the courage to commit suicide...” she mumbled.

It was only then that she realized how terrified of death she was.

She didn’t want to die. She didn’t have the courage.

The moment she realized this, she even lost the courage to taunt her enemies.

A dazed expression came over her as she muttered to herself.

“I’m afraid,” she said. “I’m so afraid of losing everything...””

“You’re just a pretty flower that’s always been under your father’s protection.” Qin Lie shook his head disdainfully as he coldly ridiculed her. “You’ve never experienced true hardship. Of course you wouldn’t have the resolve to face death.”

Xing Yao didn’t say anything in response. She knew he was right. She didn’t have the courage to do anything.

“Splash!”

In that exact moment, a figure as large as a bear burst out of the

sea and flew into the sky.

It instantly crashed onto the deck.

Hope shone in Xing Yao's eyes once more when she realized who it was.

"Aunt!" she screamed at the top of her lungs. "Help me! Kill this imposter! This spy! Kill him!"

The gaze of everyone on the ship fell upon Xing Shengnan.

The eyes of the three Fulfillment Realm elders standing behind Zheng Yun widened, and they immediately took out their spirit artifacts.

"Hehe... don't worry." Zheng Yun smiled calmly. "She can't do anything."

The three elders examined Xing Shengnan closely. They soon relaxed and chuckled as well.

Xing Shengnan held two giant axes, one in each hand. Blood streamed from the wounds covering her arms and flowed down to her axes.

Bleeding wounds also marred the rest of her large body.

The vigor in her small eyes had already faded. Her eyes now looked dim and lifeless.

“Splash!”

Another figure emerged from the sea and arrived on the deck of the ship as well.

This person wore clothing unique to the Xiahou Family. He appeared to be about fifty years old and wore a savage expression on his face. He held a cold, glittering sword that was drenched with blood.

—All of that blood belonged to Xing Shengnan.

This person was Xiahou Chang, Xiahou Sheng’s younger brother and a martial practitioner in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm like Xing Shengnan.

After Xiahou Sheng injured Xing Shengnan and forced her into the sea, Xiahou Chang ambushed her and succeeded in wounding her too.

Xing Shengnan first emerged from the sea because this man had relentlessly pursued her underwater. She had no choice but to return to the surface.

However, when she did, she encountered the combined assault of Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion, forcing her to dive

back into the sea.

After being forced back underwater, she suffered yet another grievous blow from Xiahou Chang. This blow worsened her condition even further.

Only now did she find an opportunity to rush out of the sea and back onto the deck of the Wavebreaker. She was covered in blood, having spent most of her spirit energy as well.

Yet Xiahou Chang had caught up to her once more. His cold, dark gaze had never left Xing Shengnan. He had been searching for the perfect opportunity to kill her all this time.

Xing Shengnan was bleeding all over, and the giant axes that she normally thought of as light now seemed as heavy as mountains. Her large body trembled continuously.

Anyone could see that she was in extremely terrible condition. Since she could hardly survive Xiahou Chang's relentless pursuit, helping Xing Yao overcome her current situation and killing every enemy here was obviously impossible.

Every enemy present simply found Xing Yao's hope-filled eyes and shouts amusing.

"Big sister..." Qin Lie suddenly exclaimed softly.

A hint of bewilderment flashed through Xing Shengnan's eyes.

She immediately shook out of her stupor and locked eyes with Qin Lie.

“I am not your big sister!” she shouted, her voice filled with pain and sorrow.

“Aunt!” Xing Yao cried, beginning to sob. She lost her composure once more when she realized how much Xing Shengnan had been hurt.

“It’s true that I am not a member of the Xing Family. It is also true that I came to Gold Sun Island with ulterior motives,” Qin Lie said with utmost sincerity. “However, I really do consider you my big sister!”

A short distance away, Guo Yanzheng was about to be forced into a corner, but he still couldn’t help but look at Qin Lie in confusion.

Qin Lie’s declaration also puzzled Black Cloud Palace’s Zheng Yun, who frowned and watched him closely.

“I’m not unlucky enough to have a little brother like you!” Xing Shengnan exclaimed.

“How dare you pretend to be kind at this moment!” Xing Yao screamed. “There’s no way someone like you will die a good death!”

“Brother Zheng Yun, I have something I need to tell you

privately.” Qin Lie smiled and gestured for Zheng Yun to move closer to him.

After a moment of hesitation, Zheng Yun walked toward Qin Lie.

“What is it?” he asked.

At this point in time, Black Cloud Palace had rounded up every Xing Family clansman and martial practitioner loyal to the Xing Family on the ship and forced them into retreat.

The only person still standing nearby was Xing Shengnan.

Xiahou Chang watched her closely. If she made any strange movements, he’d immediately unleash a storm of attacks at her.

Zheng Yun calmly approached Qin Lie until he was two meters away from him. He wasn’t afraid of anything happening to him because he was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. After a moment of hesitation, he came to a halt and chuckled. “So, what do you want to say to me, brother?”

“Take Xing Yao with you,” Qin Lie said with a smile. “I’ve lost interest in her.”

His words startled Zheng Yun.

A twinkle suddenly appeared in his eyes, but after staring at Qin

Lie for a few seconds, he shook his head and laughed dryly. He laughed as he began backing away from him.

"Forget it," he said. "A gentleman doesn't take what isn't theirs. I told you I would give her to you, and I won't break that promise."

Zheng Yun couldn't help but feel that something was off. He didn't dare to accept Qin Lie's offer and risk upsetting him.

He believed that Qin Lie was a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator. After all, he had Terminator Profound Bombs.

In addition to that, even under these circumstances, Qin Lie actually claimed that Xing Shengnan was his big sister. This worried Zheng Yun, and he instinctively avoided taking any risks.

He was well aware of how exceedingly arrogant Terminator Sect martial practitioners were. He knew that they wouldn't give something up without good reason.

Since he was just the young palace master of a Copper rank force, he was especially aware of this. He knew that he didn't merit such modesty from someone of Qin Lie's status.

"I see that Brother Zheng is quite a cautious man." Qin Lie broke out into involuntary laughter. Then he shook his head and said, "Unfortunately for you... you're still standing too close to me."

The moment Qin Lie said this, Zheng Yun's face twisted in alarm.

He instantly began to openly retreat.

Yet three metallic lightning balls spun through the air, brimming with thunder and lightning energy as the moved even faster. They instantly appeared five meters in front of Zheng Yun.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

Multiple thunderous violent explosions erupted at the same time. Electricity sparked through the air and mingled with the pungent stench of sulfur.

Zheng Yun had been dozens of meters away from Qin Lie. The power of thunder enveloped him like a tidal wave and sent him flying backward.

Roaring thunder overwhelmed the sound his Zheng Yun’s cracking bones. Only he could hear them shatter. He felt an uncontrollable stream of blood gush from his mouth like a long bloody snake. It continued to grow longer and longer as he flew backward, making the entire spectacle seem strange.

“Young palace master!” “Young palace master!”

The three Fulfillment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace went ghastly pale as they rushed to catch Zheng Yun.

This turn of events absolutely confounded Xiahou Chang, but he didn’t take his eyes off of Xing Shengnan or do anything to help

Zheng Yun.

He assumed that Qin Lie held a grudge against Zheng Yun.

Xiahou Sheng had told Xiahou Chang that Forefather Terminator was Qin Lie's backer.

Zheng Yun, on the other hand, was just the young palace master of a small Copper rank force.

After comparing the two, Xiahou Chang chose to ignore Zheng Yun.

Chapter 592: A Sky Filled With Blood Energy!

The force of three Terminator Profound Bombs exploding at once threw Zheng Yun backward. Blood streamed from his mouth, making the scene eerie and bloody.

But he did not die immediately.

Qin Lie charged through the smoke of the explosion amongst shards of wood and metal, his body surrounded by a dense net of lightning.

“Boom!”

A ferocious, muted sound resounded from Qin Lie. Xing Yao, still restrained by chains of lightning behind him, felt as though a raging volcano were hidden inside of his body. He radiated a furious, mind-numbing presence.

Lightning balls that resembled tiny suns emerged from Qin Lie’s body. They shot toward Zheng Yun even faster than Qin Lie could move, surging with power.

At this moment, Zheng Yun’s body was still flying backward and had yet to hit the deck of the ship.

Qin Lie clearly sought to kill him!

“You dare!?” the three Fulfillment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace shouted. They summoned all of their power to try and extinguish Qin Lie’s fury, disregarding Qin Lie’s identity and Forefather Terminator who loomed behind him.

Xiahou Chang’s eyes widened, a strange look appearing in them.

“Why does he hate him so?”

He originally thought that they were fighting over Xing Yao, a plaything.

“Woosh!”

A pitch black flag rushed out from behind Zheng Yun and into the air.

Vicious beasts had been sown into this enormous flag, all of which struggled wildly. Long dark green tentacles stretched from the flag’s cloth and lashed at the air, making snapping sounds.

The tentacles lashed at the six fist-sized balls of lightning as they shot toward Zheng Yun. When they hit them, they exploded in a spray of sparks.

Yet the lightning balls still continued onward, swiftly soaking into Zheng Yun’s arms, ears, eyes, and nose.

“Zzzt zzzt zzzt!”

The instant they made contact with him, lightning arced from Zheng Yun’s body. His hair and flesh quickly charred and became pitch black. His energetic eyes became devoid of light.

“Boom!”

The Astral Thunder Hammer descended upon Zheng Yun and smashed into his chest, forcing it to cave in with a bone-shattering crunch.

The last bit of light in Zheng Yun’s eyes went out. He no longer showed any signs of life.

Amidst the lightning, Qin Lie continued to charge toward Zheng Yun’s lifeless body. Then, all of a sudden, he changed directions and arrived next to Xing Shengnan.

This chain of events stunned Xing Shengnan. She looked at Qin Lie with her beady eyes, puzzlement flashing through them, unable to speak.

Xiahou Chang suddenly spoke up, his expression darkening.

“Whose side are you really on, little brother?” he asked.

Zheng Yun had been killed. The three peak Fulfillment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace wanted to kill Qin Lie, but now that he stood next to Xing Shengnan, they didn't dare to make any rash moves.

Xing Shengnan was in the Fragmentation Realm. Although she was wounded, they wouldn't be able to survive clashing with her if she decided to sacrifice herself.

They didn't dare to take the risk.

So they waited for Xiahou Chang to move first.

Another person that had been stunned by this shocking development was Xing Yao. She realized that, when Qin Lie had attacked Zheng Yun, the chains of lightning restraining her had wondrously loosened.

She had regained her freedom.

Now she just stood there gazing at Qin Lie, a confused, complex look on her face.

She realized that she just couldn't understand Qin Lie. She had no idea what this person, who had showed up out of nowhere and posed as a member of the Xing Family, was thinking.

Only Guo Yanzheng and Qi Jing had a slight understanding of what was going on because they thought that Qin Lie was a

member of Blood Fiend Sect.

But they couldn't actually tell what Qin Lie was thinking either.

"Little... little brother." Xing Shengnan hesitantly asked, "Whose side are you actually on?"

"Well, since you're calling me little brother..." An unfathomably open and happy smile spread across Qin Lie's face. "I'm obviously on your side."

Xing Shengnan's eyes lit up at his response, her bulky body trembling slightly.

In the next moment, however, she grew somber again. Despair and anguish showed in her face as she shook her head and said, "I feel your good intentions, but... the Xing Family won't be able to overcome this obstacle. We won't be able to escape this calamity."

She sighed deeply, already hopeless.

Black Cloud Palace, Heavenly Sea Pavilion, the Xiahou Family, and Xiang Xi's treacherous band. These four factions had allied with each other to destroy the Xing Family.

How could they possibly fight back?

In the face of today's situation, she believed that all of the Xing

Family would probably die here.

She took comfort in the fact that Qin Lie still chose to make his position known, but she knew that it wouldn't change anything. It couldn't possibly change the fate of the Xing Family. It would just result in one more meaningless death.

—That was a result she didn't wish to see.

