TALES OF DEMONS AND GODS

BOOK 04

Mad Snail

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Tales of Demons and Gods

(妖神记)

by

Mad Snail

(发飙的蜗牛)

Synopsis

Killed by a Sage Emperor and reborn as his 13 year old self, Nie Li was given a second chance at life. A second chance to change everything and save his loved ones and his beloved city. He shall once again battle with the Sage Emperor to avenge his death and those of his beloved .

With the vast knowledge of hundred years of life he accumulated in his previous life, he shall have a new starting point. Although he started as the weakest, without a doubt, he will climb the steps towards the strongest. Cultivating the strongest cultivation technique, wielding the strongest demon spirits, he shall reach the pinnacle of Martial Arts. Enmities of the past will be settled in this new lifetime.

“Since I’m back, then in this lifetime, I shall become the King of the Gods that dominate everything. Let everything else tremble beneath my feet!”

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Chapter 301: Reward

After the lesson, Long Yuyin headed back to her own courtyard. Nie Li's teachings continued to revolve through her mind. The more she thought about them, the more profound she found them.

She finally understood that she'd always been a frog in a well [1]. Nie Li's broad knowledge far surpassed her imagination. In this world, the only people who were able to give her that feeling were her Master and Nie Li. She'd even be willing to accept Nie Li as her Master.

While Long Yuyin was in a rather dazed state of mind, a figure suddenly appeared before her.

Long Yuyin's expression went solemn. "Hu Yong, it's you?"

Hu Yong's face was twisted. "Long Yuyin, I heard that you went to train with Nie Li? You even talked to him in a soft voice? Are you cheating on me?" When he heard that Long Yuyin and Nie Li were together during their lessons, he'd nearly gone crazy from anger. He felt like he was wearing an oily-green hat [2].

Long Yuyin's face turned cold at Hu Yong's words. "Hu Yong, do you want me to cripple you again? Nie Li fought me and won. He can guide me in my cultivation. I admire him. If you have the guts, why don't you come and fight me one-on-one?"

Hu Yong sensed the strong fighting intent emanating from Long

Yuyin's body. His heart couldn't help quivering in fear.

Was she joking? One-on-one? With his strength, how could he possibly be Long Yuyin's opponent? He doesn't even have a Heaven Spiritual Root! As he faced her, he no longer dared to say anything else; on the other hand, he hated Nie Li even more. However, there was nothing he could do to Nie Li. His lungs felt ready to explode from all the pent-up anger.

Hu Yong yelled in anger. "I'm your fiancé!"

Long Yuyin's brows twitched as she coldly looked at Hu Yong. "I've never accepted that marriage engagement! How could trash like you be my fiancé? If you want to be my fiancé, then say it after you beat me!"

Hu Yong's heart couldn't help shivering at Long Yuyin's murderous eyes. She had the same expression back then, when she'd wasted him. He felt fear!

Hu Yong made up his mind. He was going to get revenge against this adulterous couple, Nie Li and Long Yuyin! "Long Yuyin, you better remember this. I'll make you regret it!"

However, he was afraid to go face-to-face with Long Yuyin. He could only turn around and leave with a depressed heart.

Long Yuyin snorted. "Hmph, I'd like to see how you're going to make me regret it!" She'd always been doing things her own way.

Even the adults of the Dragonseal Family couldn't touch her, since she had an extremely special position in the family. She was disqualified from becoming first successor due to some of her personality traits; however, no one dared touch her anyways.

She wasn't interested in conflicts in the slightest. She was only obsessed with the Martial Dao. Her talent in it was dazzling too; at least before she met Nie Li. Before then, no one her age could stand on par with her.

Furthermore, once Long Yuyin reaches the Heavenly Fate Realm, she'll be able to integrate with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. The one that had been personally willed to her by her late grandfather. From there, Long Yuyin's position within the family would no longer be the same.

Therefore, she never regarded Hu Yong very highly. From her point of view, he was just a piece of trash who couldn't threaten her at all.

Back then, she'd first learned that some people within the Dragonseal Family were trying to marry her off by arranging a marriage with Hu yong and she wasted him. Even then, neither Hu Yong's family nor the Dragonseal Family could do anything to her!

A day passed quickly.

In all the subsequent lessons, every time the students needed to partner up for something, Long Yuyin would take the initiative to look for Nie Li. Because of that, He Yinyin couldn't get close to

him. She could only stand in the sidelines, hating Long Yuyin.

Sometimes, when Long Yuyin had encountered problems in cultivation, she sought out Nie Li for answers. He would give her few pointers and she'd always listen respectfully which gave her a feeling of sudden insight in her Dao, making her feel even more admiration for Nie Li. Occasionally, he reprimanded her, but she never dared to talk back. She also became gentler towards Lu Piao and Gu Bei.

However, aside from Nie Li and his friends, Long Yuyin didn't see them with much regard.

As this went on, Nie Li continued to cultivate while accumulating spiritual stones. Occasionally, he gave pointers to Long Yuyin during their lessons. Time passed quickly.

In just ten days, Lu Piao had stepped into the Heavenly Fate Realm. A month later, Nie Li had still yet to step into the Heavenly Fate Realm, despite the shocking rise in his cultivation. However, by now, he'd already collected the reward from the Saint Soul Board.

Nie Li was ranked third on the Saint Soul Board; therefore, he obtained a Grade 4 artifact, three spiritual stone essences, a Dragon Bloodline Excellent Level demon spirit, and one thousand spiritual stones.

Grade 4 artifact – Celestial Armour. It was a breastplate with powerful defensive capabilities. An ordinary expert would never be

able to penetrate it. The Celestial Armour could protect the Fate Soul from dispersing, thus creating a chance to escape. Back in the Tiny World, after the Demon Lord's limbs were chopped off, he'd managed to escape using a Grade 3 artifact to guard his Fate Soul. As for Nie Li's Celestial Armour, it was slightly better than the Demon Lord's.

An ordinary 5-fate Heavenly Fate Realm expert would find it difficult to penetrate the Grade 4 Celestial Armour. But that's only if his opponent doesn't have a high-grade offensive artifact.

The Grade 4 artifact was so precious that you'd only encounter such a thing by extremely sheer luck; it would be next to impossible to find such a thing, even if you were looking for it. It priced for at least ten thousand spiritual stones, probably more. To ordinary cultivators, ten thousand spiritual stones was an unimaginably vast fortune.

Then, there were the three spiritual stone essences. A single piece was roughly equivalent to a thousand spiritual stones. In addition, he'd received a Dragon Bloodline demon spirit with an Excellent Level growth rate. That was also priceless.

Nie Li had already accumulated thirty thousand spiritual stones by selling God Level growth rate ordinary demon spirits. Added to the reward he received today, his fortune was shocking.

It was as many spiritual stones as a single low-grade Deity's Lake could produce in an entire year!

If Hu Yong, Jin Yan, and Hua Ling knew that Nie Li had so many spiritual stones concealed within his interspatial ring, they'd probably vomit blood from jealousy.

Nie Li put the Celestial Armour on and slowly began refining it, merging it with his soul aura. With a Grade 4 Artifact to protect himself, he'd be much safer when he headed to the outside world.

Nie Li brought out the three spiritual stone essences and began absorbing them. His cultivation continued to refine. After absorbing all three, he still hadn't crossed that doorstep. However, he could sense that the Heavenly Energy was filling his soul realm to the brim. All he needed was the hint of an opportunity for a breakthrough.

According to the cultivation speed of his previous life, Nie Li should definitely have made a breakthrough after absorbing so many spiritual stones. He never thought that the vine in his soul realm would make the cultivation process so much more difficult.

As for the remaining Excellent Level growth rate demon spirits with Dragon Bloodlines, Nie Li wasn't planning to save them for himself, of course. Dragon Bloodline demon spirits of that quality were too poor for him. Once he reached the Heavenly Fate Realm, he'd definitely find a way to get his hands on a God Level Dragon Bloodline demon spirit.

Nie Li brought out his Excellent Level Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. Not including this one, he still had over thirty thousand Ordinary Level growth rate demon spirits with Dragon Bloodlines. All of this was thanks to Gu Bei's continuous efforts. Some of them

were taken directly from the Gu Clan's warehouses. Such powerful families had no use for Ordinary Level Dragon Bloodline demon spirits. They were trash that no one wanted.

Nie Li originally planned to reach the Heavenly Fate Realm before he started refining God Level Dragon Bloodline demon spirits; however, even until now, his cultivation hadn't reached that step. Therefore, Nie Li could only get started on refining them.

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[1] = Chinese idiom. A frog lives in the bottom of a well. It can only see the sky through the round opening of the well and thinks that the sky is only as large as the well opening is. In reality, it doesn't know a thing about the vastness of the world.

[2] = In Chinese culture, green hat meant cheated on.

Chapter 302: Refining Demon Spirits

Nie Li focused his thoughts on the Nightmare Demon Pot as he placed ten Ordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits into it.

He then activated the pot. Within the device, the ten demon spirits began devouring each other.

Earlier, Nie Li had tried to put a Dragon Bloodline demon spirit with an ordinary bloodline demon spirit together in the Nightmare Demon Pot. However, he quickly learned that the Dragon Bloodlines devoured the ordinary ones too fast — so fast that the Dragon Bloodlines didn't see any change in evolution. It seemed that Dragon Bloodlines were much more powerful than ordinary demon spirits.

As time passed, Nie Li felt changes within the Nightmare Demon Pot. One of the demon spirits was obviously stronger than the others as it constantly devoured, becoming more and more powerful each time.

When two Dragon Bloodline demon spirits fused, they would do so in a burst of blazing flame-like energy.

The entire Nightmare Demon Pot glowed scarlet red as a surge of energy revolved inside.

After the Nightmare Demon Pot absorbed the released energy, a mysterious pattern gradually formed on its surface. The design

looked like a dragon with its wings spread wide; however, the design was also extremely faint and hard to discern. Nie Li had no idea what these changes meant.

Regardless, the refinery process was finally done!

Nie Li removed the Dragon Bloodline demon spirit after it'd finished fusing. Now, it had become a Dragon Bloodline with a Good Level growth rate. Compared to those with Ordinary Level growth rates, it's price was several folds higher.

He placed another ten Ordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodlines in the Nightmare Demon Pot and restarted the refining process.

Refinery success!

Refinery success!

Refinery failure!

After some quick calculations, Nie Li determined that the Nightmare Demon Pot's failure rate was roughly around one in ten. The success rate was much higher than before.

Nie Li continued to repeat the process. After approximately fifty times, the Nightmare Demon Pot suddenly shone with a blazing glow that was so dazzling that Nie Li couldn't help squinting his eyes. There was frightening energy contained in there.

However, it was only a fleeting glow that quickly died down.

A wave of glowing splendor revolved at the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot.

Curiosity arose in Nie Li's heart. What was going on?

He brought out the Dragon Bloodline that remained at the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot and reached his senses out towards it. This demon spirit was far stronger than any Good Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline. It had undergone its first mutation!

Most demon spirits, including God Level growth rate ones, don't start out very powerful. A demon spirit requires care from their Demon Spiritualist, in the form of nourishment by Heavenly Energy. In fact, demon spirits require so much energy that they would need to absorb some Demon Soul's Essence to become stronger and constantly increase their rankings.

Only after ranking up, the growth in strength would be higher for those higher ranked demon spirit compared to those that are lower ranked.

For example, if you have two 3-fate demon spirits, the one with the God Level growth rate will have a combat ability that's a dozen fold stronger than the one with the Ordinary Level growth rate.

However, a demon spirit's quality doesn't increase only in terms

of rank. Sometimes, a demon spirit might mutate. When such an event occurs, the demon spirit's combat strength becomes much stronger.

Nie Li's Shadow Devil and Fanged Panda had both undergone their first mutations. The more mutations a demon spirit experienced, the more precious it would become!

Usually, there's a set probability to whether or not a demon spirit will mutate upon ranking up. However, this particular demon spirit had mutated during the fusing process instead. The price of such a mutated demon spirit must be greater by several dozen fold!

Nie Li didn't know if this demon spirit had mutated by itself, or was influenced by the Nightmare Demon Pot. Either way, it was still good news to him.

Nie Li continued refining demon spirits. It wasn't until the appearance of the second, and then the third mutated Dragon Bloodline... Now he was sure that it was an effect of the Nightmare Demon Pot!

From the thirty thousand Dragon Bloodline demon spirits with Ordinary Level growth rates, Nie Li only managed to produce about two thousand five hundred demon spirits with Good Level growth rates. And among them, twenty-three had undergone a mutation.

Nie Li repeated the refinery process with the new Good Level growth rate Dragon Bloodlines. He experimented by placing nine

regular Dragon Bloodline demon spirits with one mutated one together in the pot.

A brief moment later, an explosion occurred inside the pot. All ten demon spirits had disappeared, making the refinery process a failure.

Was it an accident, or were regular Dragon Bloodlines refinery-incompatible with the mutated ones?

Nie Li pondered over it briefly and decided to repeat the experiment. If he didn't try it out several times, how would he know for certain?

The second attempt ended with another failure.

The third attempt finally succeeded; Nie Li had created an Excellent growth rate Dragon Bloodline. On top of that, it is a mutated one.

When regular Dragon Bloodline demon spirits are refined with a mutated one, the success rate is much lower. However, the results are much better!

Nie Li continued refining while he searched for the best refinery method. He sensed that the aura emanating from the Nightmare Demon Pot was getting stronger and stronger. Suddenly, the pot issued a dazzling light and the winged dragon pattern became more distinct.

The Nightmare Demon Pot seemed to have upgraded to an even higher level than before!

As to whether it'd gained any new properties with this upgrade, Nie Li still wasn't sure. There weren't many records on treasures like the Nightmare Demon Pot. Therefore, Nie Li could only continue refining demon spirits, if he wanted to learn more about it.

The Nightmare Demon Pot's success rate seems to have become much higher compared to before!

Nie Li continued with his refinery. From the two thousand five hundred Good Level growth rate demon spirits, he received over two hundred thirty Excellent Level growth rates. Six were mutated ones.

Of course, Excellent growth rates weren't good enough, so Nie Li repeated the process again. In the end, he produced twenty-one Extraordinary growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits, with three mutated ones.

Nie Li only had two more chances, if he wanted to continue refining with what he had.

He didn't know if he'd succeed or fail. After all, if he failed, the loss would be enormous. However, if he could get a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit, he'd save it for himself, of course. After all, if he sold a demon spirit of such a

level, it'd definitely cause an enormous commotion. It might even attract thieves, eyeing his goods.

If Nie Li integrated with a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit, it'd definitely cause a shockingly enormous ripple.

A super genius with an 8-grade Heaven Spiritual Root had integrated with a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. If such news leaked, not just the higher-ups of the Skysoul Institute, but even the higher-ups of the Divine Feathers Sect would be shocked. The Divine Feathers Sect would definitely treat such a genius with absolute importance.

Every expert who'd integrated with a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit would become part of the Divine Feathers Sect's strategic power!

And Nie Li could smoothly take another step!

Nie Li thought over it for awhile, then decided to give it a try!

Although the risk was high, the reward was also high!

Nie Li activated the Nightmare Demon Pot with his thoughts, as his heart wildly beat out of control. If he failed, then tens of thousands of spiritual stones would be reduced to nothing! Although Nie Li was earning lots of spiritual stones by selling ordinary God Level growth rate demon spirits, the market still had

a limited demand for them.

Risk it all!

Nie Li concentrated his entire mind on the ten demon spirits at the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot. Under his control, the mutated demon spirit began to devour the other demon spirits.

First one, second one...

The mutated demon spirit changed and grew more powerful every time it devoured one.

Only two remained!

Nie Li's heart jumped wildly. It would soon enter the last phase!

The last two demon spirits fused and devoured each other. The Nightmare Demon Pot gave off a blazing energy and began shaking with force.

It looked like it was about to explode!

Nie Li sensed the peculiar changes in the Nightmare Demon Pot. It was the sign of failure!

The two Dragon Bloodline demon spirits that remained in the pot

were both extremely powerful. Neither one could devour the other; however, they were beginning to fuse. If the energy destabilised, it'd cause an explosion and the demon spirits would be reduced to nothing!

As that thought crossed Nie Li's mind, his heart was no longer able to remain calm. He instantly pour all of this Heavenly Energy into the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot, forcefully suppressing the two demon spirits that were about to explode. Nie Li entered a profound state as though he was personally inside the Nightmare Demon Pot.

The vine inside him seemed drawn to the Nightmare Demon Pot as it released flourishing Heavenly Energy.

Nie Li had forcefully suppressed the two demon spirits with his energy and kept them from exploding. The Heavenly Energy inside his body gushed out as though he was going to be sucked dry.

The two demon spirits that had been on the edge of exploding finally underwent slight transformations as they slowly merged a little more.

Suppressed by Nie Li's Heavenly Energy, the two demons spirits calmed their clash a little.

After roughly an hour, Nie Li felt like his supply of Heavenly Energy was nearly depleted. However, he could sense that the two demon spirits were almost done fusing, so he didn't want to cut off the stream.

It was about to succeed! Nie Li didn't want to give up here!

However, those two demon spirits were simply too powerful as they continued to mutually devour each other, producing berserk energy. If Nie Li were to do it alone with his own Heavenly Energy, it'd be impossible for him to suppress those demon spirits. If it weren't for the vine inside of him that constantly provided him with Heavenly Energy, he would've been sucked dry long ago.

Boom! Boom!

Nie Li felt his own heart jumping as though it was echoing the sounds from the Nightmare Demon Pot.

Nie Li felt a little dizzy and his consciousness felt a little fuzzy. These were side effects from exhausting his Heavenly Energy.

It seemed that the task of forcing a fusion was still too difficult for him, especially with demon spirits of such high growth rates. After all, these processes usually had low success rates. Nie Li focused and squeezed out the last of his energy. If these two demon spirits actually exploded, then all his refining from earlier would go to waste!

Chapter 303: Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon

The Nightmare Demon Pot was an extremely mysterious treasure with a long history.

Nie Li sensed that the powerful aura swirling within the Nightmare Demon Pot was even more powerful than he'd been at the pinnacle of his previous life. Furthermore, this pot seemed to contain a profound intent. Just by sensing it, Nie Li felt his soul realm frantically surging.