The expression on Xiahou Chang's face darkened even further.

"I've never heard of Forefather Terminator having any ties to Gold Sun Island..."

The moment they heard Xiahou Chang mention Forefather Terminator, terror filled the eyes of the three Black Cloud Palace elders, and any thoughts they had of attacking Qin Lie fled their minds.

"Forefather Terminator?"

Xing Shengnan, Xing Yao, Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, and everyone else on the Xing Family's side felt confused. After a bit of thinking, however, they suddenly grew excited.

The chains of lightning that Qin Lie used to restrain Xing Yao! The Terminator Profound Bombs he used to attack Zheng Yun! The balls of blazing lightning he summoned!

They were all things unique to Terminator Sect!

Was it because...

When everyone glanced at Qin Lie once more, he was bathed in a very different light!

Qin Lie just shrugged in response, clearly relaxed. He then turned to Xing Shengnan and said, “Sit down first, big sister. Rest and recover.”

The grim look in Xiahou Chang’s eyes deepened, the corners of his mouth slowly curving into a vicious, ruthless smile.

“Obviously, I wouldn’t dare attack a direct disciple of Forefather Terminator...” he said, menace on his tongue. “But I can kill everyone except you! All the members of the Xing Family! Any martial practitioners from Gold Sun Island! Anyone on this ship, all dead!”

Then he paused and glanced at the three Black Cloud Palace elders behind him.

“This person killed the young master of your palace,” Xiahou Chang said. “Are you going to ignore that?”

Conflict and indecision played out on the faces of the three

Fulfillment Realm experts, reflecting their turbulent thoughts.

"No one can help you, Xing Shengnan. No one will rescue you." Xiahou Chang took a deep breath, calming down once more. He walked toward her, blood dripping from his sword. "Accept your fate."

As he looked at her with murder in his eyes, the depth of coldness in that frigid stare penetrated into her soul and washed over her.

Every single hair on Xing Shengnan's body stood on end. She didn't dare to hold anything back, using every last bit of her concentration to gather her remaining spirit power and face Xiahou Chang.

"Drip! Drip!"

Her nervousness made the wounds on her arms open up again. Blood spilled from them in a small stream and drip onto the deck of the ship to form a small puddle.

Xing Shengnan's face slowly turned pale, indicating that she had lost too much blood and that her endurance was gradually decreasing.

It was clear for all to see that Xing Shengnan did not possess the power for this fight. Forcing herself to attack was a definite path to death.

“Rest, big sister,” Qin Lie said in a deep voice.

“No! Even at the cost of my life, I will leave a mark on his body!” Xing Shengnan shook her head as she proclaimed this, and finished with a sad smile. Her fate was determined, and she had decided to face death.

“Auntie!” Xing Yao cried out in pain from the other side of the ship.

She could tell that Xing Shengnan intended to die here. She knew that, in the next moment, Xing Shengnan would use a self-destructive secret art. In order to deal a great blow to Xiahou Chang, she would give up her life.

Qin Lie suddenly grinned and said, “Protect me, big sister.”

In that instant, the world went still.

In the next, an abnormally tall body that looked extremely strange appeared out of thin air to stand in front of Qin Lie.

Blood energy erupted from it like a vast ocean, flooding over everyone present and making the energy inside of them tremble. They felt as though their blood would go out of control and gush from their bodies.

Everybody on the ship, including Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, Xing Shengnan, and their enemies from Black Cloud Palace, was forced

to gather their spirit energy to calm their minds and suppress the restless blood within them.

Even Xiahou Chang was not exempt.

All eyes were frozen upon the body of the Blood Progenitor. It hovered in the air with its eyes closed, standing tall as blood energy streamed from it. A potent blood aura radiated from it, flaring up and filling the sky.

In that instant, Qin Lie sat down beside Xing Shengnan. He willed his True Soul to become a stream that flowed into the Blood Progenitor's body.

The Blood Progenitor's tightly shut eyes trembled slightly, and then they suddenly flew open.

A sanguine pair of eyes were revealed to everyone present.

"Aoooooo!"

A sea of blood suddenly materialized out of thin air and a bloody bone dragon emerged from it, roaring furiously and shocking everybody.

Its target was Xiahou Chang!

"Th-that's the ultimate treasure of Blood Fiend Sect... the

Bloodthirsty Dragon!” Guo Yanzheng shouted in awe.

Qi Jing dropped to the deck, panting profusely as if he had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

Xing Yao felt as though she were in a dream. She had a dazed look in her eyes, seemingly examining something illusory and unable to distinguish reality from fantasy.

“The Bloodthirsty Dragon... that’s the Bloodthirsty Dragon!” Xing Shengnan screamed in shock. She couldn’t believe her eyes and definitely didn’t dare to believe what was happening.

Xiahou Chang was just as shocked and terrified as the others. He inadvertently yelped and retreated.

“Splash!”

Xiahou Chang immediately turned and dove into the ocean. He didn’t dare to face the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s fury or oppose the vast sea of blood that accompanied it.

He was a member of the Xiahou Family, which had been a vassal force of Blood Fiend Sect a thousand years ago. He knew just how terrifying the Bloodthirsty Dragon, the ultimate treasure of Blood Fiend Sect, could be. As soon as he saw this vicious weapon, he immediately concluded that it couldn’t be defeated and chose to fall back.

Qin Lie, inside of the body of the Blood Progenitor, turned his head to Xing Shengnan.

“Please watch over my actual body, big sister,” he said gravely.

A strange feeling welled up inside of Xing Shengnan. She had trouble discerning what was real and what wasn’t, but still, she nodded.

This strange man before her radiated blood energy that was so strong, it completely surpassed what she was capable of imagining.

Yet this man referred to her as big sister…

She felt like she was in a dream.

“The Bloodthirsty Dragon!”

“What a terrifying, fiendish blood aura!”

“Below us!? What’s happening down there?”

The Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners that had been battling in the sky detected the earth-shaking fiendish blood energy at the same time.

Their gazes traveled over to the Wavebreaker where they saw the

Bloodthirsty Dragon bellowing furiously and Qin Lie who had taken over the body of the Blood Progenitor.

Chapter 593: Bloody Intimidation

A moment later, Xing Shengnan regained some of her calm. She looked at the body of the Blood Progenitor hesitantly.

“L-little brother…?” she asked.

“It’s me,” Qin Lie said with a smile.

The second he said this, astonishment filled every single Xing Family clansman and the martial practitioners of Gold Sun Island aboard the ship.

Qin Lie turned around to smirk at the three Fulfillment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace. His lips curved into a bloodthirsty and cruel smile.

“Let’s start with you!”

Qin Lie grasped at the air before him, and a bloody specter appeared in the sky above him.

It was the Blood Weeping Ghost Claw!

Seemingly formed from fresh blood that exuded a fiendish blood energy, the ghost claw stretched for hundreds of meters and gave off a vicious light.

The Blood Weeping Ghost Claw hurtled toward the three Fulfillment Realm experts like the bloody anchor of a large ship, filling the sky with a vicious presence!

“Puchi!”

The bodies of over a dozen Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners of Black Cloud Palace exploded before the ghost claw even fell. Even more of them vomited blood.

Blood sprayed onto the trio and dripped down their faces, giving them a miserable appearance.

The three elders looked at each other. They gritted their teeth and chose to put everything they had into defense, channeling all of their spirit energy into forming icy blue, dark green, and pale purple shields of light.

The spirit energy of each shield of light had a different attribute. They released blinding streams of light and radiated intense power fluctuations.

And the Blood Weeping Ghost Claw struck.

“Riiiiiip!”

It tore the three different-colored shields of light apart like a knife slicing through paper.

The ghost claw swiped downward like the hand of a demon.

“Crack!”

The sound of bones shattering resounded through the air, and blood shot out from between the gaps of the claw.

A gigantic gaping hole around a hundred meters in diameter opened up in the deck of the ship. Within that hole, the three Fulfillment Realm elders of Black Cloud Palace had been crushed to paste.

At that moment, the morale of every Black Cloud Palace martial practitioner collapsed.

Screams filled the air. The enemies of the Xing Family, which had arrived with the astonishing presence of sinister gods, jumped into the sea and fled.

In the span of ten breaths, all foes of the Gold Sun Island completely retreated.

“L-little brother…” Xing Shengnan called out in awe.

Qin Lie turned around, smiling faintly. “None of them will escape.”

His words shocked Xing Shengnan.

The other Xing Family clansmen looked over and saw the bloody bone dragon hovering above the water surrounded by a sea of blood. It roared and thrashed about, swiping at the air with its claws.

But it didn't charge into the water.

It seemed to be afraid of something.

Under the water, Xiahou Cheng and numerous Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners ventured deeper into the sea, terrified of being pursued by Qin Lie and the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

They nimbly dove deeper into the sea.

Several airtight crystalline chariots that could travel underwater awaited them in a hiding place within the water's depths.

A hundred meters below sea level, Xiahou Chang continued to sink deeper and deeper.

All of a sudden, strange enormous red lights shone clear in the darkness of the water.

"What are those lights?" Xiahou Chang thought, his curiosity overcoming his panic as he approached them for a closer look.

Upon seeing those red lights, many of the Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners behind him also became curious.

Xiahou Chang soon realized that these enormous lights were floating upward and drawing nearer.

His curiosity grew even more, and he focused his attention on the lights.

Terror suddenly filled Xiahou Chang's face. He pumped his arms and legs in the opposite direction, frantically swimming for the surface.

He finally understood what those lights were—

—they were eyes!

The eyes of the eight god corpses that had disappeared!

The eight god corpses that had vanished from the Heavenly Fissure Continent, the ones that Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountains were searching for, were hiding in the depths of water below the Setting Sun Islands!!

What terrified Xiahou Chang even more was... the eight god corpses used to be headless.

Now, however, enormous heads sat securely on their shoulders, their bodies vibrating with earth-shaking energy.

The eight god corpses that had caused such an uproar in the Land of Chaos, made the nine great Silver rank forces send out legions of men, and cost countless resources to retrieve their heads.

And now they appeared here.

How could Xiahou Chang not be terrified?

The Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners saw him swimming desperately toward the surface. Bubbles emerged from their mouths, their voices traveling through the water in a strange manner as they exclaimed, “Lord Xiahou! Why are you going upward? The Bloodthirsty Dragon is up there!”

Xiahou Chang ignored them, his mind completely set on fleeing like mad. He wanted to immediately notify Xiahou Sheng and the others fighting above.

“What’s going on?”

The martial practitioners that had followed him into the water felt confused. They had no idea what was below them until...

The first god corpse materialized out of nowhere, filling up their entire field of vision.

It opened its gaping maw and sucked more than a dozen martial practitioners inside of it, slamming its teeth together over and over in a burst of blood and bone.

The surviving martial practitioners finally realized why Xiahou Chang had been swimming to the surface so frantically.

This revelation terrified the remaining Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners underwater, and all of them swam toward the surface in a frenzy.

The other seven god corpses joined the first in sucking up huge amounts of water. The Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners swimming below the surface of the sea got caught in this sudden vacuum. The god corpses sucked them into their mouths like whales taking in krill and other small fish.

More and more Black Cloud Palace martial practitioners found themselves unable to escape the vacuum that the god corpses created. They became delicious morsels for the god corpses to swallow up, bone and all.

Blood filled the water and floated up to the surface, the stench of iron filling the air above.

The Xing Family clansmen and the martial practitioners of Gold Sun Island could see the water grow red with blood, but they never saw a corpse float to the surface.

Dread spread across their faces.

Everyone on the Wavebreaker was certain that something terrifying had just occurred under the surface, but they didn't know exactly what that was.

The Fragmentation Realm experts that had been fighting in the air turned to glare at Qin Lie in the body of the Blood Progenitor.

"Who are you!?" they shouted.

This sudden development made their combined attacks on Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan come to an abrupt halt.

Xiahou Sheng examined Qin Lie within the Blood Progenitor's body, a grim, terrifying expression on his face. From the potent stench of blood alone, he knew that this matter was definitely related to Blood Fiend Sect.

At that moment, Xiahou Chang emerged from the water's surface, shouting, "B-brother Sheng! Brother Sheng!"

Having prowled above the sea this entire time, the Bloodthirsty Dragon roared and flew downward to tear at Xiahou Chang.

"Save me!" Xiahou Chang screamed, suddenly flying out of the sea.

Everyone turned to look at him and immediately gasped.

Only half of Xiahou Chang's body remained!

He had no legs! Blood dripped from short stumps below his waist!

His terrible condition made a chill run up the spine of everyone that saw him.

Qin Lie whistled in a low tone, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon, which was about to attack Xiahou Chang, came to a sudden stop.

"Woosh woosh woosh!"

Gigantic whirlpools appeared on the surface of the sea. An enormous arm shot out of one of them like a bolt of lightning, reaching toward Xiahou Chang who flew through the air and pinching him between two fingers.

Everyone watched as the god corpse that arm belonged to emerged from the water, chewing on Xiahou Chang's legs sloppily.

"Save me, Brother Sheng! Save me!"

As Xiahou Chang desperately screamed for help, the god corpse shoved the remaining half of his body into its enormous mouth.

The hair-raising sound of bones breaking rang out as the god corpse chewed.

Blood flowed between the god corpse's sharp teeth that resembled giant white fences and gushed from its mouth. This bloody scene frightened every onlooker.

"A g-god corpse!" Xiahou Sheng exclaimed, his voice hoarse and weak. "A god corpse... with a head!"

"Splash! Splash! Splash!"

God corpses emerged from the water one after another, returning to the world like bloody gods rushing out of imprisonment.

Potent energy surged from the god corpses, shaking the heavens and robbing light from the sun and the moon.

At this exact moment, every martial practitioner of Black Cloud Palace, Heavenly Sea Pavilion, and the rebel faction of Gold Sun Island stared at the god corpses in complete terror.

No one knew why the god corpses had appeared or who their targets were.

That is, until the Blood Progenitor's body flew up to the head of the largest god corpse and landed on top of it.

Then everyone immediately understood.

The eight god corpses had come because of Qin Lie.

He controlled them, and they listened to him alone.

A shocking, wondrous light filled Xing Shengnan's eyes.

"L... little brother..." she murmured.

Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan hovered in the sky. Both wore complex expressions on their faces, their brows deeply furrowed.

They had been paying attention to the situation below for a while now. They knew that Qin Lie's soul was inside of the Blood Progenitor's body.

However, they weren't aware of what had previously happened aboard the Wavebreaker. The two of them still considered Qin Lie an imposter that didn't care about the Xing Family at all.

To them, Qin Lie naturally wouldn't think much of Xing Shengnan or treat her like a big sister.

The Xing brothers sighed inwardly. They thought that Xing Shengnan still hadn't shaken off her trauma and that her emotions were one-sided.

Yet Qin Lie then shattered all of their assumptions.

“Big sister!” Qin Lie exclaimed with a grin. “My surname is Qin, not Xing. My real name… is Qin Lie! Although I am not surnamed Xing… in my heart, you are my big sister! It doesn’t matter if the Xing Family is related to me or not. Since you’re my big sister, I will not stand by and watch the Xing Family be exterminated. I will do everything I can to help the Xing Family overcome today’s calamity… and do my best to kill all enemies!”

“Little brother…” Xing Shengnan trembled, tears of joy welling up in her small eyes. “You are my little brother…”

Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan exchanged glances, their expressions complicated. They couldn’t help but grimace.

Xing Yao, who had been opposing Qin Lie this entire time and wanted to kill him as soon as possible, constantly alternated between laughing and crying.

It seemed as if she had gone insane. No one knew what was running through her mind.

Chapter 594: Black Heaven Swallowing Art!

God corpses emerged from the water around the Setting Sun Islands like ancient deities.

Potent energy surged from the god corpses to form a twister of energy that could be seen with the naked eye. The twisted spread in every direction with a dull rumble.

Over a hundred crystalline war chariots of varying sizes flew through the sky like shining lanterns, chasing down Xing Family clansmen and Gold Sun Island martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family.

However, when that twister of energy spread from the god corpses, the crystalline chariots swayed and shuddered as if they were malfunctioning. The spirit energy within them went out of control.

“Woosh woosh woosh!”

The chaotic spirit energy damaged the spirit stone formations inside the chariots, causing them to suddenly plummet through the air.

The Black Cloud Palace and Heaven Sea Pavilion martial practitioners aboard the chariots began to panic. They frantically wrapped their chariots in spirit energy and directed them toward distant islands.

The god corpses in the water utterly terrified them. They stood there like enormous aquatic behemoths with gaping maws and radiated a vicious aura that seemed capable of consuming all beings.

The Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners definitely didn't want to fall into the sea.

Xiahou Chang's miserable fate of being eaten whole was a nightmare that instilled fear in every single one of them. It frightened them down to the very core of their beings. None dared to go even the tiniest bit closer to eight god corpses.

"It's Blood Fiend Sect!" Xiahou Sheng exclaimed, a grave expression on his face. Terror filled his eyes as he analyzed the situation. "Blood Fiend Sect is back from the dead!"

Zheng Zhihe and Jiang Hao also took stock of the situation, uncertainty in their eyes.

Xiang Xi, holding his giant bronze cauldron in one hand, looked down at Qin Lie with a grim expression and exclaimed, "M-my friend!"

He had thought that Qin Lie was just the direct disciple of Forefather Terminator.

Yet in this moment, when Qin Lie unleashed the ultimate

treasure of Blood Fiend Sect, took over a body filled with fiendish blood energy and created a Blood Weeping Ghost Claw, and had the eight god corpses emerge from the sea, Xiang Xi realized that Qin Lie had another identity.

—He was a survivor of Blood Fiend Sect.

After a moment, Qin Lie suddenly said, “Encorcer Xiang. If you surrender now, I will have mercy on you. Since you were working for the good of Gold Sun Island and haven’t truly committed a great mistake… I can let you live.”

Xiang Xi was silent.

“Xiahou Sheng did not honor your agreement, nor did Black Cloud Palace or Heavenly Sea Pavilion.” Qin Lie pointed at the two ships below them. “The first thing they did was slaughter Xing Family clansmen. They acted with the intent to exterminate the Xing Family.”

Xiang Xi looked down at the Wavebreaker and discovered that Xing Shengnan was one of many Xing Family clansmen that were wounded or dead.

Corpses could be seen strewn across the other ship that Heavenly Sea Pavilion had been in charge of dealing with. All of them belonged to Xing Family clansmen and martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family.

Qin Lie clearly wasn't trying to deceive Xiang Xi. Xiahou Sheng, Heavenly Sea Pavilion, and Black Cloud Palace definitely had a tacit agreement not to abide by their promise to him.

Xiang Xi's expression slowly darkened.

"Hmph!" Xiahou Sheng smirked. "You seriously thought that the three great families would have mercy on the Xing Family? On the survivors of a family that dealt a heavy blow to them? On people who tried to kill me? Wake up, Xiang Xi! From the moment you accepted my proposal and came to an agreement with me, you passed the point of no return!"

Xiang Xi wore an expression of uncertainty. He hovered in the air silently, a conflicted look in his eyes.

Qin Lie smiled and calmly pointed at the other ship that the Xing Family still controlled, using his soul consciousness to give orders.

Three god corpses began walking through the waves, moving faster and faster until they were charging toward the ship like enormous ocean behemoths. The Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners were their targets.

At that moment, Zheng Zhihe suddenly realized that it had been a while since he had seen his son.

"Wh-where is Yun'er?" he exclaimed.

“Are you talking about him?” Guo Yanzheng shouted from below.

Zheng Yun’s corpse was still on the Wavebreaker beside him and Qi Jing.

Zheng Zhihe turned to look, his eyes immediately going red as he screamed, “Yun’er!”

Zheng Yun was Zheng Zhihe’s youngest and most beloved son, the one who was most similar to him personality-wise. Zheng Zhihe relied on him greatly and had picked him as the future palace master of Black Cloud Palace.

He had brought Zheng Yun along on this excursion because he figured that it wouldn’t be dangerous. He believed that this trip would allow Zheng Yun to let off some steam.

To make sure of this, Zheng Zhihe had even arranged for three Fulfillment Realm elders to protect Zheng Yu and guarantee his safety.

He never thought that Zheng Yun would be killed while he wasn’t paying attention.

The pain of losing Zheng Yun made Zheng Zhihe go insane with fury.

“Who did this?” Zheng Zhihe shouted at the top of his lungs.

“Who killed my Yun’er? Who!?”

Zheng Zhihe abandoned the encirclement tying down the Xing brothers and charged downward.

His eyes locked onto Xing Shengnan!

He believed that Xing Shengnan was the one who killed Zheng Yun!

All of a sudden, Qin Lie’s cold voice rang out.

“It was me.” Qin Lie said, raising the tattered remnants of a pitch black flag with one of the Blood Progenitor’s hands. “Your son seemed to have used this rag, but I tore it to pieces. It’s probably as useless as he was.”

He was clearly testing the limit of Zheng Zhihe’s fury.

“It doesn’t matter who you are!” Zheng Zhihe shrieked, predictably changing targets and charging at Qin Lie. “You’re going to accompany Yun’er in death!”

As Zheng Zhihe flew at Qin Lie, giant black flags appeared between them.

Black clouds roiled within the fabric of these flags as they billowed in the wind. Vicious, evil beasts that resembled savage

gods seemed to reside within each one, taking shape and howling along with Zheng Zhihe.

The black clouds within the flags seemed to swallow all light, gradually making the sky turn black.

Day soon became pitch black night.

Beneath the clouds, an evil darkness slowly descended upon the world like a pitch black curtain, completely shrouding the space above Qin Lie. It formed a darkness that prevented one from seeing their hands even if they held them up in front of their faces.

Zheng Zhihe seemed to have disappeared.

“This...” Traces of shock could be seen on Xing Yuyuan’s face as he gravely exclaimed, “This is the Black Sky Swallowing Art! Zheng Zhihe is at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm! Even you would pay a steep price to withstand one of his attacks, big brother! That boy...”

Xing Yuyuan couldn’t help but worry about Qin Lie.

“This Qin Lie is in the Netherpassage Realm, and the bloody body he has possessed gives off a terrifying aura.” Xing Yumiao furrowed his brow as he used his soul perception to examine Qin Lie. He discovered that he couldn’t come to a proper conclusion and said, “How strange... so extremely strange...”

“Little brother!” Xing Shengnan screamed from the Wavebreaker.

Xiahou Sheng and Jiang Hao wore grim expressions, their eyes flashing with excitement.

They knew how powerful Zheng Zhihe was. They also knew that him using the Black Heaven Swallowing Art meant he was putting everything on the line.

What would happen if a martial practitioner at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm faced off against the body of an unknown person possessed by a soul in the Netherpassage Realm?

They wanted to see how strong Qin Lie was.

They still didn’t know that the bloody body was the body of the Blood Progenitor and that Qin Lie had taken from the Graveyard of Gods.

Neverending darkness engulfed Qin Lie. Eerie power fluctuations emanated from within that darkness as Zheng Zhihe’s terrifying aura spread throughout the area and made everyone feel his strength.

Qin Lie disappeared.

Even Xing Yumiao and Xiahou Sheng couldn’t pierce the darkness and see what was happening inside of it.

When they tried to use their mind consciousnesses to delve into the darkness, they discovered that it had a power to distort and confuse. It threw their consciousness into disarray and forced it to collapse, causing them to withdraw in shock.

As a result, everyone watched this area covered in a curtain of darkness but had no idea what was happening inside of it.

“Aaaaaoooooo!”

All of a sudden, the Bloodthirsty Dragon’s roar echoed through the air.

A sanguine pillar of light that exuded a savage, destructive aura shot out of the darkness.

The darkness couldn’t smother this bloody light as it gradually grew brighter and brighter.

“Haaa, haaa, haaa!”

The heavy breathing of a god corpse could be heard from the surface of the water as it consumed the dense darkness, revealing Zheng Zhihe and Qin Lie.