Just who had left this Nightmare Demon Pot behind? Whoever it was, he or she must be an almighty expert to create such an object.

His Heavenly Energy continued to drain from him. Although the vine in his soul realm was supplementing his Heavenly Energy, Nie Li's soul realm was still being sucked dry.

Soon, he'd lose control over the two fusing demon spirits. However, he was unwilling to just give up like that.

He had to succeed!

Just one step left!

Was he going to fail just like that?

Nie Li's wild thoughts activated the Nightmare Demon Pot.

Suddenly, a beam of spiritual light flashed through his mind.

Perhaps he could gain some insights from the Nightmare Demon Pot?

Nie Li penetrated his thoughts into the Nightmare Demon Pot. Suddenly, a miraculous transformation occurred around him. He sensed that inside the Nightmare Demon Pot was a huge space that contained boundless Heavenly Energy, like a vast ocean.

Even if you added up all the Heavenly Energy inside the Saint Soul Grounds, it still couldn't compare to this endless sea.

Nie Li inspected it with his consciousness. This ocean was boundless, entirely without borders. It made him understand just how tiny he was.

The energy from the exploded demon spirits had all been sucked into this space. However, as far as the Nightmare Demon Pot was concerned, they were mere droplets; they couldn't cause the slightest ripple.

However, the energy within the Nightmare Demon Pot was as calm as if it frozen, as they are in a dormant state.

Nie Li calmly sat in the space that his thoughts were at, silently cultivating the first chapter of the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique. Rays of divine light revolved around him, continuously evolving as they flowed.

“Changes are constant in the Dao between heaven and earth. Great changes have occurred between the previous and current lives. This must be the ‘variability of Dao’ that’s mentioned in the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique!”

Nie Li had gained a marvelous enlightenment. Compared to his previous life, there was now a drastic difference in his cultivation.

With that insight, Nie Li’s soul realm began tearing as surges of pain washed over him. His face turned ashen pale and sweat dripped down. It was an intense pain unimaginable by ordinary people.

If an ordinary person found themselves in this situation, they wouldn’t be able to endure it. Their minds would have stopped thinking. However, Nie Li forcefully maintained a clear state of mind as he used his Heavenly Energy to refine his Fate Soul.

This was such a good opportunity. How could he possibly let it pass by?

In his previous life, he’d encountered much more vicious things during his cultivation than this!

Nie Li continued to work on refining his Fate Soul. Although it was an extremely painful operation, Nie Li still maintained his calm.

He spiraled his Heavenly Energy into tens of millions of threads and that constantly reinforced his Fate Soul. With a ‘psh’ sound, a scarlet red Fate Soul formed.

He never imagined that this discovery would allow him to successfully step through that doorway and form his first Fate Soul!

He had finally entered the 1-fate Heavenly Fate Realm!

But why was his Fate Soul scarlet red?

Nie Li blankly regarded it for a moment. Ordinary Fate Souls were colourless. In his previous life, his Fate Soul had been colourless too. However, in this life, this Fate Soul was actually scarlet?

However, Nie Li didn’t have time to ponder it.

Most people would try to take it easy after forming their first Fate Soul, since the experience of forming a Fate Soul was excruciatingly painful, as if their brains were about to tear apart. How could they still have the ability to think afterwards? Therefore, their cultivation would remain at the bottom of 1-fate. Most people had no idea that right now was the most critical time!

Nie Li frantically controlled his Fate Soul to absorb more Heavenly Energy. That scarlet Fate Soul continued to be strengthened; a moment later, it grew to three times its original

size!

Nie Li sensed that the Fate Soul had reached a suitable degree and let out a sigh of relief. Continuing further would only break the Fate Soul. He felt like his entire body was about to cave in. However, that scarlet Fate Soul that burned in his soul realm put a small smile in the corner of his mouth. Colour aside, his first Fate Soul had already reached the pinnacle of the 1-fate realm, even though it'd just been formed. Compared to other people, he'd saved himself several months of cultivation!

As for this scarlet Fate Soul, Nie Li had no idea what could've caused its sudden formation. However, he could sense that it was much more powerful than ordinary, colourless Fate Souls!

He pulled his consciousness out from the Nightmare Demon Pot. He never thought that he'd profit so much from a setback. To think he'd actually discovered a secret within the Nightmare Demon Pot while inspecting it.

Upon reaching the Heavenly Fate Realm, Nie Li's control over Heavenly Energy had grown several times stronger. Now, he could forcefully suppress the two demon spirits that had been gradually spiraling out of control.

Suppressed by Nie Li's Heavenly Energy, the two Dragon Bloodline demon spirits finally completed their fusion and became one. In that instant, a blazing light burst from the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot.

After a brief moment later, that light slowly dulled down.

A single demon spirit quietly floated at the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot.

Nie Li couldn't help smiling at the sight of it. Not only did he manage to reach the 1-fate Heavenly Fate realm, he also managed to produce a God Level growth rate demon spirit, and it was a mutated one.

This demon spirit was absolutely priceless!

Nie Li didn't dare sell such a demon spirit; nor would he ever want to sell it. Now that he'd reached the Heavenly Fate Realm, first things first. Of course he'd integrate with a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit!

Nie Li had already thought things over carefully. He'd decided to ask Gu Bei for large quantities of Ordinary growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits, then sell those that had fused to Good and Excellent growth rates. It'd also be fine if he sold a few of the Extraordinary growth rate ones. That way, he could earn lots of money without attracting anyone's attention.

As for God Level growth rate demon spirits, he'd save them for his friends! After all, if he brought out such items for sale, it'd definitely cause a huge ruckus!

Nie Li removed the God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline from

the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot.

This was a Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. This particular species still had a rather pure Dragon Bloodline. A Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon that reached adulthood was comparable to a Martial Ancestor Realm expert. Some of the variant species were even more powerful. The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon that Nie Li had obtained through fusing definitely wasn't ordinary. Ordinary Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragons had scarlet scales; the one that Nie Li had produced had golden scales. Furthermore, it had spikes all over its body, making it appear even more ferocious than an ordinary Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. Two exceptionally powerful points of energy surged within it's body.

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was a demon spirit capable of flight. Aside from having a powerful physical body, it could also spit dragon breath.

This was a creature that stood at the pinnacle!

After so long, Nie Li could finally integrate with a third demon spirit!

Nie Li was very particular with demon spirits. Since he'd already integrated with the Shadow Devil and the Fanged Panda, he wouldn't hold ordinary demon spirits with much regard. However, he was very satisfied with this particular Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

This was a Dragon Bloodline demon spirit with a God Level

growth rate!

Nie Li slowly integrated the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon into his soul realm. A third branch slowly grew out of the vine and connected with the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

Ordinary Dragon Bloodline demon spirits were still of the Earth Fate Realm. They required slow nurturing with Heavenly Energy to reach Heavenly Fate Realm. However, Nie Li's Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon already had the strength of the Heavenly Fate Realm upon integration.

As for its actual strength, Nie Li would only be able to find out in an actual battle!

Now, with its physical body and dragon breath, Nie Li could challenge more powerful enemies of higher ranks! Furthermore, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon still had many powerful techniques that Nie Li could take his time to comprehend slowly.

If anyone knew that Nie Li had integrated with a God Level growth rate Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon — and a mutated one at that — they'd probably go crazy from jealousy!

Nie Li drew a long breath of air as his mouth turned up in the trace of a gratified smile. He'd finally made a huge step forward. Next, he just had to familiarise himself with the strength of this Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. However, Nie Li still didn't intend on experimenting with its combat ability, for the moment. He had to search for a more suitable location. Once he merged with his

Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, the entire house would probably explode from his size!

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was an enormous creature that is six to seven meters tall!

Over the next few months, aside from listening to class and cultivating, Nie Li also spent all his time fusing demon spirits at home. He used Gu Bei's connections to acquire large numbers of Ordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits, then sold the Good and Excellent growth rate ones he produced. Nie Li even sold several Extraordinary growth rates.

Nie Li's fortune increased madly, from a little over thirty thousand spiritual stones to hundreds of thousands of spiritual stones. Furthermore, he'd produced three God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits, which he gave to Lu Piao, Xiao Yu, and Gu Bei. Lu Piao and Gu Bei directly accepted theirs, whereas Xiao Yu refused several times. However, under Nie Li's strong request, he ended up accepting it.

After merging with their God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits, everyone sudden became very low-profiled. They rarely showed their faces outside as they secluded themselves in training. Since they had enough spiritual stones, their cultivations also rose very quickly.

Even on the scale of the Divine Feathers Sect, Nie Li's fortune was already extremely shocking.

Aside from some Grand Elder kind of person, where would an ordinary person get so many spiritual stones? If some regular Elders accumulated just a few thousand spiritual stones, that'd already be considered pretty good. After all, even if the Divine Feathers Sect controlled many Deity's Lakes, they still had to provide for the cultivations of so many experts within the sect. When shared among everyone, it was no longer a huge sum.

As all this went on, Gu Bei continued to help Nie Li sell Dragon Bloodline demon spirits in frightening quantities. Many disciples spent their spiritual stones on Nie Li's Dragon Bloodline demon spirits. Gradually, the money collectively held by the sect's disciples shifted into Nie Li's hands, becoming his personal fortune. That was why Nie Li possessed so much money.

Chapter 304: Ning'er's Visit

Nie Li had finally reached Heavenly Fate Realm!

However, he still concealed his aura, so that others wouldn't be able to tell that he'd reached the Heavenly Fate Realm. Recently, everything had been rather calm and Nie Li didn't want to disrupt the ongoing tranquility. Aside from attending lessons, he spent his time cultivating and sensing the power changes wrought within him by the newly integrated demon spirit.

The 1-fate Heavenly Fate Realm was still too low. He had to reach at least 2-fate in order qualify for heading into the outside world.

Upon reaching the Heavenly Fate Realm, a person's cultivation speed would be extremely fast, given they had enough spiritual stones. Therefore, Nie Li's cultivation soared madly, day by day.

Today, the sun shined brightly, the breeze was gentle, and fresh flowers bloomed abundantly.

Nie Li was training in Xiao Yu's courtyard, as usual, when Gu Bei excitedly rushed in.

"Nie Li, big news! Some disciples from the Heavenly Note and Skyblaze Sects have come to visit. It's said that all the Heavenly Note Sect members are women, many of whom are fairy-like beauties. Shall we take a look?" As Gu Bei spoke, the expression on his face had a trace of excitement as his gaze changed.

Nie Li was stunned for a brief moment. Disciples from the Heavenly Note and Skyblaze Sects have come to the Skysoul Institute?

Upon mentioning the Heavenly Note Sect, Nie Li thought of Ziyun and Ning'er and wondered if they'd come. It'd been a few months since he'd seen them and Nie Li's heart was filled with yearning for the two of them.

Nie Li nodded. "Sure, let's go have a look."

"Disciples of the Heavenly Note Sect and the Skyblaze Sect usually visit the Divine Feathers Sect once a year. It's to help the geniuses learn by interacting with each other, as well as for business. The Heavenly Note Sect is different from the Divine Feathers Sect in that all their disciples are female. Only a small number of them have contact with the outside world, other than getting what they need. Therefore, their sect is extremely united and is getting stronger and stronger. As for the Skyblaze Sect, their strength has been leaping in soars and bounds in the recent years and have even become the head of the six sects!" Gu Bei explained as they walked.

Nie Li and Gu Bei called Lu Piao to go with them, and the three of them headed to the main hall of the Skysoul Institute.

Xiao Yu was nowhere found; recently, he'd been busy with his own matters, so Nie Li and Lu Piao didn't bother much about it.

The main hall of the Skysoul Institute was bustling with activity, as heads bobbed up and down. Nie Li and his party couldn't squeeze through, no matter how hard they tried.

After they heard that people from the Heavenly Note and Skyblaze Sects were here, the disciples of the Skysoul Institute's various districts all gathered. Everyone was curious as to why they'd come.

Gu Bei clearly had his own methods around the crowd. He brought Nie Li and Lu Piao to the side entrance. When the guards recognised Gu Bei, they let the group through.

Gu Bei smiled and explained, "Those people gathered out there are ordinary disciples. Recognised geniuses and descendants of the Divine Feathers Sect's members usually gather in this side chamber."

Indeed, there were fewer people in this side chamber. They numbered only a few hundred.

Gu Bei whispered in a low voice, "Every time the various sects interact, each sect's family descendents and geniuses brings out precious items for an auction. Those twenty Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits that you asked me to sell are all going to be in this auction as well. This is definitely a good chance to sell them."

At Gu Bei's words, Nie Li couldn't help smiling. It was true. Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits with Dragon

Bloodlines were normally rather hard to sell. First of all, buyers were difficult to find; second, such goods would easily attract attention. However, if they were placed in an auction, it would attract much less attention.

However, Nie Li didn't pay much attention to the auction as he swept his gaze around his surroundings, searching for two silhouettes. He was wondering if Ziyun and Ning'er had come.

The side chamber bustled as geniuses and family descendants of the sects exchanged mutual greetings.

Right now, the six major righteous sects were allied as they fought the three demonic sects for rights over the Deity's Lakes. In order for the alliance to continue, interactions between the younger generations were absolutely necessary. It would prevent them from fighting between themselves in the outside world.

That was why the various sects held these exchanges every year.

In the corner of the side chamber, sat a quiet and beautiful silhouette. Her beauty was simple and elegant, like a lotus flower breaking the surface of a pond. She attracted the attention of many of the surrounding disciples. They couldn't help inwardly sighing at such a beautiful girl!

Xiao Xue sat next to her and asked, "Ning'er, do you think Nie Li and Lu Piao are here?"

Xiao Ning'er shook her head as she scanned around for Nie Li's figure. "I don't know, either."

After Ye Ziyun, Xiao Ning'er, and Xiao Xue reached the Heavenly Note Sect from the Tiny World, Ye Ziyun and Xiao Ning'er both displayed shocking talents. The two of them were famed as 'the Gemini Cosmo' girls of the new class. Ye Ziyun was then chosen and allowed to enter the secret training grounds to cultivate, while Xiao Ning'er followed her Master and reached the 5-fate realm in cultivation. When Ning'er heard that the Heavenly Note Sect was sending people to the Divine Feathers Sect, she and Xiao Xue immediately went and registered their names. It was a pity that Ye Ziyun was still in the secret training grounds and couldn't be contacted; otherwise, she definitely would've come.

Of course, she was looking forward to this visit to the Divine Feathers Sect so she could look for Nie Li!

The Heavenly Note Sect had sent a total of two hundred disciples to the Divine Feathers Sect. All were women and many had outstanding appearances that attracted attention, especially from the men of the Skyblaze Sect. Their eyes glowed upon seeing the women of the Heavenly Note Sect. And of course, Xiao Ning'er was undoubtedly one of the most dazzling female disciples of the Heavenly Note Sect.

A beautiful and enticing girl sat down next to Xiao Ning'er and chuckled. "Is Junior Sister Ning'er looking for someone?"

Upon seeing that woman, Xiao Xue immediately said in an unfriendly tone, "Shen Ling, I don't think it's any of your business

as to who we're looking for!"

Shen Ling gave an enchanting smile. "How is it none of my business? Junior Sister Ning'er is one of the most dazzling geniuses among the newcomers. She's already reached the 5-fate realm at such a young age. Of course, she'll be the Heavenly Note Sect's future pride. If Junior Sister Ning'er is interested in a guy, of course I'll need to take a look for myself and see just what kind of man can make our beloved fairy fall for him! I wonder, is he someone I know?"

Xiao Ning'er furrowed her brows a little. She didn't like Shen Ling, either. However, in terms of seniority, Shen Ling was still her Senior Sister. Therefore, even though she was unhappy, she didn't show it. "Senior Sister Shen doesn't need to waste your effort on this. Senior Sister Shen wouldn't know of the person I'm looking for!"

Shen Ning smiled with her lips pursed. "Oh? That's a pity, I thought that it was Young Master Ye!"

Xiao Ning'er is well aware of this Young Master Ye that Shen Ling mentioned. His name was Ye Xuan, a descendant of the number one family within the Skyblaze Sect. It's said that he also had extraordinary talent and had reached the 9-fate Heavenly Fate Realm by the age of twenty. Now, he was trying to get into the Heavenly Star Realm. Shen Ling was probably bribed by Ye Xuan; that was why she'd kept talking about him by her side.

If Shen Ling thought that Ye Xuan's identity would be able to move Ning'er, then she was dead wrong. Xiao Ning'er would never

hold much regard for such things. There was only one person she placed in her heart, and that person was Nie Li!

Some distance away, there stood a group of people deep in conversation. One youth among them kept throwing glances towards Xiao Ning'er and Xiao Xue, as the two girls looked around.

That youth was surrounded by many pinnacle geniuses and family descendants of both the Divine Feathers and Skyblaze Sects. Li Xingyun, Murong Yu, and Long Yuyin were among them.

Murong Yu smiled and moved closer to Ye Xuan. "It looks like brother Ye Xuan is rather interested in that girl from the Heavenly Note Sect! With your identity, wouldn't she already be within your grasp?"

Ye Xuan shook his head. "Brother Murong, you're wrong to say such words. In this world, everyone has their likes and dislikes. Some are fond of wealth, some are lustful. But how could vulgar girls like that possibly attract my eyes, the eyes of Ye Xuan?"

Murong Yu looked towards the girls in astonishment. "Oh? Then perhaps the girl who you're interested in has a heart of stone? How could she not be moved by such a genius like yourself? I wonder who she is?"

If wealth and power could not move her, then there was only one possibility: that girl definitely did not have an ordinary identity.

Ye Xuan replied in admiration of her, “I’ve asked around. She’s a newcomer genius of the Heavenly Note Sect, from the Tiny world. She’s already reached the 5-fate realm at such a young age and is famed as one of the ‘Gemini Cosmo’ girls. Her cultivating speed is simply shocking. Furthermore, she has quite the prestige within the Heavenly Note Sect. It’s hard to imagine that she’s so young! After all, she doesn’t have much of a family background!”

The Tiny World? An uneasy feeling arose in Murong Yu’s heart.

Nonetheless, he gave a light smile. “‘A fair and graceful woman is sought by many gentlemen.’ As the proverb goes, ‘an overbearing girl fears a persistent man!’”

Ye Xuan shook his head and said. “That won’t work. She hardly smiles or talks. It was hard to even have a conversation with her. On the way here, I’ve tried countless times!” Ye Xuan looked at the girl from a distance. Perhaps that was why she aroused a conquering desire in his heart.

Because of Ye Xuan, all of the Divine Feathers and Skyblaze Sects’ disciples couldn’t help looking over at Xiao Ning’er, curious to what kind of person could’ve made Ye Xuan constantly think about her. When they saw Xiao Ning’er, they simply had to sigh at her beauty.

However, she was already Ye Xuan’s target, so, of course, they wouldn’t approach her.

The disciples of the Heavenly Note Sect were all female. Not a

single male could be seen within that sect. The majority of the female disciples stayed in the sect to cultivate, unwilling to venture outside. Although Xiao Ning'er had a cold character, she was still willing to come out from the Heavenly Note Sect. That implied that her mortal heart[1] was still there.

But even Ye Xuan couldn't enter her eyes?

Of course, everyone only thought that on the inside. No one dared to say it out loud.

As the boys conversed, Xiao Ning'er suddenly stood up and a smile blossomed on her face. Her dazzling countenance made everyone dazed just by looked at her. They never imagined that the cold and prideful Xiao Ning'er could actually show such a beautiful smile.

That smile clearly announced that she had found her lover!

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[1] Doesn't literally mean mortal/immortal. Could be interpreted as curiosity, love, general naivety, etc.

Chapter 305: Ye Clan Of The Skyblaze Sect

Ye Xuan didn't know why, but his heart couldn't stop thumping wildly when he saw Xiao Ning'er's smile.

From a distance, Nie Li's eyes also found Xiao Ning'er and Xiao Xue. Xiao Ning'er seemed to have grown more beautiful!

As Xiao Ning'er walked towards Nie Li, she widened her stride to cover the distance of three steps into only two.

"Ning'er!" Nie Li casually smiled. It'd been several months since they parted, and Nie Li's heart missed her a lot as well.

Xiao Ning'er's eyes flickered with tears. She suddenly took several huge steps and dived into Nie Li's embrace. Bathed by his aura, she felt peaceful and at ease.

Nie Li was surprised, but quickly recovered and patted her on the shoulders. He asked concernedly, "Has anyone in the Heavenly Note Sect bullied you? If anyone's bullied you, I'll take care of them for you!"

"No." Xiao Ning'er wiped the tears from her face as she raised her head towards Nie Li. All this time, while she was in the Heavenly Note Sect, she often thought of Nie Li. Now that he was finally before her, her heart was extremely happy! "How are you guys doing in the Divine Feathers Sect?'

“Pretty good.” Nie Li casually smiled. He wasn’t quite sure how to put it, both the good and the bad. To him, who’d experienced both life and death from his previous existence, all the events of the Divine Feathers Sect could only be considered trifling matters.

Xiao Ning’er looked absolutely charming and lovely in her white dress. All the bystanders of the side chamber felt jealous as they watched the pair.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning’er chatted as though no one else was present. They hadn’t realised that everyone’s attention was directed at them.

“Who’s that youth?”

“You don’t know? That’s the most dazzling genius among the newcomers. He managed to train Long Yuyin into obedience!”

“So that’s him!”

Since the beginning, Xiao Ning’er had already attracted many people’s gazes. She was a goddess whom no one dared to approach. But now, everyone realised that she was already taken! She was actually taken by Nie Li!

Strange expressions crossed the faces of everyone in the hall.

Long Yuyin stood from afar, watching Xiao Ning’er. She had to admit that Xiao Ning’er’s elegance and beauty made herself

inferior. Just who was she to Nie Li? Long Yuyin didn't know why, but she couldn't help feeling frustrated as she clutched her cup of wine and downed it in one go.

Li Xingyun only lightly smiled at the scene. Nie Li had done plenty of secret business transactions with him, which greatly strengthened his own faction. He was beginning to see this cooperation with Nie Li with more and more importance. Since Nie Li was so capable, of course it wouldn't be strange for him to have a few beauties at his side.

When Murong Yu saw that it was actually Nie Li, his eyes narrowed and emitted chilling rays of light. He never thought he'd encounter Nie Li here. 'Enemies travel on a narrow path' indeed. At an event like this, he couldn't bully Nie Li, even if he wanted to. Back when he heard that Xiao Ning'er was from the Tiny World, he had some guesses. However, he never thought that Xiao Ning'er would actually turn out to be Nie Li's woman.

Ye Xuan couldn't help smiling bitterly when he saw Xiao Ning'er dive into Nie Li's embrace. No wonder Xiao Ning'er didn't even look twice at him while they travelled here. It turned out that her heart already belonged to someone else.

Murong Yu smiled at Ye Xuan. "Senior Brother Ye Xuan, it looks like this Xiao Ning'er is already taken."

Ye Xuan sighed. "Since that's the case, then I'll just forget it." Although he adored Xiao Ning'er, he wasn't so completely infatuated that he simply had to have her. Since she already had someone else in her heart, the only thing he could do was back off.

Murong Yu smiled. “Brother Ye Xuan seems to be lacking some positive outlook. That Nie Li hasn’t even reached the Heavenly Fate Realm yet. He doesn’t have any family background either. The only thing he can do is rely on his words to coax naïve girls. Brother Ye Xuan is just going to back off?”

Murong Yu’s words piqued Ye Xuan’s interest. “Oh? He hasn’t even reached the Heavenly Fate Realm yet?” How could such a youth have managed to make a girl like Xiao Ning’er fall in love with him?

That youth was obviously unfit for her!

Nie Li could sense strange glares from the people around him, but he wasn’t bothered by them. In his eyes, they were nothing more than passerby.

Nie Li tossed a glance to he side, he saw Xiao Xue already scolding Lu Piao. He couldn’t help smiling at the scene. So the two sweethearts have reunited.

Nie Li made introductions. “This is my friend, Gu Bei.”

“Nice to meet you, sister-in-law,” Gu Bei chuckled.

Xiao Ning’er’s face flushed at Gu Bei’s words. She raised her head and snuck a glance at Nie Li, while her cheeks boiled. However, she didn’t correct him as she replied, “It’s nice to meet you, too.”

Suddenly, a realisation dawned on Gu Bei. Seems like it should be more or less it.

The group walked over to an empty table in a corner of the chamber and sat down.

Nie Li looked at Ning'er and quietly asked, "Ziyun didn't come with you?"

"She's currently cultivating in the Heavenly Note Sect's secret training grounds. I couldn't contact her before we came here," Xiao Ning'er explained.

"Oh." Nie Li nodded as he looked into the distance, wondering what kind of secret training grounds they were and how Ziyun was doing.

Suddenly, Li Xingyun walked over to them. He looked at Nie Li and asked, "Can I sit here?"

"Sure," Nie Li smiled.

Gu Bei and Li Xingyun exchanged looks with their greetings. Although Gu Bei and Li Xingyun had heard of each other before, they rarely interacted. This was their first time meeting through Nie Li.

“Can we sit here too?” Ye Xuan and Murong Yu walked over as they pointed at the two empty seats next to Xiao Ning’er.

Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help furrowing her brows a little at the sight of Ye Xuan. On the trip here, Ye Xuan kept trying to talk to her, while she didn’t pay much attention him. She was too smart not to notice his intentions. However, this Ye Xuan still had manners; he was refined and courteous. Therefore, Ning’er didn’t harbor any ill will towards him. It was only after Ye Xuan suddenly came over and tried to sit down next to her that she became worried that Nie Li might misunderstand.

“That seat is mine!” Xiao Xue promptly sat down next to Xiao Ning’er.

Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help giving Xiao Xue a grateful look. Xiao Xue returned the smile. Along this trip, she understands the heart of Xiao Ning’er the most.

“Well then, I’ll sit here.” Ye Xuan paused for a moment, then sat with Murong Yu at the opposite end of the table.

Meanwhile, as Gu Bei was about to sit beside Nie Li, Long Yuyin sat down first. Gu Bei was stunned for a moment, then bitterly smiled. It looks like he had to find a different place to sit. Long Yuyin was a famed tigress, so, of course, he wouldn’t want to provoke her over such a small matter.

The entire side chamber bustled as disciples of the three sects chatted and exchanged insights towards the Martial Dao.

Naturally, there would also be few upset confrontations. After Nie Li and his group sat down, people stopped paying attention to them.

Xiao Ning'er looked at Long Yuyin, who sat next to Nie Li, and wondered just who this girl was.

Ye Xuan raised a cup of wine with a graceful and well-mannered disposition. "During today's banquet, the higher-ups of the three sects have allowed us to get to know each other. So that we can look after one another in the future, when we finally step into the outside world. I, Ye Xuan, will toast the first cup to everyone. Now that we've met, we're all friends!"

However, everyone only afforded Ye Xuan a cursory glance, then continued their own conversations. No one bothered about him, leaving him in a rather awkward situation.

At this table, no one regarded Ye Xuan really highly, whether it was Li Xingyun, Long Yuyin, or Gu Bei. Nie Li was still talking to Xiao Ning'er, and hadn't even taken the time to exchange greetings with Ye Xuan. Who the hell was that guy, anyways?

As for Xiao Xue and Lu Piao, the two of them were making a racket like a pair of newlyweds.

The corner of Murong Yu's mouth curled into an almost unnoticeable smile. What he wanted to see was a conflict between Ye Xuan and Nie Li. Murong Yu raised his cup towards Nie Li. "Back there, in the Ghastly Ruins, I didn't know who Junior

Brother Nie Li was. Today, I apologise for any offence I may have caused towards Junior Brother!”

Nie Li narrowed his eyes at Murong Yu’s words. Nie Li hadn’t mentioned their encounter in the Ghastly Ruins, and he certainly hadn’t expected Murong Yu to bring it up first. Nie Li looked at Murong Yu’s smile. How was that an apology? That was obviously made to provoke him!

Neither did Lu Piao nor Gu Bei expression looked good. They were well aware of what had happened in the Ghastly Ruins.

However, Nie Li remained calm and collected. Of course he wouldn’t let himself be so easily enraged. “Senior Brother Murong must be joking. As a 5-fate senior, you only gave me some pointers that I needed. I hope to run into you again, sometime, in the Ghastly Ruins!” Next time Nie Li entered the Ghastly Ruins, he’d definitely challenge Murong Yu!

Murong Yu’s expression turned cold as he smiled. “Of course, I’ll welcome you anytime.” Did Nie Li want another beating?

At that point, Li Xingyun lazily interjected from the sidelines. “Murong Yu, you’ve challenged me so many times, but I always go easy on you. Otherwise, who knows how many times I would’ve wasted you already? Do you still remember what happened last time? I told you to scram far away from me. It looks like your memory doesn’t work too well! To think you’d actually appear before me again!”

Murong Yu's voice turned slightly sluggish. Nie Li was the strongest of the new year, Murong Yu was the strongest of the previous year, and Li Xingyun was the strongest from the year before that. Murong Yu had challenged Li Xingyun many times, but still couldn't win. Murong Yu could use words to mock Nie Li, but in front of Li Xingyun he couldn't even raise his head.

Ye Xuan smiled, "This must be Brother Xingyun. I've heard my father speak of you often. Our Ye Clan of the Skyblaze Sect and your Ashen Flames Family of the Divine Feathers Sect could be called long-time friends."

Li Xingyun's heart quaked upon hearing Ye Xuan's words. So this was someone from the Ye Clan of the Skyblaze Sect. Within the Skyblaze Sect, the Ye Clan was definitely an enormous figure that wielded sixty-percent of the power.

Li Xingyun tapped his fingers on the surface of the table, then lightly asked, "May I ask, how should I address you?"

"Ye Xuan." Ye Xuan proudly announced.

At that, Li Xingyun understood the situation even more clearly. He'd heard one or two about the Ye Clan at one point or another. This Ye Xuan was one of the direct descendants, and held a status that not even Li Xingyun could compare to. Since they were currently in Divine Feathers Sect territory, of course, Li Xingyun wouldn't fear Ye Xuan. However, he wouldn't be able to suppress him either.

Chapter 306: Long Tianming

From Li Xingyun's expression, Nie Li could tell that Ye Xuan's identity definitely wasn't simple.

Nie Li knew a little about the Ye Clan of the Skyblaze Sect. Since Ye Xuan was a direct descendant of the Ye Clan, he definitely had an extraordinary status. But even so, what about it? He was only a direct descendant, not a successor.

It looked like Ye Xuan was someone who knew where the lines were, unlike Murong Yu. As long as he didn't try to provoke Nie Li, Nie Li would maintain a certain distance from him.

Right now, Nie Li was using the Divine Feathers Sect for cover. Underneath it, he had plenty of room to breath, especially since no one there could threaten him. In the future after his strength had fully grown, then Ye Xuan wouldn't be able to stand on the same level as him.

After Ye Xuan announced his identity, only Li Xingyun had the slightest reaction; the others were like they were before, still minding their own business. Ye Xuan felt rather uneasy when he noticed that Xiao Ning'er didn't even glance at him; instead, she continued talking to Nie Li with a blessed smile on her face.

Ye Xuan couldn't help feeling sorry for her. The six major sects of the Draconic Ruins Realm were all controlled by powerful families; only with the backing of one such family would Ning'er be able to bring out her full potential. What kind of future could she possibly

have if she followed Nie Li? Girls always tend to let love get to their heads. However, Ye Xuan couldn't get closer to her, nor could he change her heart. He was absolutely helpless in this matter.

"How long are you guys going to stay in the Divine Feathers Sect?" Nie Li asked Xiao Ning'er, who sat beside him. The faint scent of the woman who sat beside him made Nie Li feel relaxed and happy.

"Two days." Xiao Ning'er was leaning extremely close to Nie Li. She couldn't help blushing slightly as she enjoyed this close feeling.

"Then come to my place at night..." Nie Li said after pondering for a brief moment. Two days worth of time should be enough.

"En..." Xiao Ning'er's face was flushed all the way down to her neck and her voice went so soft that it was nearly inaudible. Her face was boiling red, as though she'd been drinking.

"I'm just going to give you a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit for you to integrate with." Nie Li lightly smiled. That should definitely be enough time for him to make another Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit.

So, that's what Nie Li meant. Not... When Xiao Ning'er realised that she'd misunderstood, she became so embarrassed that she wanted to dig a hole and throw herself inside. Nie Li was too mean, leaving the sentence halfway like that.

The surrounding observers were dazed by Xiao Ning'er's shy-girl look. They had to admit that she was so beautiful that they couldn't help themselves as they stared directly at her.

Long Yuyin didn't know why, but she felt a little frustrated when she saw how close Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er were acting. However, she wasn't a wordy person, so she didn't say anything.

Although she was often being reprimanded by Nie Li, and had recently received a few beatings, she'd gradually become fond of that feeling. No, she wasn't fond of getting beaten, but she liked having someone guide her like a teacher. It kept her from feeling lost or lonely.

So, of course, she was interested and puzzled when she realised that there was such a beautiful girl at Nie Li side, and that she already had such a close relationship with him. Just who was she to Nie Li?

Perhaps, Nie Li had only guided her a little because he wanted to dissolve the hatred between Long Yuyin and Ying Yueru? In the end, Long Yuyin was nothing to him!

For the first time, Long Yuyin felt such complicated emotions. She was thankful that Xiao Ning'er was from the Heavenly Note Sect and that she would return after two days!

"Ning'er, are you listening?" Nie Li looked at Xiao Ning'er in concern and realised that her head were almost buried into her chest. He felt a little surprised in his heart. Why was there no reply

from Ning’er when he said so many things?

“En.” Xiao Ning’er softly replied. In her heart, Nie Li had always been her most important person. It didn’t matter what he asked of her, she absolutely wouldn’t reject him. However, did Nie Li know her heart? Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help feeling a little sad.

A commotion suddenly broke out among the geniuses gathered in the side chamber. A youth wearing a silvery white robe walked in. He was quite handsome and strode with confident steps. Even among the geniuses, he stood out.

“Who would’ve thought that even Long Tianming would come!”

The commotion had broke out because Long Tianming had a special identity. Normally, he would be engrossed in cultivating, and would rarely make an appearance. One must know that he was first successor to the Dragonseal Family, one of the toughest competitors for the Sect Master’s position!

Long Tianming slowly strode as light revolved around him. His aura pulsed and drew in everyone else’s.

His cultivation had already reached the frightening 9-stage Heavenly Star Realm by the age of twenty-six. He was one of the most dazzling geniuses in the entirety of the Divine Feathers Sect.

His gaze swept past everyone and fell on Ye Xuan. He lightly smiled, walked towards him, and said, “Brother Ye Xuan came as

well?”

Ye Xuan was a little overwhelmed by the fact that Long Tianming had taken the initiative to greet him. He stood up and cupped his hands. “Brother Long, how have you been?”

Although Ye Xuan was a direct descendant of the Ye Clan, he still hadn’t attained a successor identity. There were still many people within the Ye Clan who were competing with him for the successor’s position. However, that wasn’t the case for Long Tianming, who was already the first successor of the Dragonseal Family. Not only that, there was also a high possibility that he would become the Sect Master of the entire Divine Feathers Sect in the future!

“It’s been three years since our last farewell, indeed a long time. Brother Ye Xuan’s cultivation has also grown quite a bit,” Long Tianming said as he faintly smiled.

Ye Xuan bitterly smiled. “Brother Long is just being flattering. Your cultivation is what we should aspire to. Ye Xuan is embarrassed!” Now that they’ve met for the first time in three years, Ye Xuan could feel that Long Tianming’s strength had already reached a frightening level that he could only observe from below. Cultivation aside, Long Tianming’s demon spirit was also a mystery. According to the rumors from the outside world, Long Tianming was one of the few among the Divine Feathers Sect’s younger generation who’d integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit.

After all, with Long Tianming’s talent and identity, the higher

ups of the Divine Feathers Sect would definitely prepare such a demon spirit for him.

Long Tianming smiled as his gaze fell on Long Yuyin. “So, Younger Sister-Cousin is also here!”

Long Yuyin snorted and turned her head away when she saw him. She wasn’t going to give him face.