Qin Lie, possessing the body of the Blood Progenitor, sat securely atop the bloody bone dragon. His eyes gave off an astonishing light

as if they were bloody suns.

Streaks of blood flowed through the sky like rivers and slowly formed a complex yet mysterious formation.

“Blood Arts: Soul Shackle!”

Rivers of blood that contained mysterious sealing properties suddenly formed sanguine chains. They fell through the sky, constantly changing shape from thick to thin, then suddenly constricted and shattered into countless rays of bloody light. This light broke apart once more, exploding into strange bloody runes that filled the air.

These runes flew toward Zheng Zhihe, flapping their wings like billions of bloody butterflies and disappeared into his body.

Pitch black clouds emerged from Zheng Zhihe’s body, moving like evil spirits trying to struggle out of the force shackling them.

Yet more and more bloody runes entered his body and merged into his blood. The black clouds seeping out of Zheng Zhihe gradually became red.

Zheng Zhihe’s struggling gradually died down. Countless bloody webs appeared in his eyes, shackling his True Soul and his Soul Lake.

In the end, Zheng Zhihe went still. Except for the blood that

flowed out of his body in a strange fashion, his body made no other movements.

Even his soul eventually became calm.

“Qin Lie!” Gao Yu suddenly shouted from the back of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Qin Lie raised his head and looked at Gao Yu in shock.

“What?” he shouted back.

“I want that person’s soul!” Gao Yu exclaimed, unable to hide the excitement in his eyes. “I want the soul of that peak Fragmentation Realm martial practitioner that you’ve shackled and rendered powerless to fight back!”

Qin Lie nodded. “Alright!”

Under everyone’s shocked gazes, Gao Yu, who was only in the Netherpassage Realm, leaped from the fire phoenix and plummeted through the sky.

He didn’t even have a crystalline war chariot to help him descend.

Everyone thought that he, with his measly Netherpassage Realm, was crazy for falling hundreds of meters through the air.

They thought he was suicidal!

“Woosh!”

A dark shadow materialized behind Gao Yu, gradually expanding.

In the span of five breaths, the enormous body of the Evil God, with its vast pair of wings and curved horns atop its head, appeared before Gao Yu.

It resembled an ancient monster that had suddenly invaded the world.

Gao Yu leisurely moved to sit atop the Evil God’s shoulder as he descended, his dark, cold eyes flashing with excitement.

He had sensed that Zheng Zhihe cultivated a pure spirit art of the Nether Realm. He could tell that an evil soul fragment was hidden within the man’s soul—

—the one thing that Gao Yu had been dreaming about.

Chapter 595: I Can Do It!

Gao Yu swiftly descended through the sky seated on the Evil God's shoulder.

The body of the Evil God struck the water, floating there like a dark green mountain. Gao Yu's eyes glowed with dark light as he leaped into the air and summoned the Demon God's shadow from his Ogre-faced Rings.

Qin Lie had shackled Zheng Zhihe's body with layer upon layer of Blood Arts: Soul Shackle. The pitch black clouds around his body were slowly being dyed red.

Numerous complicated bloody patterns crisscrossed to form a dense web of blood that covered Zheng Zhihe's eyes.

The Demon God's shadow, which had emerged from the Ogre-faced Rings, instantly descended upon Zheng Zhihe's head, opened its mouth, and inhaled.

"Qin Lie!" Gao Yu exclaimed softly.

"Got it!" Qin Lie answered, weakening the Soul Shackle a tiny bit.

"Whoosh...!"

The Demon God's sinister shadow inhaled a long, continuous stream of air, directing the vacuum of its mouth toward Zheng Zhihe. His soul slowly seeped from his skull, frantically struggling against the shackles of the web of blood. Bit by bit, the shadow extracted Zheng Zhihe's soul from his body.

No matter how hard Zheng Zhihe struggled, he couldn't break free of the Soul Shackles. He ultimately became a gray soul that the Demon God's shadow devoured.

Elation shone from Gao Yu's dark, icy eyes. He even subconsciously licked a corner of his lips and muttered, "The heavens are on my side today..."

"Swoosh!"

Having devoured Zheng Zhihe's soul, the Demon God's shadow instantly withdrew back into the Ogre-faced Rings. Gao Yu smiled in satisfaction as he returned to the Evil God's shoulder.

"I'll watch over your body, Qin Lie," Gao Yu said, patting the Evil God on the neck. Its visage sinister and terrifying, the Evil God's body swam over to the Wavebreaker where Xing Shengnan and the others were. However, it didn't climb up aboard.

Gao Yu just stared at Xing Shengnan and Qin Lie's body. "No one will be able to destroy it."

Qin Lie grinned, pointed at Zheng Zhihe's soulless body, and

said, “Eat it.”

The largest god corpse immediately grabbed Zheng Zhihe’s body and stuffed it into its mouth. Flesh and blood splattered everywhere as it chewed.

In that instant, every Black Cloud Palace martial practitioner nearly broke down.

Their young palace master, three of their Fulfillment Realm elders, and their palace master had been slaughtered in short order.

As a Copper rank force, Black Cloud Palace had already taken the worst blow that it could’ve possible received during this battle. Even if its remaining martial practitioners managed to escape, Black Cloud Palace would drop in rank from Copper to Black Iron. They would no longer be able to fight nearby forces on equal footing.

Jiang Hao, Heavenly Sea Pavilion’s pavilion master, wore an incredibly solemn look on his face.

He was in the process of reevaluating the situation.

Xiahou Sheng’s eyes shimmered profoundly as he pondered to himself as well.

He was already thinking of fleeing.

Bloody light shone from Qin Lie's eyes as he unleashed his soul consciousness and gave commands.

The eight god corpses unleashed furious roars in response, making the sea seem as though a dragon were writhing through it. They began a savage assault on the enemy.

"Splash! Splash! Splash!"

The eight god corpses formed multiple pillars of water that surged into the air like translucent mountains that were several hundred meters tall. They stabbed into the sky like gigantic thorns.

"Ruuuuummble!"

The pillars of water smashed into the crystalline war chariots still moving in the sky, exploding into countless crystal shards.

Bloodcurdling screams erupted from numerous Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners. The power of the pillars of water either completely annihilated them or forced them to fall into the sea after the chariots burst to pieces.

In the sea below, the eight god corpses opened their gaping bloody maws and waited for them to fall.

The Xing Family's dire situation had reversed in an instant.

At the same time, Qin Lie rode the Bloodthirsty Dragon across bloody sea that surrounded it, flying toward the enemy.

The energies of the Bloodthirsty Dragon and the Blood Progenitor's body combined to form an endless blood aura. It transformed into bloody comets that shot through the sky and bathed the world in sanguine light, creating an extraordinary domain of fiendish blood energy.

Jiang Hao looked at the Xing brothers, who had regained their morale, and then glanced at Xiahou Sheng, who was hesitating. His face twisted in frustration as he made a split-second decision.

"Retreat!" he yelled.

Every single Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioner had been waiting for that order. Screams filled the air as they immediately fled in every direction.

"Split up and kill them all!" Qin Lie ordered.

"Hunt them down!" Xing Yuyuan roared angrily.

The eight god corpses resembled eight enormous beasts of the icy seas. They walked through the waves as though they were stepping on flat land, violently chasing the fleeing martial practitioners. They summoned giant waves of water, conjured shocking rays of

prismatic light, and flung them at their enemies.

Xing Shengnan also ordered the surviving, panic-stricken Xing Family clansmen and Gold Sun Island martial practitioners loyal to the Xing Family to kill as many of their enemies as possible.

“Kill Xiahou Sheng!” Qin Lie yelled.

Controlling the Blood Progenitor’s body swiftly depleted his soul energy, but in exchange, he had full reign over a near infinite amount of blood energy.

Qin Lie grasped at the air with both hands, and a several-hundred-meter-long Blood Weeping Ghost Claw quickly materialized. It swiped at Xiahou Sheng like the claw of a giant beast.

Xing Yumiao grew a hundred times bolder when he heard Qin Lie give the order. A battle-crazed look came over him as he exclaimed, “With pleasure!”

The Xing brothers temporarily ignored Jiang Hao and turned all their attention to Xiahou Sheng, cooperating with Qin Lie to attack him.

The space of this area had been intentionally destabilized, making it impossible for anyone to use a secret art to escape instantly.

—This had originally been done as a part of Xiahou Sheng's plan to cut off the Xing brothers' means of retreat.

He had been afraid that they would escape from his clutches yet again.

However, he woefully realized that his supposedly clever trick had backfired.

Instead, he had become the one that couldn't use a secret art to escape.

Qin Lie and the Xing brothers gave up on chasing other targets and worked together to hunt down Xiahou Sheng.

Jiang Hao frantically fled the area. He had no intention of fighting alongside Xiahou Sheng, a betrayal that made Xiahou Sheng repeatedly roar in frustration and anger.

In another part of the this region of the sea, Xiang Xi and his men weren't sure which side to support. The internal conflict was killing them.

Looking at the situation objectively, Qin Lie's sudden appearance had long since saved the Xing Family from its wretched fate. Zheng Zhihe's death made Xiang Xi realize that this rebellion was doomed to fail, and Xiahou Sheng's previous actions proved that they never planned to keep their promises. They were going to slaughter the Xing Family to the last man.

In addition to that, Qin Lie had promised to spare them if he could give up on taking over Gold Sun Island.

These different factors made Xiang Xi extremely reluctant to make a decision.

He had kept his silence all this time.

As a result, Xiahou Sheng essentially had no one to help him. He had no choice but to face Qin Lie and the Xing brothers alone, an outcome that frustrated him so much that he could almost vomit blood. He continuously roared at Xiang Xi, demanding his help.

Two gigantic Blood Weeping Ghost Claws whistled through the air, slapping, hitting, tearing, and pulling at Xiahou Sheng. The golden spear and numerous spirits birds of the Xing brothers transformed into a ceaseless stream of attacks that nearly overwhelmed the man.

“Tear him apart!” Qin Lie cried from atop the Bloodthirsty Dragon.

Exerting himself in the Blood Progenitor’s body slowly but surely depleted his soul energy. The battle with Zheng Zhihe had already exhausted him, and he had no choice but to utilize Blood Fiend Sect’s ultimate treasure to intimidate and pressure Xiahou Sheng.

The Bloodthirsty Dragon didn’t disappoint him.

This killing weapon had been forged by the Blood Progenitor himself. The sanguine skeleton released an apocalyptic roar is it fired hundred of rays of bloody light.

Every ray resembled gigantic deadly swords, the culmination of a potent, fiendish bloody aura having been turned into a terrifying attack.

Xiahou Sheng retreated over and over again.

“Chief enforcer!” Xu Changsheng exclaimed. “I-if we aren’t going to interfere with this battle… wouldn’t it be better for us to temporarily take our leave?”

Every rebel Gold Sun Island martial practitioner already knew that the situation had gone awry. They also knew that, since the eight god corpses emerged, Zhang Zhihe died, and both Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea pavilion retreated, they no longer had the power to fight the Xing Family.

When would they retreat if not now?

Xiang Xi gritted his teeth and barked, “Move out!”

He, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong rode their crystalline war chariots and quickly flew toward another Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

Xue Moyan, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Du Xiangyang, and Luo Chen were currently standing at the edge of that fire phoenix's wing. The second they saw the rebels heading in their direction, they went pale and became a bit worried.

"Boom!"

A crystalline war chariot abruptly landed near them with a dull crash.

"You should leave immediately," Xiang Xi's voice rang from a distance.

Xiang Xi had no desire to enrage Qin Lie during this ordeal, so he obviously didn't want to fight his companions. Even after deciding to retreat, he didn't forget to leave them with a crystalline war chariot of their own to leave on.

"Let's go!" Du Xiangyang laughed loudly.

The five of them hastily boarded the chariot, using it to descend to the water's surface before the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix left.

On the sea below, the three ships under Xiang Xi's command released loud whistling sounds as they headed off into the distance as well.