However, Long Tianming only smiled and wasn’t bothered by her flippant attitude. He swept his gaze over everyone else, including Li Xingyun, Xiao Ning’er, and the rest. As for Nie Li and Lu Piao, he didn’t know them, so he only gave a cursory sweep with his eyes. The level of aura coming from them was too low, so he couldn’t be bothered to ask. He turned his attention back towards Ye Xuan. “It seems that Brother Ye is busy accompanying your friends. If you have any time within the next two days, please do drop by my place for tea! I’ll get going first and meet up with some old friends!”

“Yes, of course! Go ahead and busy yourself with your matters!” said Ye Xuan politely.

Long Tianming turned and left.

Nie Li watched Long Tianming’s silhouette with a deep gaze. In his previous life, he’d stayed in the Divine Feathers Sect for an extended period of time, so of course he knew who Long Tianming was. Aside from Long Yuyin and the Dragonseal Family driving his Master to her death, there were still many other things that’d

happened.

After experiencing all of that, Nie Li was still shocked to discover that the mastermind behind it all was actually Long Tianming. It was he who'd assumed the position of Sect Master for a period of time and obtained the Divine Feathers Sect's only nomination to head towards the Ancestral God Land. After he left, the Divine Feathers Sect broke apart.

In the previous life, Nie Li was only an outsider in the Divine Feathers Sect. Therefore, he was rather foggy towards the sect's internal struggles. However, he'd clearly watched Long Tianming benefit the most from it all. He had to admit that Long Tianming was indeed a cleverly scheming man.

Long Tianming left to converse with other members of the Heavenly Note and Skyblaze Sects, clinking wine glasses and chatting. Long Tianming was full of smiles. It seemed like he was rather skillful with these kinds of events.

Among the crowd, Long Tianming was clearly the one who drew the most attention, as people swarmed around him. Several beauties of the Heavenly Note Sect stood beside him with smiles blossoming on their faces as they constantly threw flirtatious glances at him. However, Long Tianming acted as if he didn't notice, and only smiled politely in return. He didn't seem to be charmed by them.

Nie Li eyed Long Tianming, who looked rather calm. If they ran into each other, Long Tianming would probably prove to be a troublesome opponent. Nie Li hoped that Long Tianming wouldn't

be his enemy.

Nie Li thought about it, then looked away. Long Tianming probably wouldn't place Nie Li very highly for the time being.

Ye Xuan was still smiling as he sat back down in his seat. He was rather proud of the fact that Long Tianming had been so courteous towards him. Of the people within the Divine Feathers Sect, even Li Xingyun probably wouldn't find a place in Long Tianming's regards.

Li Xingyun depressingly downed another mouthful of wine, then wiped his mouth in disdain.

Based off of his attitude, it was clear that Li Xingyun really hated Long Tianming. However, Li Xingyun's strength was far inferior than Long Tianming's. Thanks to Li Xingyun's wide circle of connections, he'd assembled quite a force within the Divine Feathers Sect. However, it was still inferior to Long Tianming's forces.

Nie Li lightly smiled. "I heard that there's going to be an auction among the three sects, and that there's going to be some treasures. I wonder if there's anything interesting!"

"Every time, the three sects will bring rare items to auction. Otherwise, the geniuses of each sect would lose interest, and no one would show up!" Li Xingyun explained. Although he'd been a little unhappy because of Long Tianming's dismissive attitude, his mood quickly returned to normal.

Murong Yu, quickly interrupted. “Is Junior Brother Nie Li interested in buying some treasures? Every auction has some rare items. However, the cheapest would still cost several thousands of spiritual stones. Expensive ones might cost tens of thousands of spiritual stones!”

Nie Li considered it briefly, then replied, “Oh? If that’s the case, then I’ll go ahead and take a look around first.”

The corner or Murong Yu’s mouth slightly slanted, leaking into a ridiculing smile. Nie Li, this poor bastard, was thinking of buying? That was simply ridiculous.

Li Xingyun, however, gave Nie Li a look filled with laughter. Nie Li’s replies to Murong Yu were so deadpan. Li Xingyun didn’t know how much money Nie Li had, but according to his observations, he should have at least several hundreds of thousands, right?

Chapter 307: Holy Maiden And Holy Son

Li Xingyun had no idea what methods Nie Li could've employed to get so many high-grade demon spirits.

Regardless of whether it was an ordinary bloodline God Level growth rate or one a Dragon Bloodline Excellent Level growth rate, both were extremely difficult to find!

Ever since Li Xingyun had acquired these high-grade demon spirits from Nie Li, his forces had been strengthened by quite a bit.

As for Nie Li, Li Xingyun no longer looked at him from high up; instead, he looked at him as an equal. Sooner or later, Murong Yu would probably receive his dues for harboring such contempt for him. Sometimes, you just 'can't judge a book by its cover'.

Ye Xuan smiled from his seat next to them. "In this auction, they're going to sell some sacred items that can be used for cultivation, like the Heavenly Note Sect's Heavenly Note Dew. There's probably going to be a lot of people who don't want to miss that!"

Ye Xuan had quite a bit of wealth, which he was rather proud of. On the road of cultivation, resources were crucial. As a direct descendant of the Ye Clan, the quantity of cultivation resources that he had access to was unimaginable for most ordinary people.

Gu Bei acted as though he'd never heard of Ye Xuan's words and said, "Although the Heavenly Note Dew really does have some

good stuff, it's not the highlight of the auction. I wonder what the real highlight will be this year?"

Ye Xuan was stunned at Gu Bei's words. Last year, the highlight of the auction was a Grade 3 Spiritual Beast – Driftcloud Crane that went for over sixty thousand spiritual stones. Probably only people of Long Tianming's calibre could afford to bid over highlights like that.

Within the six major sects, the younger generations of each family all had their own connections. At the top were people like Long Tianming, who was the first successor to his family and possibly even a competitor for Sect Master. Even if he failed that competition, he'd still have a high rank within the Divine Feathers Sect. To most people, he stood at the pinnacle of everything.

Second came people like Ye Xuan, Long Yuyin, and Li Xingyun. They were direct descendants of major families and also powerful geniuses. Experts like them formed a vital core to their respective families' forces; sometimes, they might even see a turn of good fortune and fight their way into Long Tianming's level.

After them came the geniuses from various large cities of the smaller realms. Without a doubt, they were the primary targets for recruitment from the previous two groups mentioned. However, they would find it difficult to form their own independent force within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Ye Xuan, Long Yuyin, and Li Xingyun were all a level beneath Long Tianming; therefore, it was hard for Long Tianming to regard them as equals.

As for Nie Li, Xiao Ning'er, and Lu Piao, they were lucky to even be in this side chamber. If they wanted to gain respect, they would have to depend on their own strength.

Nie Li, naturally, ignored Ye Xuan's words.

The gathering continued as wine glasses intertwined. After Long Tianming came some apex figures of the Divine Feathers, Skyblaze and Heavenly Note Sects who entered the chamber. Without a doubt, these people had the strongest presence amongst all those gathered in the side chamber. The people who stood by the side were even more cautious in their discussions.

Xiao Ning'er pulled on Nie Li's shirt. "That's the Holy Maiden of our Heavenly Note Sect, Mingyue Wushuang!"

Nie Li followed Xiao Ning'er's line of sight. The girl he saw was as beautiful as the moon and was roughly twenty-six or twenty-seven. She had an unparalleled sense of style and her every movement carried a sense of elegance. One could vaguely see her smooth and fair skin through her muslin-like clothes.

She was barefoot with a silver bell attached to her ankle. As she walked, the clear ringing of the bell resounded.

Celestial Sword Holy Maiden, Mingyue Wushuang?

It was actually her!

Nie Li didn't know her personally, but he knew her name. In his previous life, Mingyue Wushang was among the top ten experts of the entire Draconic Ruins Realm. She was a pinnacle existence who stood at the top of the six major sects!

Within the six major sects, young geniuses would often appear; within a hundred years' worth of time, many powerful experts would emerge. And among them, Mingyue Wushuang was undoubtedly one of the most dazzling geniuses. Nie Li had heard of her legend before. It's said that she once single-handedly slaughtered her way into the Demon God's Sect. Although she returned with injuries, she managed to kill two of their powerful experts in the awe-inspiring feat. It was difficult to image that the powerful expert, whose very name could strike fear, would actually turn out to be such a beautiful lady.

"That's Yan Yang of the Skyblaze Sect!" said Xiao Ning'er, pointing at another person.

He was a youth with hair so red it seemed to be burning. However, he had extremely fair skin and a powerful and domineering aura.

The Infernal Emperor?

Nie Li never expected that during this gather, he would get to see so many powerful experts who he'd frequently heard of in his previous life. In one hundred years, the Infernal Emperor would ascend to the position of Skyblaze Sect, Sect Master, and begin the

most powerful era that the sect had ever seen. The Skyblaze Sect would become so powerful that they would put a foot down that was so hard on the Demon God's Sect, that the Demon God's Sect couldn't even raise their heads.

However, no matter how powerful the six major sects were, it was impossible for them to defy the heavens and confront the Ancestral Demonic Saint Land. Forget about the Sage Emperor.

As he thought of his powerful nemesis, Nie Li clenched his fists tightly. Since coming back to life, his starting point was much higher than it'd been in his previous life. However, Nie Li still couldn't ensure success when he faces the powerful Sage Emperor. Even if Nie Li's cultivation surpasses the Sage Emperor's, the enemy had controls for millions of years with the entirety of Space-Time under his control. With just Nie Li alone, it was absolutely impossible to break the Sage Emperor's absolute reign.

In this life, he had to take advantage of everything he could and not relying on just himself!

However, these powerful geniuses that were gathered in this side chamber were all extremely prideful; it would be difficult to approach them. Not to mention that Nie Li was still weak, in terms of strength, so much that he couldn't attract anyone's attention.

Among the members of all three sects, Mingyue Wushuang, Yan Yang, and Long Tianming were undoubtedly the most dazzling existences.

Although Long Tianming had an extraordinary position, he was still a little inferior to the Heavenly Note Sect's Holy Maiden Mingyue Wushuang and the Skyblaze Sect's Yan Yang. After all, Yan Yang was already the confirmed candidate to be the next Sect Master of the Skyblaze Sect. Even the Holy Maiden wasn't a candidate; however, her position within the Heavenly Note Sect was still extremely high.

Long Tianming glanced at Mingyue Wushuang and Yan Yang as he cupped his hands in greeting. His face was filled with an elegant and graceful smile. Mingyue Wushuang nodded in acknowledgement. Meanwhile, Yan Yang remained as cold as ever and completely disregarded Long Tianming's existence, which slightly embarrassed Long Tianming. However, Long Tianming quickly looked away and laughed loudly to the people next to him, acting as if he hadn't been bothered by it.

Nie Li secretly thought to himself that this trip to the Cultivation Hall was indeed worth it!

Nie Li started making plans on how to approach Mingyue Wushuang and Yan Yang over the next two days. After all, both were authoritative figures of their respective sects! Having contact with them would definitely prove beneficial towards his future plans.

Nie Li transmitted his voice over to Gu Bei. "Gu Bei, do you have any ideas on how to approach Mingyue Wushuang and Yan Yang?"

Gu Bei was stunned for a moment, then immediately showed a bitter smile. "What a difficult question you've given me. One of

them is the Holy Maiden of the Heavenly Note Sect, while the other is the Holy Son of Skyblaze Sect. What qualifications do I have to meet with them? At most, I'd only be able to find out where they're staying!"

"Oh?" Nie Li's heart slightly shook. Knowing where they were going to stay would be plenty!

Due to Nie Li and his party's identities, now was not the right time to engage in conversation with the targets. However, if Nie Li knew where they were staying, then he would naturally, have a way for them to come to him!

"Nie Li, don't be rash.. They're important guests of the Divine Feathers Sect!" Gu Bei reminded him as he didn't feel reassured.

Nie Li smiled. "I know the limits!"

Gu Bei felt his scalp tingling. After all, those two's identities were too noble. If he accidentally offended them, no one would be able to cover for him! He could only hope that Nie Li wouldn't be too rash.

Ye Xuan and Murong Yu were talking one minute, then became quiet the next. Their gazes periodically directed themselves in Xiao Ning'er's direction. Xiao Ning'er appeared as though she didn't noticed them; however, Nie Li had already sensed it. This Ye Xuan was probably interested in Xiao Ning'er.

Although Ye Xuan appeared graceful and courteous on the outside, Nie Li had seen plenty of these hypocrites in his previous life.

This Ye Xuan must be the same as many others who'd benefited from their families and was extremely proud of themselves. However, the only thing they could really be proud of was their births. In terms of real ability, Ye Xuan was nothing.

At that moment, a beautiful Heavenly Note Sect disciple stood up in the front of the room, lightly smiled, and addressed the crowd. "To be here in the Divine Feathers Sect today is my honour to receive. I am a disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect named Qin Yue. It is a pleasure to meet everyone. This auction shall be organised as per past events. Many items displayed today are treasures brought by the disciples of of all three major sects, and will be auctioned. Please do lend us your support!"

Everyone stopped their discussions and turned their attention to the front. In every year's auction, many rare items would appear. Some were submitted by the disciples of the three major sects, while others were courtesy of the higher-ups. Occasionally, one could purchase a high-valued item for an extremely great price; therefore, all the disciples paid much attention to this auction.

"The first item to be auctioned is a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirit, a Bloodfury Earthen Dragon," Qin Yue said as she lightly smiled.

Nie Li and Gu Bei exchanged looks as they wondered whether this demon spirit was theirs.

Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirits were priceless and the three major sects' higher-ups definitely wouldn't bring them out for sale. Beneath the God Level growth rate, was the Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirit.

A Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirit was also extremely precious; only people like Li Xingyun and Ye Xuan could obtain one from their families; after all, only powerful families like theirs could obtain such rare demon spirits. Since they were so rare, it was nearly impossible to find one for sale.

As for many from various families, a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirit was a good fortune that would be encountered by luck and not sought.

The price competition instantly turned intense.

"Ten thousand spiritual stones!"

"Eleven thousand!"

"Eleven thousand five-hundred!"

"Twelve thousand!"

All the disciples frantically competed; however people like Long Tianming and Yan Yang were rather uninterested. Of course they

wouldn’t need something like that. Ye Xuan and Li Xingyun had received Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirits a long time ago; therefore, they did not participate in the betting. After all, such a demon spirit was extremely pricey and they didn’t need another one.

However, there were still a lot of people competing for it and the price was being madly raised, reflecting just how intense the competition truly was.

Chapter 308: A Rich Good-For-Nothing

Ye Xuan looked at Xiao Ning'er and smiled. "If Junior Sister Ning'er needs a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirit, I can bid for this one and gift it to you."

"I don't need it." Xiao Ning'er shook her head as eyes didn't linger on Ye Xuan for even a moment.

Nie Li whispered softly in Xiao Ning'er's ear. "Later, I'll get you one with a God Level growth rate."

Xiao Ning'er flushed slightly red as she nodded. A feeling of sweetness filled her heart. She didn't care about the demon spirit; what she liked was the fact that Nie Li was obviously concerned for her. Otherwise, he wouldn't have said something like that after Ye Xuan's offer. As for how Nie Li might've gotten a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline, Xiao Ning'er didn't think too much about it. In her heart, Nie Li had always been an omnipotent existence.

Ye Xuan tightly clenched his right fist when he saw Xiao Ning'er act all bashful at whatever Nie Li had said to her as he couldn't hear their conversation. An unsuppressable jealousy rose within his heart. She only showed such an expression when she was in front of Nie Li.

In the end, that Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirit was sold for twenty-seven thousand spiritual stones, to a disciple from the Skyblaze Sect.

Following that one were five more Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodlines, each of which sold for over twenty-five thousand spiritual stones. The crowd became rather confused. In the past, such powerful demon spirits only appeared in ones or twos, so why were there so many this time?

All the Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits were purchased by the Skyblaze Sect's disciples. They must certainly be wealthy to afford so much, or at least much wealthier than the disciples of the Divine Feathers Sect. Indeed, the Skyblaze Sect deserved to be the head of the six major sects!

Gu Bei made some rough calculations. If there were twenty Extraordinary growth rate demon spirits, didn't that mean over five hundred thousand spiritual stones? That was simply a shocking amount of wealth. Except he didn't know how much the manufacturing costs were, since he had always passed the spiritual stones back to Nie Li.

Nie Li knew that Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits were rare, but he'd originally thought fifteen thousand spiritual stones would already make a great sale. He never expected its actual price to be so high. Although, of course this was also linked to the fact that the Skyblaze Sect's disciples were all rich.

After all, Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits aren't easy to find. As long as those demon spiritualists didn't already have one, they definitely won't let go of such a chance.

“Next, we will auction a bottle of Demon Soul’s Essence. This bottle has already been appraised, and has been determined to be of the Heavenly Star level. The starting bid is ten thousand spiritual stones!” Qin Yue lightly smiled as she continued, “Is anyone interested?”

Demon Soul’s Essence can greatly enhance a demon spirit’s strength. Now that Nie Li had a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit, of course he wasn’t going to be stingy. Furthermore, a Heavenly Star level Demon Soul’s Essence would have an extremely powerful effect on a Heavenly Fate Realm demon spirit.

Nie Li never expected that the auction would start with such a precious item. The auction was probably trying to bring the excitement up first. Everyone in this side chamber was among the elites of the three major sects. Therefore, ordinary items definitely wouldn’t incite their interests.

Nie Li pondered a bit, then transmitted his voice to Gu Bei, “Get that Demon Soul’s Essence for me!”

Murong Yu seemed to be interested in the Demon Soul’s Essence too, since he made a bid. “Eleven thousand spiritual stones!’

“Eleven thousand one hundred spiritual stones!” Gu Bei immediately followed.

At Gu Bei’s words, Murong Yu frowned, gave Gu Bei a side glance, and said, “Twelve thousand spiritual stones!”

“Twelve thousand one hundred spiritual stones!” Gu Bei continued to raise the price in a calm and composed manner.

The crowd couldn’t help looking over to their table. Those two who’re sitting at the same table don’t look too friendly with each other. Well, since there seemed to be something entertaining going on, they stopped their own conversations to watch just how high the two of them would raise the price.

“Thirteen thousand spiritual stones!” Murong Yu was a little infuriated since Gu Bei was obviously going against him!

Murong Yu glared at Nie Li, then at Gu Bei, feeling furious in his heart. Gu Bei was probably trying to help Nie Li make a fool out of him!

Anything over ten thousand spiritual stones would already be considered a huge sum for Murong Yu. Even after he’d saved for so many years, he only had a rough total of fifteen thousand spiritual stones!

“Thirteen thousand one hundred spiritual stones!” Gu Bei continued ignoring Murong Yu’s existence and made another bid.

“Fifteen thousand!” Murong Yu nearly slammed his fists on the table.

Ye Xuan couldn’t help giving Murong Yu and Gu Bei weird looks.

Even Ye Xuan only had a little over thirty thousand spiritual stones and would've carefully considered the thought of buying this bottle of Demon Soul's Essence. This Gu Bei seemed to be pretty rich.

"Fifteen thousand one hundred spiritual stones!" Gu Bei bidded without even batting an eye.

Veins popped out from Murong Yu's neck. Even though he was well aware that what Gu Bei was only doing this to piss him off, he didn't have enough money to bid higher. What really enraged Murong Yu was Gu Bei's contemptuous attitude.

"If Brother Gu needs it that much, then I'll let you have it," Murong Yu breathed with a cold smile.

Right as the price suddenly stopped increasing, a voice came from a distant spot in the room. "Sixteen thousand spiritual stones!"

Gu Bei glanced at Murong Yu. "Letting me have it? You're too conceited. There seems to be many others also bidding for it. If you don't have money, then don't join in the bidding. What a joke!" Gu Bei was aware that Murong Yu had snatched Nie Li's spiritual stone rewards inside the Ghastly Ruins, so of course he wouldn't look kindly on Murong Yu.

Murong Yu tightly clenched his fists. He'd always been proud and aloof, so of course he couldn't swallow mockery from other people. But in this kind of situation, he didn't dare to flip in rage. Not to mention that Gu Bei was also someone from the Gu Clan.

“Then Brother Gu can continue competing over it!” Although Murong Yu hated Gu Bei so much that his teeth itched, he still swallowed his rage.

“Of course I will! Seventeen thousand spiritual stones!” Gu Bei glanced at Murong Yu as he continued bidding.

That was quite a high price already, so much that the other voice hesitated briefly, then decided to stop bidding. In the end, the Demon Soul’s Essence was successfully sold to Gu Bei.

After that came five more bottles of Demon Soul’s Essence, but all were of the Heavenly Fate level, leaving none of the Heavenly Star level. They priced somewhere around two to three thousand spiritual stones each. Murong Yu was rather dispirited. Although Heavenly Fate level Demon Soul’s Essence had some uses, there weren’t terribly many. If it wasn’t of the Heavenly Star level, then there wasn’t any point in buying.

However, Gu Bei still didn’t stop there. Those five Demon Soul’s Essences entered into his pocket as well.

As of then, Gu Bei had already spent nearly thirty thousand spiritual stones!

“Brother Gu, Demon Soul’s Essence is indeed good, but if you spend all your money now, you’ll lose your chance for the good stuff!” Ye Xuan lightly smiled, not knowing what his aim were.

“You don’t have to be worried about that!” Gu Bei glanced at Ye Xuan unhappily. Who asked him to show interest in Xiao Ning’er?

Xiao Ning’er should be Nie Li’s woman and this Ye Xuan was clearly trying to snatch his brother’s woman. So, of course, Gu Bei wouldn’t be kind to him! As far as Gu Bei was concerned, this Ye Xuan didn’t seem to be some hotshot either. According to other people, Gu Bei was just a lousy good-for-nothing; so, of course, he proceeded to put on a good-for-nothing act. Otherwise, he’d be letting down that nickname! Gu Bei sneered. “I hate people who like to pretend to be rich, but in reality aren’t!”

Ye Xuan coughed as fury rose within his heart. Who did this Gu Bei think he was? He was just a descendant of the Gu Clan, but he was actually daring to be so arrogant? If they weren’t inside the Divine Feathers Sect’s territory, Xe Yuan would definitely have him grow some brain.

However, on this occasion, Ye Xuan still showed a refined attitude as he said, “I’m only reminding you out of goodwill. Since Brother Gu isn’t appreciating it, then forget it!”

After such intense conflicts, the atmosphere by the table was naturally rather sour. A few people from a neighboring table looked over and immediately understood the situation when they saw Gu Bei. Gu Bei was a famed good-for-nothing. It’d actually be unusual to see him not having an argument or in a fight with someone. Not to mention that there were two beauties currently sitting at that table. No wonder the smell of gunpowder was so heavy.

Long Yuyin quietly sat beside Nie Li, seemingly uninterested in the items being auctioned. She realised that she was a little unnecessary over here. Nearly everyone's attention was involuntarily focused on Xiao Ning'er.

Long Yuyin recalled her grandmother's words. "Yin'er, with that fiery temper of yours, no one will like you, regardless of how beautiful you are. You have to change." In the past, she was never bothered by it, and was even somewhat disdainful of the advice. Since when did she, Long Yuyin, need a man to love? But, now that she re-examined and compared herself to Xiao Ning'er, she couldn't help feeling inferior.

It was normal for Nie Li to like Xiao Ning'er, but this fact slightly annoyed Long Yuyin's heart.

The auction continued with the next item, a bottle of Heavenly Note Dew. The Heavenly Note Dew is a product refined by the Heavenly Note Sect's alchemists using various herbs. Its herbal effect is even more effective than spiritual stones. However, the crucial part was the fact that the Heavenly Note Dew could be easily absorbed; that was why it's effects were even more obvious!

Qin Yue lightly smiled, "Please, everyone, you don't all have to be anxious over this one bottle. On this trip to the Divine Feathers Sect, we brought a hundred bottles and will be selling in sets of ten. If you're interested, but cannot buy all ten together, then you're welcome to bid with friends!"

Soon, the atmosphere tensed up as people started forming groups in preparation to buy the Heavenly Note Dew. After all, buying ten altogether would be too difficult for the majority of those present.

The starting price for ten bottles of Heavenly Note Dew was ten thousand spiritual stones. However, the bidding didn't raise the price terribly high and stopped at around eleven to twelve thousand spiritual stones. After all, there were still eighty bottles left! Furthermore, all of the Heavenly Note Sect's disciples had backed off on this bid, leaving only the Skyblaze and Divine Feathers Sect disciples. Therefore, there was no need for such an intense competition.

However, to everyone's dismay, Gu Bei took thirty bottles of Heavenly Note Dew all for himself. Gu Bei secretly had to admit that he felt great when buying all of it. He'd never felt this great at spending money, even though all the money belonged to Nie Li.

Thirty bottles of Heavenly Note Dew, that was over thirty thousand spiritual stones!

Gu Bei didn't look terribly bothered as he tossed out massive sums and sums of spiritual stones. On the contrary, he still looked like he intended to buy more!

Regardless of whether it was Murong Yu or Ye Xuan, both were quite dejected as they wondered just how much money this Gu Bei had.

Chapter 309: Tricked

Xiao Ning'er quietly said to Nie Li, "Nie Li, I also brought plenty of Heavenly Note Dew with me, so you can have a few dozen when we get back!" Because of her high talent, the Heavenly Note Sect had provided Xiao Ning'er with a nearly infinite supply of Heavenly Note Dew for training. Although she'd used quite a bit for her own cultivation, she still had a lot left over.

"Alright." Nie Li casually smiled and nodded, accepting Xiao Ning'er's goodwill. When she returned to her sect, she'd definitely be able to acquire more. Before she returned, Nie Li would definitely gift her plenty of treasures, including a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit. As for Heavenly Note Dew, Xiao Ning'er probably didn't need them anymore.

The auction continued. After the bottles of Heavenly Note Dew, there were several more Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits, accompanied by some Grade 1 and Grade 2 artifacts, and an assortment of elixirs for cultivation injuries.

The auction was extremely intense. After all, the items in this auction were things rarely seen elsewhere. Under the shocked eyes of everyone present, Gu Bei continued purchasing items that priced from fifty to sixty thousand spiritual stones.

As far as Nie Li was concerned, he already had more than enough spiritual stones for his personal use. So wouldn't he exchange part of his fortune for some actually useful items that could further enhance his strength?

The vine within his body had greatly delayed his cultivation speed. Right now, Ning'er had already reached the 5-fate realm, while he, himself, had only entered the Heavenly Fate Realm not long ago. At the same time, when Nie Li had ranked up, his strength had increased to several or even several dozens of times stronger than those of the same level as him!

Because of that vine within his body, Nie Li's need for things like spiritual stones and elixirs had reached a frightening height. An ordinary person would show an obvious growth in cultivation after refining with a few dozen of spiritual stones. Nie Li, on the other hand, needed a few hundred or even thousands. However, he had a nagging feeling that when the vine inside his body had grew to its full form, it would be absolutely extraordinary.

Take for example, the thirty bottles of Heavenly Note Dew that Gu Bei had just bought for him. Such a supply would last a long time for an ordinary person. However, in Nie Li's hands, it'd probably all be gone within a few days.

This wasn't really a problem that Nie Li could help. Therefore, he needed to acquire enormous quantities of cultivation resources.

As Gu Bei continuously bid item after another, Murong Yu and Ye Xuan turned their heads and pretended that nothing was happening. Sitting together with Gu Bei, they no longer had any face left whatsoever. Originally, Ye Xuan believed himself to be quite wealthy; however, when he compared himself to Gu Bei, he have utterly lose his face.

Murong Yu was hating Gu Bei more and more, to the point that his teeth were really starting to itch. Murong Yu wanted to buy a few items to take back, but every time he started to bid, Gu Bei would directly raise the price far higher than he could afford, forcing him to stop halfway. After all, Murong Yu's spiritual stones had all been obtained through hard work by hunting Ghouls in the Ghastly Ruins. They weren't some good fortune blown to him by the wind! Murong Yu was dying to slam his fists on the table and curse Gu Bei. However, he endured it.

'If you aren't going to let me have an easy time, then I won't let you have an easy time, either!' Murong Yu began periodically raising the prices for Gu Bei. This tactic had its limits, but as long as he could make Gu Bei spend a little more money, Murong Yu felt satisfied.

Li Xingyun, however, saw right through them. He knew that even though Gu Bei was a direct descendant of the Gu Clan, there was no way he actually had that much money. But based on how close Gu Bei was with Nie Li, he could guess that he was actually bidding all of those items at Nie Li's request. After all, Nie Li definitely had quite a bit saved up from selling those ordinary God Level growth rate demon spirits.

As of that moment, the item on the auction stand was a Grade 3 artifact: an Amethyst Weight Vest. Gu Bei looked rather interested in it, as his eyes glowed with desire. He started bidding for it, eventually topping his opponent by raising the price to eleven thousand spiritual stones!

"Eleven thousand spiritual stones, going once, going twice...?"

Qin Yue smiled as she faced the crowd. She couldn't help sending a few more glances in Gu Bei's direction. Gu Bei was one hell of a moneybag. In this auction, at least a solid ten percent had all gone to him!

Murong Yu's brows twitched when he saw that the Amethyst Weight Vest was about to land in Gu Bei's hands. "Twelve thousand spiritual stones!"

He was only trying to annoy Gu Bei. Anyways, it was Gu Bei's fault that he was obstructing him.

Gu Bei glanced at Murong Yu in annoyance as he coldly snorted, "Thirteen thousand spiritual stones!"

"Fourteen thousand spiritual stones!" Murong Yu increased the price again. Murong Yu had already jacked the prices of several times that Gu Bei had wanted. And each time, Gu Bei had bought the item anyway. So, of course, Murong Yu wasn't going to give up this chance to get back at Gu Bei.

It only took one look to realise that even though Gu Bei was rich, he was obviously a brainless fool. If he saw something he liked, then he'd go ahead and bid for it without hesitation.

An Amethyst Weight Vest was, at most, worth around ten thousand spiritual stones.

People would laugh at Gu Bei when they heard that he'd spent so

much money on an

Amethyst Weight Vest! Murong Yu didn't consider a good-for-nothing like him to be very much!

Murong Yu waited for Gu Bei to continue bidding, but instead, he only saw him sitting there, yawning, without the enthusiastic look that he'd had earlier. Murong Yu instantly realised that something was wrong.

"Since you want this Amethyst Weight Vest so much, then go ahead and take it. I, Master Bei, am a generous man, so I won't bother arguing with you!" Gu Bei waved his hand. Earlier, Gu Bei had only been aiming at Murong Yu's bids just to provoke him. Therefore, whenever Gu Bei wanted to buy something, he would retaliate by raising the price. Gu Bei had also slowly made calculations on the amount of money that Murong Yu had, which was roughly fifteen thousand spiritual stones.

Although the Amethyst Weight Vest was a Grade 3 artifact, it didn't have many practical uses due to its weight. Furthermore, such an artifact could easily be purchased elsewhere for ten thousand spiritual stones. The actual reason Gu Bei displayed so much interest in such an item was to convince Murong Yu to take the bait.

Originally, everyone had been secretly laughing at the fight between Gu Bei and Murong Yu. With Gu Bei's good-for-nothing character, he'd definitely buy what he wanted, even if he had to spend more money. However, Gu Bei suddenly stopped, just as the crowd was waiting for him to return the bid. Everyone was a little

surprised.

Suddenly, it hit them.

Murong Yu had been fooled by Gu Bei!

Earlier, Gu Bei had spent huge quantities of money. Although the items he bid for were rather expensive, he'd actually gotten them for a fairly decent price. This Amethyst Weight Vest was the only exception. The moment Murong Yu raised the price to fourteen thousand spiritual stones, Gu Bei suddenly backed off and allowed Murong Yu to trip headfirst into his hands!

How could Murong Yu not see that coming? He berated himself as his forehead filled with beads of sweat.

Murong Yu had treated Gu Bei as a rich second generation [1] who only knew how to throw money around, and found it impossible to not look down on him. But now, he'd fallen headfirst into the grave he'd dug for himself.

The Amethyst Weight Vest was actually a decent Grade 3 Artifact, but its practical uses weren't very significant. Furthermore, Murong Yu already had a set of battle armour. He didn't have any use for the Amethyst Weight Vest. Furthermore, if he actually bought it, then his entire fortune of spiritual stones would be depleted.

"Are there certain people here who're too scared to raise the

price?” Murong Yu coldly smiled as made his last struggle by trying to provoke Gu Bei.

Gu Bei waved his hand. “This Amethyst Weight Vest is only worth ten thousand spiritual stones at most. Only a dumbass would be willing to spend fourteen thousand spiritual stones to buy it!”

“You…” Murong Yu was well aware that he’d been tricked by Gu Bei. But getting tricked was only the secondary problem; at such a huge event, he, Murong Yu, had become a public joke! His eyes nearly spouted flames.

Nie Li couldn’t help laughing at the situation. As far as others had been concerned, Gu Bei had always been a perverted good-for-nothing, giving others a strong impression of a useless second generation. Otherwise, Murong Yu wouldn’t have fallen for it.

Gu Lan had recently been completely healed; therefore, Gu Bei finally decided to show his teeth and fight for power and a position within the family. However, he hadn’t reversed his public image yet, so it was no surprise that Murong Yu actually fell for it.

Between Gu Bei and Gu Lan, one of them had to stand out and fight for the Patriarch’s position of the Gu Clan. Gu Bei wasn’t going to sit idly by and watch Gu Heng take the seat and gain control of the Gu Clan!

Thanks to Nie Li’s extended treatment, Gu Lan had already been completely healed. However, she still had to conceal herself and,

furthermore, Gu Bei had now integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit. Gu Bei had all the qualifications to stand out and fight for the Patriarch's seat; therefore, he no longer had to conceal his strength like he did in the past.

In the context of the auction, even if Murong Yu knew that he'd been tricked, the only thing he could do was swallow it down. However, deep down in his heart, he was so infuriated that he wanted to swallow Gu Bei alive.

Regardless of his anger, that was fourteen thousand spiritual stones down the drain! Even if Murong Yu managed to sell the Amethyst Weight Vest and get back some spiritual stones, he'd still lose four to five thousand spiritual stones. As he thought about it, he simply wanted to vomit blood!

Ye Xuan whispered in Murong Yu's ear. "Brother Murong, it's a little reckless to actually buy this Amethyst Weight Vest!"

"It's only fourteen thousand spiritual stones, nothing much." Murong Yu forced a smile as he drained his wine cup in one gulp. He wasn't a moneybag like Gu Bei. Throwing away so much money made him nearly vomit blood from his pained heart.

Gu Bei glanced at Murong Yu again. "I wonder what they're going to auction next? Since Murong Yu is so confident, why not bid for a few more items?"

Lu Piao was crazily overjoyed within his heart and internally

gave Gu Bei a thumbs up.

Xiao Ning'er couldn't help chuckling as she looked at Nie Li. This friend of Nie Li was indeed like the man himself, just full of awful ideas and absolutely unwilling to draw the short end of the stick.

Several of the Gu Clan's younger generation, who were sitting in the corner, glanced in his direction and engaged in soft discussion.

"That looks like Gu Bei, right?"

"Gu Bei's sister has already been stripped of her position as successor and he's always been a licentious guy, so he could never obtain the qualifications for successor! Before, I always thought of him as a licentious good-for-nothing, but now that I'm looking at him, he doesn't sound like the guy from the rumors at all!"

"Yeah! He's buying so much stuff all at once, and just relying on his own wealth! That's something to be respected!"

The younger generations of the Gu Clan suddenly realised that they had to re-evaluate their opinion of Gu Bei. The Gu Clan was one of the three most powerful families of the Divine Feathers Sect, and their strength was undoubted. Back then, Gu Bei's sister, Gu Lan, had extraordinary talent, and was an existence who could rival Long Tianming. However, heaven was jealous of geniuses. One day, a problem had occurred during her cultivation that left her lower body paralyzed. Despite the fact that Gu Heng's talent was still acceptable, he was still inferior to the super genius Long Tianming. After that, the family had always been worrying and

hoping for another genius to appear in their younger generations.

And now, Gu Bei, who no one had ever paid much attention to, had suddenly, and unexpectedly, revealed his sharp fangs!

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[1] In Chinese, “rich second generation” is an insult for good-for-nothing kids of the self-made millionaires and billionaires. This applies to Gu Bei, since he’s the “second generation” who’s living off of his clan.

Chapter 310: Arrangement

Many families used the hands-off approach to raising their descendents, which usually led to the younger generations competing amongst themselves. Like a growing venomous insect, the moment an absolute genius managed to beat down their peers, the family would turn their attention and nurture them to succeed the family's power and position. As for the others who couldn't make it to the top, they would be forced to give up on the competition and seek other suitable positions within their families.