Qin Lie leaped from the Bloodthirsty Dragon and left the combat zone, surveying the surroundings through the Blood Progenitor's

body.

Xiang Xi's act of giving the crystalline war chariot to Song Tingyu and the others, allowing them to leave the fire phoenix, did not escape his sight.

He had also noticed Xiang Xi's attempt to retreat.

The eight god corpses were currently hunting down enemy martial practitioners across the sea. They also used extremely tall pillars of water to shoot down hostile crystalline war chariots.

If Qin Lie wanted to, he could have easily ordered the god corpses to attack Xiang Xi's Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix's and his three ships.

He believed that Xiang Xi and his men had absolutely no way to escape the wrath of the god corpses.

Several thousand meters away from Qin Lie, Xiang Xi realized the circumstances they were in and smiled bitterly as he left aboard the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenix.

"M-my friend..." he said loudly. "I didn't disappoint you, did I?"

The idea of Qin Lie sending an order to the god corpses terrified Xiang Xi. He worried that all of his men would die here.

Qin Lie had the power to make that happen!

"You haven't committed a irredeemable mistake, Brother Xiang," Qin Lie said, a grin on his face. "You succeeded in summoning the Xing Family's enemies here, assisted Gold Sun Island in exterminating two powerful threats, and helped kill two Xiahou Family experts! Not only have you not made a mistake, you've done Gold Sun Island a great service."

Qin Lie's words astonished Xiang Xi.

"You also helped Gold Sun Island eliminate Bo Boze, a spy that's been hiding among us for a very long time!" Xing Shengnan suddenly cried from the Wavebreaker below.

Her words built upon Qin Lie's, stunning Xiang Xi two-fold.

"In all honesty... your grudge against the Xing Family isn't impossible to resolve," Qin Lie said. "If the Xing Family's decision to take revenge on the three great families weren't suicidal... if Gold Sun Island were to experience a drastic increase in strength in a short amount of time... would you find it easier to accept their quest for vengeance?"

"A... a drastic increase in strength?" Xiang Xi asked, utterly confused.

"That's right," Qin Lie said, sincerity shining in his eyes. "I can increase Gold Sun Island's strength in no time at all!"

Chapter 596: The Carrot and the Stick

Xiang Xi obviously didn't really believe Qin Lie.

The entire time he'd been speaking to Qin Lie, Xu Changsheng and Xu Jiadong had been trying to convince him that they should leave.

Both wore anxious looks on their faces. Neither wanted to stay here even a second longer.

Everyone on the side of the Xing Family was currently chasing after the retreating enemy alongside the eight god corpses. Xing Yumiao, Xing Yuyuan, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon were busy attacking Xiahou Sheng.

This was the best opportunity for Xiang Xi and his men to escape!

The two enforcers thought that Qin Lie was just trying to buy time for the Xing Family to surround and kill them.

They knew exactly how ruthless the Xing brothers could be. Their rebellious actions on this day would definitely lead to the crazed retaliation of the brothers, which was why they were in a hurry to leave.

"What do you have that can increase Gold Sun Island's strength?" Xiang Xi asked, a solemn expression on his face. "Even if you could improve it somewhat, there's no way it would be able

to resist the combined might of three Silver rank forces!”

After a moment of hesitation, Xiang Xi glanced at the Xing brothers and said, “What happened today... has happened. From now on, we can never return to the past. We cannot stay in Gold Sun Island and continue working with them. They definitely won’t tolerate our betrayal!”

“Enforcer Xiang!” Xing Shengnan shouted from below. “We of the Xing Family have let you down! My brothers aren’t so closed-minded. They wouldn’t treat you as an enemy!”

Xiang Xi smiled bitterly as he shook his head in response. He clearly didn’t take Xing Shengnan’s assurances seriously.

He knew exactly what kind of person Xing Yuyuan was.

“Even if you wish to leave, you can’t. Not now,” Qin Lie said. He frowned and then sighed. “If you leave right this moment, I will summon four god corpses and have them hunt you and your men down to the best of their ability.”

Xiang Xi and the other two enforcers suddenly went pale, their faces wracked with worry.

They initially thought that Qin Lie would ignore them and allow them to leave, yet it still came down to this in the end.

“I haven’t offended you, have I, my friend?” Xiang Xi smiled

bitterly.

He honestly didn't wish to clash with Qin Lie. Forget the fact that Qin Lie was the direct disciple of Forefather Terminator—the eight god corpses alone were enough to destroy Gold Sun Island. What could he possibly do to defend himself against Qin Lie?

Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment and eventually decided to come clean.

"I don't have a choice," he said. "There are some secrets that I don't want to reveal to others at the moment. You may not understand what the appearance of the god corpses means, but everyone else... they'll know the second they hear about it. I don't want you to leave because once you leak this news to the rest of the world, you'll attract an infinite amount of trouble."

"What do you mean?" Xiang Xi asked, failing to understand.

Xu Changsheng, however, was momentarily stunned. A moment later, he looked at Qin Lie, a strange look in his eyes, and cried, "It can't be! Are you related to the search for the remains of ancient elites that is happening all across the Land of Chaos?"

As of late, every Silver rank force in the Land of Chaos had been preoccupied with this matter.

Information about the remains of ancient elites escaping the Graveyard of Gods had recently spread to every corner of the Land

of Chaos.

Did Gold Sun Island not send out three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes and five ships to search nearby regions of the sea for these remains?

News of the eight headless god corpses escaping from their shackles in the depths of the sea near the Heavenly Fissure Continent had spread at the same time.

Everyone knew that the god corpses and the Graveyard of Gods shared a strange connection. If someone were to connect the dots and analyze them closely, they would naturally figure out the secret behind Qin Lie and the others.

Xiang Xi came to the same sudden realization and shouted, “All of you have something to do with the remains of ancient elites?”

Qin Lie smiled and nodded. “They’re right below us in the depths of the sea.”

Every Xing Family clansman that could hear their conversation grew excited upon hearing Qin Lie reveal this. Their eyes blazed with the light of desire.

Xiang Xi pondered for a moment then sighed. He bowed his head and said, “I guess we really can’t leave anymore.”

The fact that Qin Lie simply told them where the remains of the

ancient beings were meant that he definitely wouldn't let them leave. If they tried, Qin Lie would probably hunt the down in a frenzied manner.

Xiang Xi was only in the early stage of the Fragmentation Realm. Xu Changsheng and Xu Jiadong were only at the peak of the Fulfillment Realm.

They wouldn't be able to oppose Qin Lie in any way.

"Don't worry," Qin Lie said, his voice taking on an inviting tone. "I can guarantee your safety and... who knows? Maybe you will even profit from this..."

"Aaaaooooooo!"

At that moment, the Bloodthirsty Dragon roared furiously, shaking its huge bloody tail to create a whirlpool of blood.

This sanguine whirlpool instantly sucked Xiahou Sheng into it.

Thick waves of blood surged throughout the whirlpools, and bloody bubbles filled with the stench of iron appeared on its surface.

At the center of the whirlpool, Xiahou Sheng struggled with all his might, but his movements gradually slowed. The whirlpool sucked all of his blood out of him, and his life energy swiftly left his body.

The Xing brothers hastily escaped from the bloody bone dragon in shock, frightened by the idea of getting caught in that attack.

They had already dealt a grievous wound to Xiahou Sheng before the bloody whirlpool swallowed him up. The whirlpool then dealt him another grievous blow and instantly sucked all of the blood from his body.

The Xing brothers watched Xiahou Sheng closely. They knew he had no chance of escaping and would definitely die.

“A great kill!” Although severely wounded, Xing Shengnan floated into the air, her ascent somewhat unsteady. Her eyes shone with satisfaction as she gritted her teeth and softly said, “In the past, you killed my little brother with your own hands! Today, my little brother killed you with his! All of this was preordained by the unseen world of spirits. The butcher covered in the blood of the Xing Family was always destined for such an end!”

Unfathomable joy filled every fiber of the Xing brothers as they watched the bloody whirlpool devour Xiahou Sheng.

The desire to return to the Heavenly Calamity Continent and cut Xiahou Sheng into ten thousand pieces had haunted them day and night for the past forty years.

During all the times they snuck into the Heavenly Calamity Continent and took revenge upon martial practitioners of the three great families, they imagined encountering Xiahou Sheng and all

of the cruel bloody ways they would kill him.

Unfortunately, they never found the opportunity to fulfill this desire.

If Qin Lie hadn't appeared out of the blue and used ruthless means to turn the situation around, they would've followed their seniors and little brother to their graves. Xiahou Sheng would have eliminated every seed of hope.

As they watched Xiahou Sheng die a slow death within the bloody whirlpool, Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan couldn't help but glance at Qin Lie in the distance.

Gratitude filled their eyes.

—They now approved of him from the bottom of their hearts.

"Jiang Hao is still out there," Qin Lie reminded them in a soft voice. "This is your territory. I hope that none of our enemies manage to leave here alive. I wish to keep all traces of us hidden."

He paused for a moment and then said, "The god corpses will coordinate with you."

"Understood." Xing Yumiao nodded.

He and Xing Yuyuan then shot through the air like two rays of

golden light, swiftly heading in the direction that Jiang Hao had escaped.

The largest god corpse moved in that direction as well, running across the sea as though it were on flat land. It roared and swung its enormous arms, destroying a crystalline war chariot in the process.

The god corpse released a terrifying chaotic aura that transformed into a seal that barred the path of fleeing Heavenly Sea Pavilion martial practitioners.

Those martial practitioners abruptly slammed into that invisible wall of energy and fell from the sky, eventually being swatted like flies and devoured by the god corpses below.

This entire scene was bloody and brutal. After realizing that escape was impossible, many martial practitioners decided to commit suicide in an explosion of blood rather than being eaten alive, making blood rain from the sky every so often.

The low-level martial practitioners that did this had no chance at surviving in the face of such absolute power.

All of a sudden, a crystalline war chariot floated into the air to hover beside Qin Lie. It carried Song Tingyu and the others, all of whom looked at ease now that they knew he had accomplished his goals.

Since they no longer needed to hide their appearances, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan,and Xue Moyan finally revealed their faces.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan weren't martial practitioners from the Land of Chaos. Their incredible beauty may have been out of this world, but they only caused others to stare at Qin Lie with envy.

The reaction to Xue Moyan, on the other hand, was quite different.

The moment she tore away her disguise and revealed her true face, every Gold Sun Island martial practitioner boiled over with surprise.

"M-Miss Xue? Heavens, it's actually the direct disciple of Illusory Demon Sect's sect master!"

"It's Xue Moyan!"

This revelation stunned everyone present, Xing Family clansman and Gold Sun Island martial practitioner alike. All of them wore blatant looks of awe.

After all, Gold Sun Island was a vassal force of Illusory Demon Sect. Whenever he encountered Xue Moyan in Illusory Demon Sect in the past, even Xing Yumiao had to show utmost respect.

Xiang Xi might be revered in Gold Sun Island, but he was not

even qualified to see Xue Moyan within Illusory Demon Sect.

Her sudden appearance intimidated Gold Sun Island's martial practitioners even further.

Her presence alone made Xiang Xi and his men even more obedient.

Chapter 597: The Die Is Cast

“Miss Xue, is it really you?”

A strange expression covered Xing Shengnan’s face. She looked at Qin Lie. Then she looked at Xue Moyan, suddenly recalling the incident from a few days ago.

That day, she had pushed Qin Lie into enjoying fleshly pleasures with his wives. She had even been able to clearly sense him become one with Song Tingyu.

Since that happened, and if all three women really were Qin Lie’s wives just as they had claimed in the beginning, did that mean Qin Lie shared a physical relationship with the direct disciple of Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master as well?

—That’s what Xing Shengnan wanted to know about the most.

“Yes, it is.” Xue Moyan smiled brightly.

A realization struck Xiang Xi. “You’ve… returned from the Graveyard of Gods?”

“That’s right.” Xue Moyan laughed softly and pointed at Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang. She introduced them, saying, “These two are the trial participants as well. They are Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang of Heavenly Sword Mountain.”