In the Divine Feathers Sect, Long Tianming was a good example! Although there were others who qualified to succeed his family, none of them could compete against him.

Gu Heng's talent was rather decent among the younger generations of the Gu Clan, but he couldn't beat down all of the others with absolute certainty. As for Gu Lan, every member of the Gu Clan's younger generation considered it to be a pity. Only her talent was qualified enough to become leader of the Gu Clan!

However, Gu Lan had encountered a problem in her cultivation. After her accident, her younger brother had been placed with high hopes; after all, the two of them were siblings, so in terms of talent, they should be somewhat close to each other. However, it was a pity that reality didn't turn out that way. Gu Bei was a lousy good-for-nothing. Although he possessed a Heaven Spiritual Root, he had an unrestrained lifestyle, and already had over twenty wives at such a young age. Not to mention that his cultivation wasn't improving either, so, everyone was forced to turn away from Gu Bei.

But now, these people vaguely sensed that the matter probably wasn't as simple as it seemed. There was a high chance that Gu Bei was concealing himself!

Long Tianming also couldn't help glancing over in their direction. He remembered that the youth called Gu Bei was someone from the Gu Clan. But there was no way Gu Bei should be able to pull out so much money with just his family alone. Was Gu Bei managing some businesses?

Aside from Gu Heng, the talents of the rest of the younger generations of the Gu Clan weren't that good. But Long Tianming wasn't terribly bothered by Gu Heng either. Within the entirety of the Divine Feathers Sect, there were very few that Long Tianming would treat as equals.

There was Li Yufeng of the Ashen Flames Family, and also that person! A chilling light flashed through Long Tianming's eyes. That person was his greatest rival over the Sect Master's seat!

As for Gu Bei, Long Tianming was only slightly shocked at the display, but he didn't bother too much over it. He quickly turned his head back and continued his conversation.

Another Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit made its appearance on the stage.

"There're so many Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits being auctioned this year!" someone exclaimed

from the sidelines.

In past auctions, it was already good to have just one or two Dragon bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rates; this year, there were already tens of those and it looked like there might still be more to come! This was indeed a shocking display.

Upon hearing the exclaims from the crowd, Gu Bei and Nie Li exchanged looks and smiled. Gu Bei had submitted twenty Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits into the auction all at once. To them, it'd be strange if there aren't many of them appearing in the auction.

Li Xingyun dejectedly drained his wine cup in one go. "They're just Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodlines! What's the point?" His talent was a bit inferior to Long Tianming's and Li Yufeng's, but he wasn't terribly far off either. However, since he was an illegitimate child, the Ashen Flames Family didn't regard him very highly. Without a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit, he'd always be a step behind his competitors!

It was too difficult for his family to provide him with such a demon spirit; so, of course, he was rather upset.

In addition to Li Xingyun, even people like Murong Yu and Ye Xuan couldn't gain the qualifications for a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit. They were all a little dispirited over this fact. But once they got their hands on one, their position within their families, and the sect, would instantly change.

Nie Li glanced at Li Xingyun. In his previous life, Li Xingyun had become an authoritative figure, so of course he'd gotten a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit in the end. However, he was currently stewing in the sour loss of hope. Li Xingyun knew that Nie Li could get him an ordinary God Level growth rate, but he didn't believe that Nie Li could get him one with a Dragon Bloodline. Therefore, he'd never spoken of this matter to Nie Li.

Nie Li transmitted his voice to Li Xingyun, "Brother Li, I have a deal for you. I wonder if you're interested?"

Li Xingyun couldn't help raising his head towards Nie Li. "What kind of deal?"

"If Brother Li is interested, I might be able to get you a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit!" Nie Li lightly smiled. During their recent interactions, Nie Li had realised that Li Xingyun still gave off the same impression that he had in his previous life: a man who spoke heavily of loyalty. Therefore, Nie Li came up with an idea.

"You can get a Dragon Blood God Level growth rate demon spirit for me?" Li Xingyun transmitted his voice back to Nie Li. Even the wine cup in his hand couldn't stop shaking. Although he was excited, he still managed to control himself.

"I'll need some time, but it's not impossible!" Nie Li returned.

After a pondering for a moment, Li Xingyun said, "What kind of deal do you want? As long as I can get a Dragon Bloodline God

Level growth rate, feel free to name whatever price you want!" Demon spirits of that level were indeed priceless. If Li Xingyun sold off all his businesses, he could accumulate quite a lot of money, and it still wouldn't be enough to buy a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit. But it wouldn't be too far away either.

Nie Li lightly smiled. "As for spiritual stones, a hundred thousand will do. However, I need Brother Li to promise me three requests!"

"No problem, don't hesitate! Speak!" Li Xingyun's voice trembled a little. A person with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit could become the pillar of the entire sect. Even if you had a hundred thousand spiritual stones, you still wouldn't be able to find another place that would sell it! Even if Nie Li asked for millions of spiritual stones, buyers would still line up like ducks!

However, Nie Li was only asking for a hundred thousand spiritual stones. That was almost like giving it away for free!

"My first request is to form an alliance with you, Brother Li. In the future, no matter what happens in the Divine Feathers Sect, no matter who I have conflicts with, Brother Li must stand by my side!" Nie Li stared at Li Xingyun as he transmitted his voice.

Li Xingyun was slightly stunned as he looked at Nie Li. He only needed a moment to think before a light of determination flashed through his eyes. "Of course! Brother Nie Li is selling me a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate for only a hundred thousand spiritual stones. I, Li Xingyun, am not a man who is disloyal to his

friends. If you have any requests, please feel free to voice them. As long as they are within my power, I will do my utmost. As long as it does not betray the sect!”

“Of course I wouldn’t ask Brother Li to betray the sect. That wouldn’t benefit me either.” Nie Li smiled and continued, “As for the other two requests, I still haven’t decided. I’ll let you know when I’ve thought them through. As for your demon spirit, I’ll do my best to acquire it!”

Li Xingyun’s heart was filled with hope at Nie Li’s words.

If Nie Li could get him a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit, regardless of who Nie Li asked him to confront, even if it was Long Tianming, Li Xingyun would never fear. He was a loyal man. To those who’d helped him, he’d definitely return the favor without hesitation. Otherwise, he would never have made so many reliable friends. Even without this deal, Li Xingyun felt that Nie Li was someone worth befriending!

Nie Li had made this deal entirely based off of the impression Li Xingyun had given him in the previous and present life. Nie Li didn’t know if he’d profit from the deal, but it’s fine as long as he didn’t lose anything. A hundred thousand spiritual stones would be enough for Nie Li to make Li Xingyun’s demon spirit.

No one else had any clue about the astonishing deal that Nie Li had just made with Li Xingyun.

Nie Li transmitted his voice over to Gu Bei. “Gu Bei, how’s your

influence inside your clan right now?”

Gu Bei scratched his head and bitterly smiled. “I’ve always been a good-for-nothing. What kind of influence could I possibly have? At most, I only have a few of my father’s connections, and can only mobilise some people. Even if I suddenly stood out, I could only attract slight attention. I don’t have very much credit with the others in the clan. However, it’d be a different story if my sister stood up. There would easily be a hundred answers to a single call from her!”

Nie Li thought it over briefly, then said, “It’s better to let your sister focus on her cultivation. Next, I might need your help on some things!”

“What things? As long as they’re within my power!” Gu Bei couldn’t help replying seriously at Nie Li’s serious expression. Nie Li had saved his sister. That little grace, Gu Bei was entirely willing to repay it with his life!

“We’ve bought so much stuff today. That astonishing wealth will definitely attract the Gu Clan’s attention. Just one thing: keep it a secret and don’t let anyone know where all the money came from and keep going like we discussed earlier. Stand out and pull Gu Heng down.” Nie Li continued, “We will initiate our plan, step by step!”

“My sister’s poisoning is definitely related to that Gu Heng guy. However, Gu Heng is deeply rooted in the Gu Clan, and is also the clan’s number one genius. Trying to pull him down is going to be extremely tough!” Gu Bei bitterly smiled as he continued, “It’s not

like I've been praising others to make myself sound weak. However, my current strength is still inferior to Gu Heng's!"

Nie Li said, "Of course this problem isn't going to be solved so quickly. I'll help guide you in your cultivation. Then, when the time is right, you should display your Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit in front of your clan!" Since Nie Li had decided to fight for the Sect Master's position, he had to start planning things right now.

Once Gu Bei displayed his demon spirit, his position in the clan would change drastically! When that time came, he'd be able to start shaking Gu Heng from his position bit by bit.

"I also think that it's about time!" A chilling light flashed through Gu Bei's eyes. He and Gu Lan had already endured for far too long.

Among the members of the three major families of the Divine Feathers Sect, both Li Xingyun and Gu Bei qualified to fight for the position of Sect Master. All that was left the Dragonseal Family. As these thoughts crossed Nie Li's mind, his eyes turn to Long Yuyin.

Long Yuyin was also a valid candidate to be the Dragonseal Family Patriarch's successor. Even though she ranked a little behind, she still had the qualifications. The only problem was that Long Yuyin was obsessed with the Martial Dao, and uninterested in political power. But if there was one good thing about those kinds of people, it was that they're one-track minded.

If Long Yuyin wanted to compete against Long Tianming, she would require Nie Li's patient and systematic guidance. However, such things had to be approached slowly.

Chapter 311: Myriad Miles Rivers And Mountains Painting

Nie Li had been guiding Long Yuyin recently, which had eased their relationship. However, he was still a little hesitant towards this female tyrannosaurus.

Therefore, he found it rather difficult to interact with Long Yuyin.

For example, Long Yuyin currently sat there like a block of wood, not interacting with others. She had a deterring facial expression for strangers. Who knew what she was thinking about?

Fortunately, the current Long Yuyin was already restraining herself, so other people no longer hated her as much.

On the other hand, Gu Bei continued to buy many things. Neither Ye Xuan nor Murong Yu felt any more light on their faces; all the limelight had been snatched by Gu Bei.

The auction continued for another half an hour, after which the accounts were settled. After the calculations had finished, Gu Bei had spent around one hundred and seventy-eighty thousand spiritual stones. Of course, he still had quite a bit of money left over. He placed all of his new purchases and the remaining spiritual stones into the interspatial ring, then secretly passed the ring to Nie Li.

Qin Yue smiled sweetly as she said, “I’m sure everyone can’t wait to see the main event for this auction. This item is extremely extraordinary, a treasure from ancient times. However, we have not determined its uses, till this day. As far as we’re aware, it can increase your cultivating speed. However, no one can deny its value. A mysterious and unnamed higher up from one of the major sects has placed it in this auction, so that it may find its fated owner!”

Qin Yue’s words greatly piqued everyone’s curiosity. Just what kind of item was it? Was it really that mysterious?

Even Long Tianming, Mingyue Wushuang, and Yan Yang shifted their gaze onto Qin Yue.

An unusual treasure from the ancient times? The name itself already attracted the attention of countless people.

The remaining disciples of the three major sects were all anxiously waiting for it.

“Miss Qin Yue, please bring it out quickly!”

Qin Yue seemed very pleased with the effect that her words had produced on the crowd. She smiled and said, “Since everyone is so curious about this item, let’s bring it out!”

Two girls slowly carried in a tray, which was covered by a red cloth.

This had also aroused Nie Li's curiosity as he never thought that it'd be such a serious matter. He wondered just which ancient treasure was it?

A sweet smile appeared on Qin Yue's face as she removed the cloth, revealing a scroll-like item. She held it up and slowly unfurled it. "Even till this day, we cannot determine exactly what this item is. The only thing we know is that this item is definitely extraordinary."

Everyone fixed their eyes on the item Qin Yue held in her hands. What she held wasn't a text scroll, but actually a painting. The paper depicted a spacious land that had distant mountains, and a river flowing in between. Four vigorous ancient letters were written there: Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains.

Upon seeing those four letters, all the viewers felt a strong shaking sensation, as though their hearts had been struck by lightning. Those four letters contained some kind of powerful intent.

This was definitely an extraordinary object!

That was the first thought that appeared in everyone's mind.

Nie Li was the most shocked among them. Others didn't know the uses of this treasure and could only feel mind-blown upon seeing this painting. However, Nie Li was well aware of it's uses!

According to the Temporal Demon Spirit Book's records, this painting was drawn by a supreme existence from ancient times. That expert had used all of his intent to create this this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, thereby exhausting all energy. This item wasn't simply supposed to be a cultivation aid!

Its aura could be absorbed for cultivation, but using it that way was simply a huge waste of a priceless treasure! That was only a tiny trace of the Heavenly Energy that it dispersed!

Nie Li sensed that there were definitely strings attached. Otherwise, there was no way that such a shocking treasure would simply be brought out for auction. However, he definitely wouldn't let such a treasure go! If he could tap into all of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting's abilities, it would definitely become one of his cornerstones in his fight against the Sage Emperor!

The Sage Emperor dominated everything and had sealed both time and space. If Nie Li wanted to break through the Space-Time seal, he'd definitely require extraordinary methods.

Nie Li definitely couldn't allow this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting fall into the hands of others!

"Gu Bei, no matter what, buy this painting for me!" Nie Li transmitted his voice to Gu Bei. "As for money, I'll pay for it!"

"Alright!" Gu Bei nodded. Although he didn't know of the

painting's uses, he was aware that it definitely wasn't a simple object. And that was enough for him!

After all, isn't money supposed to be spent?

Gu Bei was quite eager now!

Qin Yue lightly smiled at everyone, "I'll bet that everyone knows that this definitely isn't a simple item. Under normal circumstances, this item definitely wouldn't appear in this auction. However, we have been mystified over it. Since we don't know its uses, it only serves as a decoration for us. Even the mysterious higher-up who took this painting out doesn't know of its uses as well!"

Everyone exchanged glances.

Everyone was well aware that such a treasure definitely had numerous uses. However, that higher-up who was willing to sell this treasure couldn't discover its uses? People like themselves could just forget about it! Since this item was the finale of the show, it definitely wouldn't be cheap. If they spent a fortune buying such a useless item, that'd be too much of a loss!

Qin Ye lightly smiled. "The higher-up who is selling this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting said that regardless of who it is, if someone can discover even one use of this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, he will be willing to buy it back for two hundred thousand spiritual stones. If no one knows of its uses, then he will sell the painting. The starting price is one hundred

thousand spiritual stones!”

Nie Li furrowed his brows briefly. It looked like this higher-up was really stumped. He didn’t seem to actually want to sell the painting, but he couldn’t figure out any of its uses. Therefore, he really didn’t have much of a choice.

Even this mysterious higher up couldn’t break the myriad of inscription patterns on the painting. So what was the use of having the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting anyways?

Nie Li was probably the only one who could unlock its secrets!

The starting bid was one hundred thousand spiritual stones!

Many people were utterly stupefied at the price.

That price itself could easily remove the majority of the competition. Amongst those gathered here, only a few could even participate. One hundred thousand spiritual stones. That wasn’t something ordinary people could afford.

The entire side chamber was covered by a long silence. Who would be daring enough to raise that price?

“One hundred ten thousand spiritual stones!” Long Tianming casually said.

Someone finally made a bid!

The silence had been broken. Everyone exchanged looks and bitter smiles. Probably only someone of Long Tianming's level could afford to take part in this competition.

The amount of money transacted in this year's auction greatly surpassed that of previous years. Furthermore, the price of this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was simply too overwhelming.

"One hundred twenty thousand spiritual stones!" Yan Yang casually said.

Throughout this long auction, Yan Yang hadn't made a single bid. The number of items that could catch his attention was nearly zero. However, he'd finally started to bid for this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Long Tianming couldn't help furrowing his brows briefly when he heard Yan Yang's bid. Once Yan Yang joined the competition, Long Tianming would no longer be a decent competitor for the painting. Therefore, he could only hope that Yan Yang wasn't terribly interested in the painting.

"One hundred thirty thousand!"

"One hundred forty thousand!"

One hundred fifty thousand!”

.....

The price steadily rose as the two of them continued the bidding war. When Yan Yang raised it to one hundred sixty thousand, Long Tianming was forced to back out from the fight with a bitter smile.

“Senior Brother Yan Yang has made a bid of one hundred sixty thousand. Is anyone willing to go higher?” Qin Yue lightly smiled as she looked out at the crowd.

Suddenly, Mingyue Wushuang’s clear voice rang out as she lightly smiled. “I’ll offer one hundred ninety thousand. If anyone raises the price past that, then I’ll back out!”

Yan Yang went silent for a moment as he spoke, “By right, if Senior Sister Mingyue is interested, I should let Senior Sister Mingyue have it. Unfortunately, I’m also quite interested in this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Furthermore, this item seems to compliment my cultivation technique, so I don’t want to miss it. I hope that Senior Sister Mingyue won’t be offended!” Yan Yang wasn’t on good terms with Long Tianming but he was obviously more polite towards Mingyue Wushuang.

Mingyue Wushuang smiled, “Don’t worry about it. Junior Brother Yan Yang should do as you like!” After all, she was only casually raising the price.

“Two hundred thousand spiritual stones!” Yan Yang continued bidding.

The painting’s price had reached two hundred thousand spiritual stones! That was simply too shocking a sum. Even if people like Ye Xuan and Murong Ye emptied their entire fortunes, they still wouldn’t be able to gather so many spiritual stones!

Yan Yang was truly the Holy Son of the Skyblaze Sect. He was way too rich!

With Yan Yang’s frightening wealth, the others were probably too scared to compete. Just when everyone believed that the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting would fall into Yan Yang’s hands, Gu Bei’s voice sounded. “I heard from an Elder that this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting has been laid with the Myriad Spiritual Lock. Even a Martial Ancestor Realm expert wouldn’t be able to solve it. So even if Young Master Yan Yang gets it, you probably won’t find too many uses for it. I’ll bid two hundred ten thousand spiritual stones!”

The observers couldn’t help finding the situation rather funny. On one hand, Gu Bei had just said that the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting had been laid with the Myriad Spiritual Lock; therefore, it definitely wasn’t worth getting. On the other hand, he’d also raised the price. It was an unavoidably a little too hilarious. Gu Bei was probably trying to tell Yan Yan that he wasn’t trying to provoke him. At the same time, not making Yan Yang look bad.

After all, no one wanted to provoke someone like Yan Yang! Yan

Yang represented the entire Skyblaze Sect as the sect's future leader!

Yan Yang turned in Gu Bei's direction and considered him briefly. He never expected that Gu Bei would still have the wealth to compete against him, especially after buying so many other things. Yan Yang causally said, "This gathering of the three major sects is meant for us to interact. Harmony is prized. Everyone can bid as they wish, and the higher bid wins. There is no need to be bothered by status. Junior Brother Gu, please go ahead!"

The crowd couldn't help sighing inwardly at those words. With such extraordinary manners, Yan Yang truly lived up to his title as the Holy Son of the Skyblaze Sect.

Chapter 312: The Four Arts

“Two hundred twenty thousand spiritual stones!” Yan Yang continued raising the price.

“Two hundred thirty thousand spiritual stones!” Gu Bei calmly bidded.

Everyone’s hearts were shocked. Just how much money did Gu Bei have? Even Grand Elders would be pretty good to save up a few hundred thousand spiritual stones over several years. Had Gu Bei discovered some treasure?

Yan Yang went silent. After cultivating for years and years, he only had two hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones saved up. The price was already pretty high, but Gu Bei was still increasing it.

Yan Yang had heard of Gu Bei; he was only supposed to be an ordinary descendant of the Gu Clan. How could he possess such frightening wealth? The way things were going, it didn’t look like Yan Yang would be able to win against Gu Bei, even if he continued bidding.

After remaining silent for a brief moment, Yan Yang opened up. “I’ll back out of the competition. Junior Brother Gu can have this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting!” Although Yan Yang felt slightly regretful, he still calmed himself very quickly.

Everyone was utterly shocked that even Yan Yang couldn’t win

against Gu Bei. He was going to give it up just like that? They couldn't help giving Gu Bei a glance. That guy's wealth was simply too frightening.

"Then, many thanks, Senior Brother Yan Yang!" Gu Bei lightly smiled as he cupped his hands towards Yan Yang.

After the painting came a few other items that were worth quite a bit of money. Nie Li summed everything up. They'd sold twenty Dragon bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits, and bought the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, thirty bottles of Heavenly Note Dew, the Demon Soul's Essence, and various other items. After all that, Nie Li still made a net gain of one hundred thirty thousand spiritual stones.

Adding to the one hundred thousand spiritual stones currently stored in his interspatial ring, he was still left with two hundred thirty thousand spiritual stones.

Indeed, selling high growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits was such an easy way to earn money!

Fortunately, he'd encountered this auction, which made selling the demon spirits much easier. Normally, it'd be difficult to find a suitable buyer.

The auction continued and quite a number of items were sold. The majority of these goods weren't terribly eye-catching; therefore, Nie Li didn't compete. Excitement was raised in his heart, after he'd obtained the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains

Painting secretly. Once he got home, he'd definitely find a way to open it!

Was this item the same as the one in the records, and possessed endless uses?

Even that higher-up was unable to open the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting; Nie Li had no idea if he could do it either.

He didn't have absolute confidence that he could unseal it, but based on his understandings towards various inscription patterns, there was still a high possibility. Even if he could only unlock ten percent of its potential, it would still be worth the money.

Items continued to sell by the dozens before the auction finally came to an end. Occasionally, bursts of laughter and loud conversation drifted from afar.

Qin Yue stood at the front and lightly smiled. "We have come to the end of our auction. Following will be the next segment, with the rather interesting theme of the Four Arts by injecting understanding of dao into the four arts and have it evaluated by everyone here."

Workers were already moving a zither, a Go board [2], a brush, some paper, an ink-stone, and various other objects onto the stage up front.

All the disciples focused their attention on these items as their

hearts trembled with excitement. This was indeed an interesting event. If they're able to witness the four arts of people like Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang while sensing their Dao in it, who knows if it might let them improve further in Martial Dao!

Qin Yu walked up to the zither and lightly smiled. "Since I initiated this event, then I shall be the first to show my humble skills. Please offer your opinions!"

When Qin Yue announced that she would start the event, the crowd of disciples applauded loudly.

Qin Yue gracefully sat behind the zither, extended her beautiful hands, and began strumming lightly with her slender fingers.

Mellow and soulful music echoed throughout the area. The sound reminded one of fine rain tapping on the leaves of a banana tree. If you listened from afar, nothing could be heard. But listening quietly, the sound seemed as though it sounded by the ears. The music contained a trace of anxiousness and sentimentality. It was gentle, sad and beautiful.

Suddenly, the zither's music suddenly changed, like silver bottle splashing. The notes moved quickly, but instead of killing intent, it contained a dignified calmness.

The crowd couldn't help being intoxicated by such beautiful music as their soul realms fluttered to the melody. It was like they'd instantly emerged into a utopia bathed in warm sunlight.

Over at Nie Li's table, Ye Xuan had an intoxicated expression on his face as he lightly tapped on the table. As the music calmed, so did he, but he couldn't help sighing. "She plays like a celestial being, pleasing and relaxing the hearts of all her listeners. The Dao intent contained in her music is even more mesmerising!"

After her piece ended, praises sounded from everywhere in the crowd.

"Miss Qin Yue's zither is as smooth as water, delivering her Dao intent through emotions. Truly extraordinary!"

"Miss Qin Yue's zither was rich and resounding, truly mesmerising!"

Voices of praise echoed; however, Long Tianming, Mingyue Wushuang, and Yan Yang still silently maintained their calm and tranquil dispositions. After all, Qin Yue's understanding towards the Dao was too basic and inferior compared to them.

After hearing the zither music, Nie Li lightly smiled. The emotions within her music were somewhat similar to his Master's Ethereal Note. However, the distance between them was too wide. Although Nie Li wasn't an expert at the zither, he was still pretty good at evaluating.

Qin Yue stood up as she slightly bowed. "I, Qin Yue, have made a fool of myself, a joke for others. Qin Yue has already displayed my pitiful skills. Next, I pass the stage to those sitting below!"

At Qin Yue's words, many couldn't help turning slightly red. Qin Yue's zither had already reached such a level, going up now would just make a fool of themselves. For this event, it'd be best to let the real experts show their skills. That way, the members of the crowd could benefit.

Suddenly, Ye Xuan glanced in Xiao Ning'er's direction, then stood up and walked to the front. "Since Miss Qin Yue has displayed her zither skills, then let me present my skills as well."

The corner of Gu Bei's mouth twitched as he appeared slightly restless. He didn't have any expectations from Ye Xuan.

"Senior Brother Ye Xuan, please!" Qin Yue smiled very politely as she continued, "I wonder which of the Four Arts Senior Brother Ye Xuan will display for us?"

"Calligraphy." Ye Xuan lightly smiled.

"Then I'll help grind the ink for Senior Brother Ye Xuan!" Qin Yue smiled as she walked to one side of the table and started on her task.

"A beauty's company, what an honour!" Ye Xuan laughed as he picked up a writing brush from the table, dipped it in the ink, and stared at the paper with his brows furrowed. Then, he leaned forward slightly, brandished the brush, and began writing, his brush coiled around the paper like snakes and dragons.

A brief moment later, a single, vigorous word appeared on the paper: love [3].

Each brush stroke of that word was a fantastic realm of its own.

Qin Yue's eyes couldn't help lighting up as she lifted up the page. The crowd below applauded loudly.

"Senior Brother Ye Xuan's insight towards the Dao of Love is indeed much greater than Miss Qin Yue's!"

"A fantastic word, Senior Brother Ye Xuan!"

Many of the Heavenly Note Sect girls couldn't help raising their eyebrows with splendor in their eyes. Within this one word were the profounds for both love and Dao. That alone was more than enough to make many blush in shame.

Ye Xuan disregarded everyone else's looks as he indistinctly looked at Xiao Ning'er.

Nie Li couldn't help whispering to Xiao Ning'er in a soft voice, "Ning'er, look how deep this Ye Xuan's feelings for you is!"

"Nie Li, you're making fun of me!" Xiao Ning'er shyly lowered her head.

Nie Li couldn't help laughing at Xiao Ning'er's reaction. "Since

this Ye Xuan went up there, I'll also have to show a skill or two. Otherwise, I'd look weak!"

Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li in shock. If Nie Li was being so confident, then that meant he believed himself not to be inferior compared to Ye Xuan. Li Xingyun couldn't help the expectation that was rising in his heart as he wondered what Nie Li was going to show. After all, Nie Li had just stepped into the Heavenly Fate Realm and he was already claiming insight comparable to Ye Xuan's?

Xiao Ning'er was busy chatting and laughing softly with Nie Li. She didn't even look over. Ye Xuan couldn't help feeling dejected as he walked off stage and returned to his seat.

After Ye Xuan's calligraphy, everyone quickly calmed down.

Someone from the crowd shouted, "Among the disciples in the side chamber, the leaders are Senior Brother Yan Yang, Senior Sister Mingyue, and Senior Brother Long Tianming. Please go up and enlighten us!"

The rest of the crowd parroted after that person.

Yan Yang, Mingyue Wushuang and Long Tianming's understandings on the Martial Dao had reached an absolutely astonishing degree. If they were willing to showcase a bit, then the rest of the crowd would definitely benefit.

Long Tianming glanced at Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang, and laughed. “Among us three, I am the weakest. Since that’s so, I’ll be the first to make a fool of myself. After me, I’d like to ask Senior Sister Mingyue and Senior Brother Yan Yang to go onstage and display your talents as well!”

Everyone couldn’t help inwardly praising Long Tianming for his words. The three of them were well-known figures among the three major sects; competition between them was unavoidable as the relationship between them definitely isn’t that harmonious. However, Long Tianming had taken the initiative to admit that he was the weakest among them; that wasn’t something everyone could accomplish.

From a distance, Nie Li looked at Long Tianming with a cold smile. Long Tianming was indeed full of schemes. Since the three of them were required to give a show or two, it was unavoidable that they’d be compared with each other. Rather than a display, it’d be more fitting to call it a competition.

He had gone and admitted that he was the weakest, so that even if he didn’t do as well as the others, the crowd wouldn’t see it as shameful. But if he could perform better than the two of them, then it’d be extremely applaudable. As of now, Long Tianming stood in an invincible position.

Yan Yang’s mouth twitched in disdain as he stared at Long Tianming’s back. How could he not see through Long Tianming’s intentions? In reality, he just couldn’t be bothered with such petty tactics.

As for Mingyue Wushuang at one side, she appeared calm and tranquil as ever. Winning or losing held no significance to her.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Long Tianming walked to the front.

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[1] Chinese's "four arts" are the zither, chess(go), calligraphy, and painting.

[2] Go is a Chinese board game similar to Othello. Players take turns putting pieces wherever they want to completely surround the opponent's pieces (instead of just the ends of a line, like Othello). The captured pieces are removed from the board and the empty space that remains are your points. The game ends when both players pass their turn, after which points are tallied.

[3] The word literally meant feelings/emotion but more to the affection side. Checked with several translation tools as well and it can also be loosely translated as 'love', which in this case is a word more fitting than feelings/emotion.

Chapter 313: Profound Understanding Of Dao Intent

Long Tianming walked to the front, swept an eye over the crowd, and lightly smiled. “Just now, Qin Yue and Ye Xuan both displayed their talents, the zither and calligraphy, respectively. Since two are required for Go, then there is no point. I shall make a fool of myself and show my painting skills!”

Long Tianming lifted a brush and dipped it into the ink as his eyes turned to the blank page before him.

Earlier, Long Tianming had been smiling and content. But suddenly, an expression that was a deep as water and towering as a mountain burst forth across his face, accompanied by a frighteningly overbearing aura. The audience at the foot of the stage couldn’t help gasping for breath.

Long Tianming was like a treasured sword that had been unsheathed. It seemed as if he was trying to force the audience to submit to him through aura alone. The brush in his hand descended and coiled like snakes and dragons, leaving inky black patterns across the page. Slowly, but surely, a ferocious beast took form on the paper; it was a Celestial Blood Saint Dragon, landing with wings unfurled.

From the dragon’s bones, scales, to wings, every part was composed of vigorous strokes.

The Celestial Blood Saint Dragon appeared as if it was ready to

leap out from the paper. Chilling rays of light emitted from its eyes, as though it was the overseer of all life.

This painting contained boundless intent and an overbearing quality. The crowd of students felt captivated and stifled simply by beholding that Celestial Blood Saint Dragon. It was clear that Qin Yue's zither and Ye Xuan's calligraphy were both far too inferior to this painting that contained supreme overbearing aura.

Comparing Qin Yue and Ye Xuan's understanding towards Dao to Long Tianming's understanding was like comparing a firefly to the luminous moon. They stood worlds apart.

"I have made a fool of myself." Long Tianming halted his brush and put it aside. The powerful aura that had been emanating from him instantly retracted.

"Senior Brother Long Tianming's painting is truly imposing, and filled with the Dao of the King. We can only exclaim in admiration!"

Ye Xuan stood up and heaped on his own flattery. "Senior Brother Long Tianming's Celestial Blood Saint Dragon reigns the land, far more prideful than any outstanding hero. From this painting, one can see Senior Brother Long Tianming's broad mind!"

Nie Li sneered at the flattery from people like Ye Xuan. The Dao intent in Long Tianming's painting was at most "overbearing"; it was still far from the level of "Dao of the King". This painting also

had nothing to do with the broad mind that Ye Xuan had been praising about. You could only say that Long Tianming had strong and wild ambitions.

It was true; Long Tianming was indeed someone with wild and deep ambitions. Furthermore, his talent was extraordinary. He'd be a troublesome enemy to run into.

Long Tianming looked at Mingyue Wushuang and Yan Yang as he lightly smiled. "Among the four arts, only Go is left. Would the two of you be willing to reveal a little of your Go skills?"

Two people are required for Go and the outcome of such a match could be easily determined. If one person's Dao intent was stronger and suppressed the other person's, then it'd make the loser rather difficult to exhibit their skills and embarrassed. Long Tianming was trying to pit Mingyue Wushuang and Yan Yang against each other.

One of them was the Holy Son of the Skyblaze Sect, while the other one was the Holy Maiden of the Heavenly Note Sect. If the two of them competed, what would the outcome be? The members of the crowd couldn't help having expectations of the match.

Yan Yang lightly said, "I'm fine with it."

Although he was well aware of Long Tianming's schemes, Yan Yang wasn't bothered by them; therefore, he didn't reject the idea. Yan Yang definitely wouldn't back off from a fight with anyone.

Mingyue Wushuang couldn't help smiling. "I've made a fool of myself. I rarely play Go, so I'm not very proficient in it. Therefore, my Dao intent on it isn't comparable to Junior Brother Yan Yang's. I'd rather not compete with Junior Brother Yan Yang to avoid making a joke out of myself. I'll show my zither skills instead!"

The crowd couldn't help feeling a little disappointed at Mingyue Wushuang's calm words. They didn't dare jump to conclusions that Mingyue Wushuang was too scared to compete against Yan Yang. Even if the crowd couldn't watch a Go battle between the two experts, they knew that Mingyue Wushuang's zither was still something worth getting excited over.

Long Tianming's brows slightly twitched. It looked like Mingyue Wushuang had cowered at the challenge and backed out. Indeed, whether it was Mingyue Wushuang or himself, neither had many thoughts about challenging Yan Yang. He was just too strong!

Mingyue Wushuang walked towards the front. However, she didn't sit when she reached the zither; instead, she only extended a slender jade finger and lightly strummed a string.

Zennnng

A clear and melodious pitch flowed like a clear spring, slowly spreading throughout the entire chamber. The note lingered, unending.

Instantly, the audience relaxed, as if they were sitting in a paradise. The ethereal sound relaxed their hearts and filled their

faces with infatuated expressions. Even though Yan Yang and Long Tianming weren't affected as much as the others, their hearts also did calm at the sound of the zither.

The sound of her zither brought tranquility to the hearts of all.

The listeners sank into the deep and mysterious profound intent that filled the zither's note, and found themselves entirely unable to extricate themselves from it.

Only after a long time had passed did the note cease. However, the aftertaste still remained in everyone's hearts.

This single note from the zither was much more profound than Long Tianming's painting. It was that emotionally moving force that mesmerised the crowd.

Long Tianming gingerly cupped his hands with a bitter smile. "I never thought that Senior Sister Mingyue had succeeded in the Zither Note of Heavenly Peace. It's truly extraordinary! Long Tianming admits defeat!"

Even though Long Tianming had vocally admitted defeat, there was still an underlying message in his words. He had mentioned that Mingyue Wushuang had played the Heavenly Peace; he was admitting that he'd been defeated by the technique, not by Mingyue Wushuang herself.

Mingyue Wushuang wasn't bothered by his words as she smiled.

She had played that note to calm the competitive intentions within everyone's hearts. She had no intention of gaining a superior position.

"That was indeed the Heavenly Peace. Junior Brother Long Tianming certainly have a good eyesight! Now that I have finished my piece, please, let us move on to the next performer." Mingyue Wushuang finished her words, then calmly descended the stage with graceful steps.

Only then did the audience awaken abruptly from their captivation. They looked at Mingyue Wushuang with exceptionally calm hearts. Although it was only a single zither note, its effect on their hearts had far surpassed the effect of Long Tianming's painting.

Long Tianming's painting suppressed others with power; Mingyue Wushuang's zither note was like celestial music that imparted a profound comprehension.

Even now, the disciples continued to reflect on that zither note.

Mingyue Wushuang's mood of tranquility had been transferred to everyone else.

She was truly worthy of the name "Holy Maiden of the Heavenly Note Sect". Her attainments on the zither had already reached an extraordinary realm.

Nie Li watched Mingyue Wushuang's back, while being absorbed in his own thoughts. Regardless of who was stronger between Long Tianming or Mingyue Wushuang, at least it was clear that Mingyue Wushuang's mental strength had far surpassed Long Tianming's. There was probably only one person who could win against Mingyue Wushuang in terms of attainments on mentality.

That person would be his Master, Ying Yueru!

Next was Yan Yang's turn. He slowly walked towards the front.

The crowd couldn't help staring at him as they tried to guess which of the four arts he would perform.

"It's regrettable that Senior Sister Mingyue was unwilling to compete with me in Go. Therefore, I can only give a casual performance!" Yan Yang said as he smiled and walked up to the Go board. He picked up a black Go piece and turned his attention to the board.