“Luo Chen?!”

Everyone collectively gaped in surprise, their expressions growing incredibly solemn. As they watched these youths, their hearts grew heavy as well.

Like Xue Moyan, Luo Chen was an illustrious prodigy known throughout the Land of Chaos. In fact, he had an edge against Xue Moyan—

—Luo Nan was his grandmother.

Xiang Xi slowly gave in to his fate. “I guess we really can’t get away anymore.”

“I suppose I no longer have to put on this act.” Qin Lie started to feel his consciousness blur, a clear indication that he had lost too much soul energy. A bloody gleam flashed through his eyes as he quickly directed the Blood Progenitor’s body to fly back to his actual body.

His True Soul was just in the Netherpassage Realm after all. He had a limited amount of soul energy that he lost every second his True Soul stayed inside the Blood Progenitor’s body.

Forcefully controlling the body of an elite was already extremely difficult for a weaker soul to begin with.

In exchange for extraordinary power, Qin Lie would inevitably

lose soul energy and experience extreme discomfort.

He couldn't unleash the true potential of the Blood Progenitor's body like this, but if a stronger soul were to possess a weaker body, it would be a whole different story.

The soul of an expert would be able to increase a body's capacity for power, displaying strength far beyond what its owner was originally capable of.

For example, if Xue Li took over the body of a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner, he would be able to use it to unleash the power of a Fulfillment Realm martial practitioner!

This was because Xue Li's soul was in the Nirvana Realm!

But Xue Li would ultimately find such a method pointless and absolutely undesirable. Even if he could use a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner's body in such a way, such strength paled in comparison to the level he desired to reach.

The Blood Progenitor's body, on the other hand, was different.

If Xue Li managed to merge his soul with the body of the Blood Progenitor, he wouldn't necessarily be able to unleash all of its power—he might be able to use sixty, maybe just thirty percent of it.

—Even that much would be beyond the level of power that he

would've been capable of at his peak!

However, Xue Li needed time to truly merge his soul with the Blood Progenitor's body. He also would never be able to surpass the realm that the Blood Progenitor reached before death.

That was the price he would have to pay.

Even in an ideal situation where a weaker soul dominated a stronger body, the best-case scenario would be for that soul to reach the realm of the body's previous owner.

The possibility of a weaker soul exceeding the realm of the body it possessed was basically nonexistent.

Qin Lie gave up on the Blood Progenitor's body for two reasons. First, his soul was far too weak. There was no way it would be able to merge into a such powerful body. Second, Qin Lie still had his youth. His future was still limitless. With enough time, he might even be able to surpass the realm that the Blood Progenitor had reached. He had no intention of prematurely restricting his growth and putting a cap on his future.

"Whoosh..."

Qin Lie's True Soul emerged from the Blood Progenitor's body and flew back into his own. As the Blood Progenitor's eyes closed, no longer rippling with soul energy, Qin Lie awoke on the Wavebreaker.

He took in his surroundings with a weary gaze. Seeing that Xing Shengnan, other Xing Family clansmen, Guo Yanzheng, Qi Jing, and other Gold Sun Island experts had gathered around him, he sat down, took out two soul crystals, and began replenishing his soul energy.

Xiang Xi, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong floated nearby as well; they just hadn't disembarked from their crystalline war chariot yet.

Xing Yao stood off to the side, the look in her eyes infinitely more conflicted than ever before. She felt as though a stone were inside of her heart.

In the beginning, she wholeheartedly sought Qin Lie's death. She had no doubt in her mind that Qin Lie had ulterior motives for posing as a Xing Family clansman and believed that those motives only involved harming the Xing Family. She wanted to prevent him from manipulating her aunt and taking advantage of her trust.

Yet Qin Lie was the one to stand up and save the Xing Family when it was on the verge of destruction.

This was why she currently had no idea how to treat Qin Lie.

"Little brother... this body possesses astonishingly powerful blood energy..." Xing Shengnan said. The longer she looked at the Blood Progenitor's body, the more she felt as if she had heard about it a long time ago. "Who...?"

“That is the body of the Blood Progenitor,” Xue Moyan said, her voice ringing out from the side of the ship.

Everyone trembled at her words, their eyes shining with disbelief.

“Th-the Blood Progenitor?” Xing Shengnan asked in a shaky voice.

Xue Moyan nodded slightly, thinking to herself, then said, “This is the progenitor of Blood Fiend Sect, the creator of the Blood Codex. He… is also the one who created the spirit art I cultivate.”

“The spirit art that… you cultivate?” Xing Shengnan cried out.

“That is correct,” Xue Moyan said. Blood energy coursed through her as she channeled the Blood Spirit Art, her eyes slowly turning a glossy sanguine. The thick stench of iron emanated from her body.

This time, everyone was shocked to their very cores. They couldn’t believe that the direct disciple of Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master cultivated the Blood Spirit Art.

What in Spirit Realm was going on?

In the eyes of Xiang Xi and his men, today’s events just kept becoming stranger and stranger.

“My mother’s name is Mo Lingye,” Xue Moyan said calmly. “My father’s name… is Xue Li.”

Since Yu Men, Feng Yiyou, and Jiang Tianxing had left the Graveyard of Gods alive, she knew that it was only a matter of time before her identity was exposed. Even if she tried to hide it, they would still expose her at an opportune time. It wouldn’t be long before all of the Land of Chaos knew that she cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and condemned her as a remnant evil of Blood Fiend Sect.

That was precisely why she decided to reveal it herself.

“I can’t believe it,” Xing Shengnan said, the information weighing heavily upon her heart. “You? A member of Blood Fiend Sect? Not only that… you’re the most genuine successor there possibly could be.”

She paused for a moment, thinking to herself, then said, “Would it be possible for us to discuss this after big brother and second brother come back?”

“I understand.” Xue Moyan nodded, a sympathetic smile spreading across her face.

“The Setting Sun Islands are your domain, Enforcer Xiang,” Xing Shengnan said. “Would you mind taking care of matters here?”

Xiang Xi smiled bitterly. “Alright.”

And just like that, Xiang Xi’s men and the other Gold Sun Island martial practitioners followed Xiang Xi’s commands, getting to work cleaning up the islands and surrounding region of the sea.

Some people cleaned the area of debris and traces of battle, some collected corpses strewn across the islands and littering the sea, and some gathered the wealth from those corpses.

Others directed each of the three Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes to land in empty sections of certain islands, and the five ships made port one after another and weighed anchor.

Qin Lie’s companions stayed by his side and waited for him to recover his soul energy as fast as possible.

Two days passed in the blink of an eye, and not a single trace of the great battle that had occurred could be seen. The evening sun bathed the Setting Sun Islands in golden light. They looked extraordinarily calm and peaceful.

Qin Lie spent the past two days absorbing energy from the soul crystals to replenish everything he had used controlling the Blood Progenitor’s body.

The Xing brothers worked with the eight god corpses and continued fighting throughout those two days. They would briefly communicate with Qin Lie every so often and inform him of their

situation.

Xiang Xi kept his subordinates on a short leash, forbidding any of them from leaving the Setting Sun Islands or spreading any information.

Xing Shengnan kept in constant contact with her brothers. She took note of all the latest developments as she waited for the situation to stabilize.

On the third day after the battle, early in the morning, Qin Lie sat atop a reef that protruded just above the surface of the sea near a small island.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone hovered in the air before him, with traces of bloody light connecting them both.

Since the god corpses continued to move further away from him, he needed to use the Demon Sealing Tombstone to give them orders.

“Whoosh!”

The Demon Sealing Tombstone slowly shrank until it completely vanished into his spatial ring.

Qin Lie had learned that the hunt for Jiang Hao, pavilion master of Heavenly Sea Pavilion, had finally come to an end. The Xing brothers and the eight god corpses would take no more than a day

to return to the Setting Sun Islands.

Qin Lie had everything under control.

Then, all of a sudden, Gao Yu arrived. He spoke to Qin Lie, making his intentions known in a clear, concise manner.

“I’m leaving, Qin Lie.”

Chapter 598: Subdue!

Gao Yu had come to Qin Lie using a crystalline war chariot.

Crystalline war chariots were just small-scale flying spirit artifact. Neither their speed nor carrying capacity could compare to those of the Flowing Gold Fire Phoenixes.

The cost between them obviously couldn't be compared either.

However, even the lousiest flying spirit artifact was still a flying spirit artifact. They were more precious than most ships and also moved a lot faster.

Crystalline war chariots consumed the energy inside of spirits stones for fuel. Technically speaking, as long as Gao Yu had enough spirit stones, this crystalline war chariot would allow him to fly forever.

Gao Yu now possessed a vehicle he could use to travel across the sea.

"Have you truly made up your mind?" Qin Lie stopped communicating with the god corpses so he could focus on the discussion at hand. He simply looked at Gao Yu and asked, "What do you plan to do in the future?"

"I will first find Jia Yue and later collect the soul fragments of the Evil God," Gao Yu said. "Then I'll do my best to get stronger."

“I can help you with everything except your search for Jia Yue,” Qin Lie said sincerely. “We just need to do it together.”

“It’s fine,” Gao Yu said with a shake of his head. “There are things… I must do alone.”

“You still have three bodies of ancient elites here.” Qin Lie frowned.

“Keep them safe for me,” Gao Yu said calmly. “I currently have no use for them. Just subduing the Evil God and absorbing all of his inheritance will take a huge amount of time and spirit energy.”

Seeing that Gao Yu had made up his mind, Qin Lie finally stopped trying to get him to stay. He sent Gao Yu off with a heavy heart and helplessly watched him head east on his crystalline war chariot.

Gao Yu already possessed formidable strength. He was cruel, tenacious, and had the body of the Evil God to do his bidding. At the very least, Qin Lie didn’t need to worry for his safety.

He believed that, even in a place as conflict-ridden as the Land of Chaos, Gao Yu would live well and be able to find his own way.

The god corpses returned the following evening, quietly approaching the Setting Sun Islands like demons in the dead of night.

They eventually appeared by the island that Qin Lie was at, standing waist-deep in the sea. They gathered before him and stared at him with their enormous eyes that resembled lanterns. The glow of their eyes and the potent energy that radiated from their bodies struck fear into the hearts of numerous Gold Sun Island martial practitioners, making them tremble in fear.

Upon sensing the tremendous energy of the god corpses, Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and Xing Shengnan rushed over.

“It’s fine,” Qin Lie reassured them. “The god corpses have returned.”

Upon seeing the god corpses, everyone calmed down and nodded in acknowledgment.

In the meantime, Qin Lie examined them with his soul consciousness.

Tiny sparks of electricity that held his consciousness slipped into the eight god corpses, and he inspected their spirit and blood energies.

The potent aura of each god corpse transformed into electrical feedback that traveled to Qin Lie’s True Soul and informed him of their condition.

Qin Lie’s eyes slowly lit up with excitement.

The god corpses were gradually getting stronger!

There was no doubt about it!

Ever since Qin Lie had found them in the stony valley of that island and used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to forge a soul connection with each one, he had already become acutely aware of their condition.

The previous conditions of their life forces and auras simply couldn't compare to the level they were at now.

However, as soon as Qin Lie calmed down and seriously examined the changes within the god corpses, he discovered that each god corpse had experienced different degrees of growth!

Considering how powerful the god corpses were, the amount of growth they experienced frankly wasn't that spectacular, but it was definitely growth!

These god corpses used to be the people that served the supposedly extinct Heaven Fighting Race. As they were now, they could be considered soulless. They had no souls, and their soul fragments were nowhere to be found.

Corpses that could move and fight were already bizarre, so how in Spirit Realm could they still grow stronger?

This revelation completely shocked Qin Lie.

As he pondered about the changes that had occurred to the god corpses and considered what had happened recently, he slowly came to the conclusion that the cause for all of this was the huge amount of flesh and blood they had eaten!

After Qin Lie's group escaped the Graveyard of Gods, they first fought the Pan Family. During that battle, Qin Lie used the eight god corpses to slaughter the Pan Family clansmen, and most of them ended up deep within the stomachs of the god corpses.

In their most recent battle against Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion, the god corpses once against turned the situation around and killed scores of enemy martial practitioners. Again, they devoured a large amount of the enemy.

All of these martial practitioners had been in the Manifestation Realm and above. Their bodies had been tempered with spirit energy, their life forces were strong, and they contained huge amounts of spirit energy as well.

This was how the god corpses grew stronger!

This realization completely astonished Qin Lie.

A thousand years ago, every force in the Land of Chaos had treated Blood Fiend Sect like monsters just because a minority of the sect consumed human blood to cultivate.

Wouldn’t the direct consumption of martial practitioners that the god corpses used to grow stronger be an even more extreme method of increasing strength?

“Whoosh, whoosh…”

As Qin Lie struggled to process his thoughts, several war chariots glided into view, slowly approaching the area under the soft glow of moonlight. He could see Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan aboard one each.

After thinking for a moment, Qin Lie silently transmitted orders to the god corpses. They immediately dove into the sea and traveled to the hiding place where the remains of the ancient elites had been stored. Unless Qin Lie summoned them, they wouldn’t resurface.

Only then did Qin Lie notice that both Xing Yumiao and Xing Yuyuan were covered in blood. Xing Yuyuan seemed severely wounded in particular, blood gushing from wounds in his left shoulder and abdomen.

“Help! Somebody, help!” Xing Yumiao shouted.

His cries resounded throughout the surrounding islands, waking up many Gold Sun Island martial practitioners.

Panic creeped into Xing Shengnan’s voice as she yelled, “Big

brother! Second brother!”

“Little sister!” Xing Yumiao cried in response. “Take second brother and get a healer to treat his wounds!”

A couple of Gold Sun Island martial practitioners escorted Xing Yuyuan’s chariot, escorting him to a specific island.

At the same time, Xiang Xi, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong rushed over as well, and soon enough, everyone had tacitly gathered at the reef where Qin Lie was.

“Jiang Hao is dead,” Xing Yumiao said in a grim, quiet voice. “Almost all of his subordinates are dead as well. Only a few small fries are being hunted down as we speak. This region of the sea is Gold Sun Island’s territory, and I’ve already given the order for all of them to be hunted down. None of them should be able to escape.”

He paused for a moment, then continued, “...but it may not be possible to completely suppress the appearance of the eight god corpses.”

The moment he said this, deep frowns twisted the expressions of everyone present. All of them realized that they had a difficult problem before them.

Hundreds of martial practitioners of Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion had seen the god corpses. There was no

telling if any of them carried transmission stones with them. If they did, they would have been able to instantly transmit any messages whenever they had a moment to spare.

If that were the case, the appearance of the eight god corpses would be revealed along with Qin Lie's name.

In fact, every force in the Land of Chaos might already know what occurred at the Setting Sun Islands. Some could even use that information to infer that the bodies of ancient elites that had escaped destruction in the Graveyard of Gods were in the same place. Once that happened, the territory of Gold Sun Island would flare to life on everyone's radar.

"First island master," Qin Lie suddenly exclaimed. "As things are now... what is your opinion of Blood Fiend Sect?"

Instead of answering Qin Lie, Xing Yumiao looked at Xue Moyan and asked, "Are you truly the daughter of Senior Xue Li and Mo Lingye, Miss Xue? My little sister informed me of everything a few days ago, this news astounded me. Tell me, Miss Xue. Are your mother and father... still around?"

Sincerity tinged Xue Moyan's voice as she explained everything to Xing Yumiao.

"They're alive," she said. "However, they aren't doing well at the moment. My father only has half of his soul left, and my mother..."

Xing Yumiao glanced at Qin Lie. “What about that body? The Blood Progenitor’s body?”

“I will bring it to Senior Xue Li so that he can merge with it,” Qin Lie declared. “Furthermore I will use the remains of the ancient elites that I brought back from the Graveyard of Gods to strengthen Blood Fiend Sect!”

Xue Moyan pursed her lips tightly, feeling a hint of gratitude as her eyes shone brightly.

She knew exactly what Qin Lie’s declaration meant for all of Blood Fiend Sect.

Qin Lie then exclaimed, “The eight god corpses will be the guardians of Blood Fiend Sect as well!”

Xing Yumiao stared long and hard at the two of them. After a long while, he finally gritted his teeth and nodded deeply.

“That settles it!” he said. “I am willing to have us serve Blood Fiend Sect. From today onward, the Xing Family shall once again assume its identity as a vassal force of Blood Fiend Sect!”

A moment later, he looked to Xiang Xi and said, “I can only speak for the Xing Family. I do not represent Gold Sun Island.”

Xiang Xi smiled bitterly. “There is no longer any difference between the two.”

Xing Yumiao's eyes widened as he registered what Xiang Xi said.

"What about you, Enforcer Xiang?" Qin Lie asked.

"I don't have a choice." Xiang Xi sighed. He bent down to one knee, head bowed, and spoke in a solemn voice.

"I swear to serve Blood Fiend Sect and become a vassal for it to command!"

Chapter 599: New Direction

Qin Lie wasn't surprised that both Xing Yumiao and Xiang Xi decided to join Blood Fiend Sect.

Once the two of them agreed on the general direction, Qin Lie left all of the logistics for them to discuss and figure out.

He believed that Xing Yumiao would treat Xiang Xi fairly.

Xiang Xi, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong represented the old guard of Gold Sun Island. Although their power wasn't too impressive with only Xiang Xi in the Fragmentation Realm, this faction definitely couldn't be dismissed. Without them, Gold Sun Island's overall strength would drop tremendously.

If Xiang Xi and his men ended up leaving, Gold Sun Island could very well drop in rank from Copper to Black Iron.

—The Xing brothers definitely wanted to avoid such a result.

Xing Yumiao was determined to take revenge. He and the rest of the Xing Family wanted to fight their way into the Heavenly Calamity Continent and wipe every trace of the three great families from existence.

Gold Sun Island had far from enough strength to accomplish that, and it certainly couldn't afford to lose any more than it currently had.

In light of this, Qin Lie believed that Xing Yumiao would mend his relationship with Xiang Xi, which would, of course, require Xiang Xi to do the same.

The island envoys under Xiang Xi's command oversaw the Setting Sun Islands. Qin Lie requested an island for his group to have to themselves, and the island they were given had a dozen stone towers for the six of them to live in for the time being. Each of them took up residence in a tower of their own.

Since they no longer needed to hide their identities, Qin Lie could work on refining blood essences within a room of his stone tower.

After focusing on using the Blood Refinement Art for five days, Qin Le completely refined the nine essences of the metal, earth, and water spirits and fused them with his own blood.

"Whoosh...!"

As soon as he did, the Soul Suppressing Orb in the space between Qin Lie's eyebrows roared to life with a powerful sucking force.

The Soul Suppressing Orb sucked the nine freshly refined blood essences and large amounts of his soul energy and blood inside of it, storing it within the restricted area that Qin Lie's soul consciousness couldn't enter.

Qin Lie withered as the sensation of his soul energy and blood

being sucked away utterly terrified him once more.

Since she was nearby, Xue Moyan could sense the abnormal movement of his blood energy and immediately rushed over. Xie Jingxuan detected the strange activity in his life force as well and arrived with Song Tingyu in tow.

The three women hurried into Qin Lie's tower and quickly gathered within his room. His ashen face and lethargic eyes greeted them, a clear indicator that he had lost a great deal of blood.

All three of them had fought by his side in the Graveyard of Gods, and an odd realization set in when they saw his condition.

"Is this situation similar to your previous one?" Song Tingyu asked. She seemed more surprised than shocked.

Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan weren't worried either. Instead, they displayed curiosity and palpable excitement.

"The blood essences of the three spirits were absorbed," Qin Lie said. "They mixed with my soul energy, my blood, and flowed... here."

Qin Lie pointed at the space between his eyebrows.

“This is good.” Xie Jingxuan spoke with a calm, yet serious voice. “Three more miraculous entities will be born soon.”

“This probably isn’t bad news,” Xue Moyan said.

“Before they’re born, however, you will need to provide soul energy and blood to nurture them. Doing so will leave you weak for a while.” Song Tingyu thought to herself then silently took out the soul crystals she had in her spatial ring. “Here. These are all the soul crystals I have left.”

Everyone aside from Qin Lie had gathered large amounts of soul crystals from the bottom of the Thunder Lagoon. Yet Qin Lie’s refinement of the blood essences, as well as the drain on his soul energy and blood, forced all of them to give him soul crystals to help him recover as soon as possible.

Of the three women, Song Tingyu had naturally been the most generous with her soul crystals and provided him with the largest amount each time.

Now that Qin Lie found himself in the same situation as before, she knew that he would need an obscene amount of soul crystals. Only this would help Qin Lie bring the three new beings to life.

After taking out all of her soul crystals and piling them before Qin Lie, Song Tingyu looked at Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan with her alluring eyes, a soft smile playing at her lips.

A long moment passed before Xue Moyan and Xie Jingxuan took out half of the soul crystals they had in their spatial rings, letting them pour to the floor in front of Qin Lie.

“Haha, that should be enough,” Song Tingyu exclaimed, a smile blooming on her face.

Qin Lie casually stored the soul crystals into his own spatial ring without a word, leaving only two of them in each hand. As he absorbed soul energy from the two crystals, he spoke.

“We won’t be going to the destination we agreed on earlier.”

“W-what did you just say?” Xue Moyan sputtered.

“We will not be going to Blood Fiend Sect yet!” Qin Lie growled. “We will first head to Gold Sun Island and use it as a base of operations!”

The three women stared at him in shock.

“Our identities will be exposed soon, and the fact that we are with Gold Sun Island probably won’t be a secret much longer.” Qin Lie paused in contemplation, then continued, “Blood Fiend Sect’s current location is an extremely well kept secret. I believe that even Illusory Demon Sect has no clue where it is. We should only go there if we have no other option and keep it as a last resort.

“Though you should travel there soon, Senior Sister. Take the body of the Blood Progenitor so that Senior Xue Li can merge with it,” he said. “You should also tell your master about your true identity as a member of Blood Fiend Sect. Try and persuade her to…”

“There is no need for persuasion,” Xue Moyan said, casually interrupting Qin Lie. “My master is already aware of my origins.”

“She is?” Qin Lie asked in astonishment.

“You don’t need to worry about Illusory Demon Sect,” Xue Moyan declared confidently. “Gold Sun Island serving Blood Fiend Sect won’t be a problem. My master and the sect will not cause any trouble.”

Qin Lie gave her a profound look and nodded softly.

“It seems like our situation isn’t as bad as I thought.”

Xue Moyan’s attitude told Qin Lie that Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master wasn’t hostile toward Blood Fiend Sect. In fact, she actually seemed protective of it. As this occurred to him, his mind started racing. He realized that, when Blood Fiend Sect faced extermination a thousand years ago, Mo Lingye and the elders of Blood Fiend Sect fled toward the Heavenly Slaughter Continent—

—toward territories under Illusory Demon Sect’s control.

Qin Lie thought everything over carefully, a theory gradually forming in his head.

He became more and more certain that the sect master of Illusory Demon Sect had hidden ties to Blood Fiend Sect.

The moment Qin Lie thought this, Xue Moyan glanced at Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan.

After a bit of hesitation, she said, “My master and my mother… when they were traveling the world together, they became as close as sisters. Back then, my master wasn’t in charge of Illusory Demon Sect and Blood Fiend Sect wasn’t hated by all.

Qin Lie’s eyes lit up.

“Before Blood Fiend Sect had been surrounded and massacred, my mother received an urgent message from my master and left with elders of Blood Fiend Sect,” Xue Moyan explained in a soft voice. “With my master’s help, they escaped to the Heavenly Slaughter Continent…”

Yu Lingwei was the reason Blood Fiend Sect managed to survive. She had even arranged Blood Fiend Sect’s current clandestine existence. That seemed to explain why Illusory Demon Sect wouldn’t have a problem with Gold Sun Island becoming Blood Fiend Sect’s vassal force once again.

“Gold Sun Island, Green Moon Valley, and other smaller forces

were able to establish themselves in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent because they received protection from Illusory Demon Sect. Protection that my master provided on behalf of Blood Fiend Sect," Xue Moyan said. "My master promised that, if they wanted to serve Blood Fiend Sect once more, she would support me."

"You have an excellent master!" Qin Lie exclaimed, his eyes trembling with approval.

Xue Moyan smiled softly.

"That means Illusory Demon Sect will help us instead of being a threat, and we'll have more support!" Qin Lie said, rubbing his chin. "With Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang's haul of six bodies of ancient elites, along with Uncle Li's presence, Heavenly Sword Mountain won't be an enemy either. Of the six great Silver rank forces, two will be on our side."

"Don't you mean nine?" Xue Moyan asked reflexively.

"If you're talking about the three great families, they do not qualify!" Qin Lie replied with a shake of his head, his lips curling into a cruel smile. "Only Terminator Sect, Black Voodoo Cult, Illusory Demon Sect, Heavenly Sword Mountain, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain are the real overlords of the Land of Chaos. The three great families together probably wouldn't be even be able to contend with a single one!"

Xue Moyan considered this for a while, then nodded and said, "That's true."

“Everything is much simpler now.” Qin Lie could feel his thoughts become more and more lively. “Chu Li wouldn’t die so easily, and as long as he’s still alive, I have three bodies of ancient elites for him! He also said he’d get me an audience with Forefather Terminator. If I meet him, I believe that I can get him to support Blood Fiend Sect! Then it is much simpler.”

Everyone’s eyes lit up with excitement the second he said this.

“Jiang Zhuzhe conspired with Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was also involved. Neither of the two are blameless, so how would they be able to blame us?” Qin Lie asked with a snort. “In my opinion, both forces are ignoring Blood Fiend Sect like a poisonous tumor that they just had removed!”

“The way you’re putting it, it seems like only Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families will be trying to kill us.” Song Tingyu laughed softly.

“After all these years, they still haven’t given up on hunting Blood Fiend Sect down,” Xue Moyan said. “They really are the only ones we need to worry about.”

“Hehehe...” The warmth of excitement spread throughout Qin Lie’s body as the situation became clear. “It seems like we’re in a better spot than we thought.”

Chapter 600: Released!

Qin Lie originally wanted Xue Moyan to bring the Blood Progenitor's body to Xue Li, but when he took it out, he realized that Xue Moyan had nothing to carry it with.

The Blood Progenitor's body, which radiated bloody light and seemed like it was made of sanguine jewels, had been held within the Soul Suppressing Orb this entire time—

—and not a spatial ring.

Spatial rings could hold many things. They could hold wood, spirit stones, plants, pills, corpses, bones, you name it.

It could hold everything except beings with souls—not even the tiniest fragment!

A soul pagoda sat deep inside of the Blood Progenitor's mind, and even some extremely small fragile soul remnants lingered throughout the body.

These were proof of the Blood Progenitor's imperishable soul.

Although these slivers of the Blood Progenitor's soul were so weak they could be disregarded, they still prevented his body from being stored within a spatial ring. Only the Soul Suppressing Orb could contain it.

The Soul Suppressing Orb held three newborn entities, things undergoing refinement, and the Bloodthirsty Dragon. Like the body of the Blood Progenitor, all of these things possessed souls.

Even the three tiny beings that were just born and had simple consciousnesses could be considered intelligent creatures with souls.

Qin Lie had the Soul Suppressing Orb in which he could store the Blood Progenitor's body and disguise the thick stench of iron that came from it. Xue Moyan didn't have a such a treasure. Since it couldn't be carried in a spatial ring and it weighed thousands of kilograms, she had no way to covertly transport it to Blood Fiend Sect without being discovered.

Because of that, Xue Moyan left the others early on.

She needed to see the sect master of Illusory Demon Sect and explain everything that had happened inside the Graveyard of Gods. She also needed to go see her father, Xue Li, and bring his soul along with other members of Blood Fiend Sect to Qin Lie.

With Gao Yu and Xue Moyan's departures, only Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Xie Jingxuan, and Song Tingyu remained with Qin Lie.

In the days that followed, the Xing Family and Xiang Xi's faction held secret meetings at the Setting Sun Islands to mend their relationship.

Qin Lie neither asked about the proceedings nor paid any attention to them. Instead, he focused on using soul crystals to replenish his soul energy and absorbed fiendish bloody energy from the Demon Sealing Tombstone to generate blood.

Ten days later, the Xing siblings, Xiang Xi, Xu Changsheng, and Xu Jiadong coexisted harmoniously once again. It appeared as though both sides had completely forgotten the conflict that had just occurred.

The day after their relationship seemed to have miraculously mended, Qin Lie summoned the the six of them to the island he resided on. Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang were present as well.

Seeing that everyone had gathered, Qin Lie bluntly asked, “Has news of us commanding the god corpses been leaked yet?”

“It’s quite strange, actually. We have yet to receive any information about that matter,” Xing Yuyuan answered. He still looked a bit pale, and his wounds hadn’t completely healed. “However, many will notice the strange details about this region eventually. For example, the patriarch of the Pan Family and their main force haven’t contacted the main family for a long time. The people of Black Cloud Palace and Heavenly Sea Pavilion have been missing as well. This has caused Black Voodoo Cult and Illusory Demon Sect to send people to investigate.”

“We killed the Pan Family,” Qin Lie said nonchalantly.

The Xing siblings and Xiang Xi’s trio exchanged knowing glances

as if they had already guessed this.

“Since it seems as though news hasn’t spread…” Qin Lie paused for a moment, then said, “That should be enough.”

“What did you summon us for, little brother?” Xing Shengnan asked.

Qin Lie smiled at everyone and said, “I summoned you here for a good matter.”

As he finished speaking, the Demon Sealing Tombstone emerged from his spatial ring and flew up to hover above them.

Soon enough, the splash of movement in the water could be heard near the island. Everyone turned to look at the sea and watched as the eight god corpses emerged from it. They took great, earthshaking strides ashore, the boom of their slow steps echoing throughout the island.

An enormous basket woven from tree branches soaked with saltwater came into view. Gargantuan bodies of ancient elites from the Asura Race, the Giant Spirit Race, the Wood Race, and other ancient beasts lay within that basket.

“The remains of ancient elites!” Everyone’s eyes shone with a burning light.

Qin Lie continued to send commands to the god corpses, and they

soon pulled the twenty three bodies of ancient elites onto the island.

This unnamed island covered thousands of square meters, yet once the twenty three bodies had been spread out, they took up nearly all of its space.

Some of the ancient elites were small, the size of normal humanoids like humans and the Wood Race. Some, on the other hand, were extremely large when laid out. Like ancient beasts and members of the Giant Spirit Race, many were hundreds of meters tall and resembled mountains.

Twenty three bodies of ancient elites were spread throughout the island, radiating all kinds of ancient, wild auras. These auras pressured everyone present, making their very souls tremble.

“These are our spoils from the Graveyard of Gods,” Qin Lie said. “Seven of us came out of there together. We don’t know if Chu Li is dead or alive, but… I’ll be keeping his share for him.”

Qin Lie summoned a crystalline war chariot with a wave of his hand and boarded it. He then waved for Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan to join him.

Surprise tinged Xing Yumiao’s face. He mirrored Qin Lie’s actions, getting into the chariot they had arrived on and directing it into the sky. Xiang Xi and the others did the same as well.

Soon enough, all of their crystalline chariots hovered above the island, and everyone surveyed the bodies of the ancient elites.

At this moment, the sun was at its highest. Under its brilliant light, the bodies of the ancient elites seemed to have a metallic shine to them and even released potent waves of power.

—All of that was pure fleshly power!!

In ancient times, every expert focused a great deal of their efforts on the refinement of the flesh and blood. They made it so vast power flowed through their blood, flesh, sinews, bones, and every fiber of their being. Even if their souls were destroyed, the bodies would persist.

Everyone aboard the crystalline chariots closed their eyes and tried to sense the bodies with their soul consciousnesses.

An instant later, all of them opened their eyes, expressions of shock covering their faces.

Upon closing their eyes and examining the bodies on the island below, they discovered that all of them still possessed life force. The power contained in every single body was enough to make them boil over with madness.

“Luo Chen. Du Xiangyang. The six below us belong to you. You can choose which ones you’d like now, or pick once your elders arrive,” Qin Lie said with a smile. “Once you’ve chosen, I will help

you remove the seals on them and you will be able to absorb the power directly from each body. You can also take the bodies and use their flesh and bones to refine powerful spirit artifacts, of course. That is your decision to make."

His words made Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang tremble, their eyes shining with joy. Both of them looked at Qin Lie and spoke up at the same time.

"May I send word to Heavenly Sword Mountain?"

Qin Lie nodded. "I welcome the elders from Heavenly Sword Mountain and insist that they come and take the spoils that belong to you!"

"Are you sure?" Luo Chen asked.

"Yes," Qin Lie replied confidently. He paused for a moment to think, then said, "I only hope that Blood Fiend Sect will receive the friendship of Heavenly Sword Mountain in return."

"I don't think there'll be any problems." Du Xiangyang smiled.

"Qin Lie!" Xie Jingxuan exclaimed, pointing to a particular body. "I only need that one!"

The body she pointed out was that of an elderly Wood Race man. He was only around a hundred and eighty centimeters tall and had grayish brown skin that resembled the bark of a tree.

From his wrinkle-ridden face alone, this Wood Race clansman seemed astonishingly old, but he radiated astonishing waves of wood and life energy.

The Demon Sealing Tombstone had been hovering in the air beside Qin Lie, and when he moved, its seven godly lights suddenly shot out from within it.

As they did, everyone instinctively turned to look.

The seven dazzling, godly lights resembled a rainbow that silently descended upon the body of this Wood Race clansman.

If one were to look closely, they would discover that some sort of liquid power seemed to float within each godly light. That power flowed within each light like divine flashing runes that seemed to jump around erratically.

A pale emerald light rose from the Wood Race clansman and formed a thin shield of light. Leafy patterns spread across the surface of that shield, clearly defending the body of this Wood Race clansman.

Yet when the rays of godly light made contact and the divine runes flowed forth, that shield of light slowly eroded. It soon dissolved into drops of verdant liquid, and a potent aura of life energy emanated from it.

These drops of verdant liquid landed on the body of the Wood Race clansman and resembled early morning dew on leaves, but they didn't soak into it.

At that moment, Qin Lie looked at Xie Jingxuan. He spoke up hesitantly.

"S... Sister Jingxuan. I want to discuss something with you."

A thread of shock flashed through Xie Jingxuan's clear eyes when he called out to her, but it only shone for a moment. She immediately calmed down and said, "I know what you want to talk about."

This time, it was Qin Lie's turn to be shocked. "You do?"

Xie Jingxuan hesitated and gritted her teeth.

"That verdant liquid, the distillation of the power that protected the body of that Wood Race clansman, is pure life energy," she reluctantly exclaimed. "It is essentially water from the Spring of Life. Xue Moyan must offer something of equal value to trade for it!"

Her declaration made Qin Lie freeze, but soon his worries dissipated.

He smiled and said, "Many thanks, Sister Jingxuan."

“And now?” Xie Jingxuan snorted softly.

“The seals on him have been destroyed,” Qin Lie said. “He now belongs to you.”

The seven mysteriously godly lights withdrew into the Demon Sealing Tombstone once again, and the tombstone fell silent.

The pale emerald shield of light surrounding the Wood Race clansman had been distilled into potent drops of water from the Spring of Life.

Just this realization registered and astonished everyone present, Xie Jingxuan’s eyes shone with emerald light. Right when the crystalline chariot was about to land, impatience got the better of her and she charged toward the body of the Wood Race clansman, carefully collecting the drops of springwater with a special container.

The breathing of both Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang grew ragged.

“Qin Lie!” both of them shouted at the same time.

“Take your pick.” Qin Lie smiled calmly.

And the two of them instantly went mad.