The moment he picked up the Go piece, a strange thing occurred. Although Yan Yang was clearly standing on the stage, it felt as though he'd disappeared. No one could detect his presence.

At the same time, the Go board beneath his scrutiny turned vast and boundless, as though it became another world.

It was as though mountains and rivers had appeared on the Go board. No life forms could be seen on these geological structures as

Yan Yang slowly raised his Go piece and set it down.

The moment the piece landed, streams of life burst forth in the form of flowers and plants upon the mountain slopes and within the rivers. That overflowing and vigorous energy affected everyone's hearts.

The changes in this small world utterly shocked the viewers. They felt that the plants and flowers that flourished within that small realm were filled with the overflowing vitality of heaven and earth.

That Go piece contained Yan Yang's boundless Dao intent. It landed on the Tian Yuan position[1] of the Go board.

For a long time, everyone remained immersed in that small world.

After placing down the first Go piece, Yan Yang retracted his hand, stood still, and lightly smiled. "Since there's no one to play against, I will place just this piece!"

Yan Yang kept a calm attitude as he slowly descended the stage.

Nie Li looked at Yan Yang in astonishment. He never thought that Yan Yang's insight towards the Dao would've reached such a level. Long Tianming's comprehension could only be called "overbearing". But Yan Yang comprehended the genuine Dao of the King. It's no wonder that in his previous life, Yan Yang had led

the Skyblaze Sect into a flourishing era.

Between Yan Yang, Mingyue Wushuang and Long Tianming, Yan Yang was obviously much stronger than the other two.

However, none of the three could influence the other two; they were incapable of affecting the others' auras. This proved that even though Yan Yang stood above the other two, it wasn't a total domination.

Only after Yan Yang exited the stage did the audience wake up from the shock. They were still in a stupor from the things they had just witnessed.

Qin Yue lightly smiled. "The three Senior Brothers and Sister have opened our eyes to a new world. In my opinion, winning and losing doesn't matter. What's important is that these three Senior Brothers and Sister could impart a completely new comprehension towards the Martial Dao. Today is worth months of bitter cultivation. This trip truly has not been in vain!"

The disciples of the three major sects fully agreed to what Qin Yue had just said. Winning and losing weren't important; their eyes had indeed become opened to a new world as they remained immersed in the three concepts displayed.

The three of them would always be the focus of attention within this side chamber. Aside from gaining some comprehension, all the disciples felt a deep sense of inferiority to them. Their own concepts were simply far too below the three of theirs. Trying to

reach the level of those three was simply too hard.

Qin Yue smiled as she swept her eyes over the crowd. “Is there anyone else who wants to show us their skills?”

Everyone exchanged looks. Those three had just finish displaying their skills. Who would still dare to go up? If anyone else went up, they’d just be displaying their pitiful skills after an expert!

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[1] Center of the Go board.

Chapter 314: Sword

If anyone went up onstage now, they'd only get mocked by the crowd.

Since it looked like no one else wanted to volunteer, Qin Yue was about to end the event. However, Nie Li suddenly stood up, casually smiled, and said, "May I give it a try?"

Dead silence filled the side chamber. Everyone dumbfoundedly started at Nie Li.

What was going on?

Who was this kid?

There was someone who dared to go up after Yan Yang, Mingyue Wushuang, and Long Tianming?

"Just who is that guy? He must be an idiot who doesn't know the height of the sky or the depth of the earth[1]!.

"I know who he is! He's the number one genius from the Divine Feathers Sect's youngest generation!"

But even if he was the number one genius among the youngest generation, he was still being too arrogant to try and pit his own Dao intent against those three!

Yan Yang, Mingyue Wushuang, and Long Tianming all looked in Nie Li's direction. This was an unexpected for them. However, they calmly observed as they tried to see what Nie Li was planning.

Ye Xuan looked at Nie Li with disdain. 'He's just displaying his pitiful skills before experts! Even if Nie Li has some ability, he should've showed it before those three. That way, no one would mock him. But he actually want to go after them. He's thinking too highly of himself! It doesn't matter how well he does, the audience will just keep comparing him to those three!'

These thoughts went through Ye Xuan's head. Nie Li probably wanted to display his skills in front of Xiao Ning'er; that was probably why he couldn't back down from this!

Ye Xuan looked at Xiao Ning'er. She doesn't seem to have a very good eyesight, to actually have found such a moron. Even if Nie Li was trying to compete with him, he should at least find a better time.

Murong Yu sneered in disdain. Did Nie Li really think that he could challenge people of Yan Yang's level? He was grossly overestimating his own abilities!

Li Xingyun sat to the side, staring at Nie Li in astonishment. Why did Nie Li chose to stand out now? Li Xingyun knew that Nie Li always had a reason behind his actions. He shouldn't be going up there just to humiliate himself. So what was he planning? Li Xingyun couldn't see through Nie Li anymore.

Gu Bei was also stunned for a brief moment. Of course, he didn't believe that Nie Li's Dao intent could surpass those three's. So what was he going up for?

However, Xiao Ning'er, Lu Piao, and Xiao Xue weren't shocked in the slightest. They'd been with Nie Li for too long and were well aware that he wouldn't make shots without an aim. Therefore, they weren't worried about Nie Li humiliating himself.

On the other hand, Long Yuyin was one of the people who were staring at Nie Li in astonishment. Ever since Nie Li started guiding her, she sensed that his cultivation in Dao intent was deep and unmeasurable. But even still, she didn't think that Nie Li could win against those three. Just a little while ago, she'd witnessed their frightening strength and deep attainment on Dao intent. So why did Nie Li chose this timing? An intense curiosity rose within Long Yuyin's heart!

Nie Li patted Gu Bei on the shoulder and said, "Watch carefully with all your heart and sense the intent within. It'll be a great help to your cultivation."

"Yes." Gu Bei nodded in reply, even though his expression was still a little blank.

Long Yuyin's heart slightly shook at Nie Lie's words as she sat upright and still. Her expression turned serious. She wanted to take a good look at what Nie Li was going to do. If it was something that Gu Bei could comprehend, then why couldn't she?

Ye Xuan and Murong Yu snorted disdainfully. Did Nie Li really consider himself a master with that imprudent manner of his?

Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li in astonishment as his expectations rose.

Nie Li turned and walked to the front with Xiao Ning'er and everyone else's attention focused on him.

Every pair of eyes in that side chamber were on Nie Li, including the eyes of the previous trio. They couldn't help laughing to themselves when they realised that Nie Lie didn't seem to have even reached the Heavenly Fate Realm. What kind of understanding towards the Heavenly Dao could someone of his level possibly have?

Qin Yue looked at Nie Li with a sweet smile. "This Junior Brother seems rather young. But since you're willing to show us your skills, your courage is commendable! We can't be too demanding either."

A burst of laughter came from below the stage. It was obvious that Qin Yue was trying to leave Nie Li with a route for retreat.

Nie Li didn't have a single trace of stage fright as he calmly replied. "Earlier, someone wrote the word 'love'. I'm untalented, but I can also offer to write a word and make a fool of myself."

An expression of understanding crossed Ye Xuan's face. Nie Li

was definitely aiming at him! That moron! Even if Nie Li wanted to compete with him, he should do it before Yan Yang and the other two. It didn't matter how good he was. The fact that he was going after them ensured that he'd be mocked.

Even if Nie Li was intending to compete with Ye Xuan, instead of those three, that was also wishful thinking!

Nie Li scanned the crowd below with a casual smile. "This word of mine is a gift to those who're fated with it!"

Everyone within the side chamber exchanged glances. Did Nie Li really think of himself to be a figure? Among the people gathered in this side chamber, who wasn't a powerful genius of one of the three major sects? Who would need his guidance? The crowd was just waiting to laugh at the joke that was Nie Li.

Nie Li approached the table, picked up the brush, and started writing.

Not a single ripple of Dao intent emanated from Nie Li's body. He was just like an ordinary person, but at least you could say he was focusing on his strokes.

Everyone dumbfounded exchanged glances.

The point of this event wasn't to show your calligraphy skills. It was to display comprehension towards Dao intent! Nie Li didn't have the slightest ripple of aura as he casually wrote his word.

There was no way his word would contain any Dao intent!

"Is that guy a moron?"

"I'm really speechless. Where did such a moron come from?"

The crowd conversed amongst themselves. At first, they were worried that their perceptions about Nie Li were actually wrong. But now that they were concentrating onto Nie Li, he was standing there peacefully writing without any Dao intent coming from him. Not even the slightest ripple.

Was he really up there just to display his calligraphy skills? Was he trying to make a joke?

Murong Yu's face was red from holding back his laughter. "That kid's brain must be soggy. This competition is about one's insight towards Dao intent. What is he trying to accomplish just by writing a word?"

Ye Xuan also lightly smiled without speaking. Nie Li was indeed a joke, far inferior compared to Ye Xuan himself!

The others at the same table calmly glanced at Murong Yu before turning back to the stage. No one batted an eye twice in his direction, Xiao Ning'er included. They all wanted to know what Nie Li's word was. What did he mean by 'this word is meant for those who're fated with it'?

Even Long Yuyin was a little fidgety. She couldn't hold back in her heart as curiosity constantly urged her to take a look. Was he really up there just to show his calligraphy skills? She knew Nie Li well enough to understand that he wouldn't pull something like that, right?

As for Gu Bei, his eyes were glued on Nie Li onstage. Thanks to Nie Li's words earlier, he was filled with expectations.

Qin Yue couldn't bear seeing Nie Li make such a fool out of himself, so she reminded him, "Junior Brother, in this event, we're competing Dao intent by injecting our comprehension into calligraphy. Not just calligraphy skills!"

However, Nie Li didn't even raise his head. His expression was serious and his aura calm and even as his wrist made precise movements. Stroke by stroke, a complex and ancient character appeared on the page. With one last forceful hook from the brush, he pull away from the paper and smiled. "My word is complete!"

Qin Yue looked at the page and saw an extremely complicated ancient word. Although she'd never seen it before, but judging from its shape, the word was "sword"[2]. In terms of calligraphy skills, it was magnificent, composed of vigorous slashes and fine strokes, upright and strong. However, it was only an ordinary "sword" that contained no Dao intent.

Qin Yue couldn't help shaking her head with a sigh. She originally thought that Nie Li might give her some surprises.

Nie Li's brain couldn't have actually gone soggy, right? Did he really go up there just to make a fool of himself?

However, Qin Yue kept her manners, so she still lifted the word and displayed it to the crowd. Qin Yue felt the situation rather funny. What was there to show anyways? Plain calligraphy skills?

Even though Nie Li had completed his word, it had no Dao intent. What was there for others to evaluate?

The disciples sitting below exchanged glances with each other, a little speechless. This was just ordinary calligraphy. If they didn't have any self-restraint, they would've already burst into laughter.

When Long Tianming saw that word, the corner of his mouth twitch upwards. He originally thought that an extraordinary genius had appeared among the newcomers. He never thought that this "genius" would actually turn out to be a moron. At such an occasion, Nie Li was throwing the Divine Feathers Sect's face!

Long Tianming looked at it once, then turned away without a second glance.

Ye Xuan laughed. "I think Junior Brother Nie Li must be confused! I'll admit that my calligraphy skills aren't as good as his, but what's the use of just calligraphy?" Ye Xuan's words only contained mockery.

"Even Senior Brother Ye Xuan admits defeat. Junior Brother Nie

Li's calligraphy skills have indeed reached a high level!" Murong Yu laughed loudly. In his heart, he was insulting Nie Li. What a moron!

Long Yuyin attentively studied the word in Qin Yue's hand, but no matter how she observed it, it looked like an ordinary word to her. She couldn't help furrowing her brows. Did Nie Li's word really not have any Dao intent?

Gu Bei's eyes were fixed on that word. His brows were locked together.

The majority of the disciples were discussing amongst themselves, mocking Nie Li for being ridiculous.

Nie Li calmly swept an eye over the crowd. Based on everyone's expression, they were all looking down on him. However, Nie Li paid special attention the expression of Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang.

Mingyue Wushuang was no longer as calm and tranquil as she had been. Her brows were locked together, as though she was pondering over an extremely difficult question.

Yan Yang's eyes flashed with traces of astonishment, admiration, and confusion. His brows momentarily locked, then smoothed out, then locked again.

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[1] Hasn't seen the vastness of the world, thinks he himself is

everything.

[2] Because Chinese characters are picture-based, you can guess some ancient words based on their shape or compare them to modern characters.

Chapter 315: Supreme Sword Intent

When others had looked at Nie Li's "sword", they couldn't feel any profundity concealed within. They couldn't even sense a trace of Dao intent.

Although the majority of them had some self-restraint, there was still some mockery.

Indeed, Nie Li had gone up to make a joke of himself.

Suddenly, Gu Bei seemed to have sensed something as his eyes glowed. "Nie Li is indeed a genius. His comprehension towards the Dao has far surpassed that of people like Yan Yang!"

As Gu Bei focused his attention on that "sword", he sensed a surging sword intent bearing down on him. This word wasn't written with any Dao intent; however, boundless Dao intent could still be sensed from it.

That was the most shocking thing!

The "sword" that Nie Li had written was meant for Gu Bei, since Gu Bei's insight towards swordplay was far stronger than other people's. After all, in Nie Li's previous life, Gu Bei had become a Martial Ancestor Realm expert by relying on sword intent! This word contained boundless Dao intent and the essence of sword intent. As long as Gu Bei could comprehend the word, it would be extremely helpful to his cultivation.

Listening to Gu Bei's words, Murong Yu disapprovingly sneered. "Far surpassing Yan Yang? Your boasting is a little too much. It doesn't matter how much you two flatter each other, no one's going to believe you guys! Or maybe it's that among the geniuses of the three major sects all gathered in this side chamber, only you can comprehend the Dao intent that's hidden within?"

Li Xingyun had attentively studied the "sword" written by Nie Li. However, he still couldn't sense anything, and neither could Xiao Ning'er. The only thing they could do was remain silent and not refute Murong Yu's words. They only felt that Gu Bei definitely wouldn't speak without thinking. Therefore, they focused their attention even harder on the "sword", trying to glean something from it.

Gu Bei sneered in disdain. "You can say whatever you want. I don't care. Either way, if you guys can't comprehend the supreme sword intent contained in that word, then it's your loss!"

Long Yuyin knitted her brows slightly. Could this "sword" written by Nie Li really contain supreme sword intent? If so, why couldn't she sense the slightest Dao intent no matter how she looked at it? Maybe she was just stupid? This was something that Gu Bei could sense, but she couldn't?!

Just what kind of sword intent was hidden in this "sword"? The seed of curiosity had been planted in Long Yuyin's heart, and she was dying to unravel it!

Ye Xuan also studied the word for a long time, but he couldn't sense the slightest sword intent either. Just what was that damned thing? Like he'd believe Gu Bei. There were so many experts gathered in the side chamber, but only a good-for-nothing like Gu Bei could sense it? When not even Yan Yang and the rest could sense it?

A variety of discussions continued throughout the hall. Many only had words of ridicule.

Everyone's eyes fell onto Yan Yang, Mingyue Wushuang, and Long Tianming. Ultimately, it was up to the three of them to evaluate this word. If the three of them couldn't even sense any Dao intent from it, then Nie Li really would be a laughing stock.

Long Tianming lightly smiled, "Junior Brother Nie Li's word is indeed very well-written. In terms of calligraphy, it has reached great heights. However, I couldn't sense any traces of Dao intent from it. In that regard, the "love" written earlier was better."

After Long Tianming's words, the crowd couldn't help inwardly thinking that Nie Li was deliberately trying to be mysterious. Even Long Tianming couldn't sense any Dao intent. That proved that it was just an ordinary word.

Nie Li never wanted Long Tianming to comprehend the supreme sword intent from his word. When he heard Long Tianming's words, he breathed out a sigh of relief from his heart and smiled. "Indeed, this is just ordinary calligraphy. Since Senior Brother Long and everyone else couldn't sense anything from it, then forget about it. I'll take this word of mine away!"

Nie Li took the word from Qin Yue. He was worried that if he allowed Long Tianming a little more time, Long Tianming might start comprehending something out of it.

The only reason Gu Bei could comprehend it was because he'd been in contact with Nie Li for a while now, and he'd been subconsciously affected by Nie Li's aura. Furthermore, Gu Bei's insights towards the sword had surpassed Long Tianming's.

Everyone had something they specialised in. But there weren't many people who could surpass Gu Bei in terms of the way of swords.

Just when Nie Li took the word from Qin Yue, Yan Yang's voice suddenly stopped him. "Wait!"

Everyone in the side chamber looked at Yan Yang in puzzlement. He looked a little dazed. What was wrong with him? Yan Yang had been rather uncommunicative ever since he entered this side chamber; he hadn't spoken many words. To suddenly call out to Nie Li was rather unexpected for everyone.

His brows were knitted tightly.

When Yan Yang first looked at that "sword", he had a peculiar feeling. When he concentrated, he realised that the word contained boundless profundity. Only after a long while of brow-knitting and pondering could he sense the overflowing Dao intent raging at him, trying to devour him whole.

The more Yan Yang pondered over this word, the more shocked he became. To think a youth could have such insight on sword intent! Compared to this supreme Dao intent, his Go piece earlier was far too inferior!

Yan Yang was immersed in that boundless sword intent. The more he thought on it, the more potential he found in the word's sword intent. He was a tiny drop of seawater in the vast ocean of the universe.

Under the bewildered eyes of the crowd, Yan Yang deeply inhaled and looked at Nie Li. Originally, he thought that his own Dao was enough to completely suppress any expert of his own generation. But now that he looked upon this word, he realised that there was always another sky beyond the sky. There would always be someone stronger!

Nie Li was so young, but he already had such frighteningly deep insights towards sword intent.

After Yan Yang called out to Nie Li, he fixed his gaze on that word.

Long Tianming couldn't help frowning at Yan Yang's expression. Could that word in Nie Li's hand really contain some profundity? Long Tianming turned towards the stage and wrinkled his brows, also trying to glean something from it.

Mingyue Wushuang's eyes were also fixed on the word in Nie Li's

hands. She couldn't comprehend as much as Yan Yang could, but she also realised that this word contained some profundity. She sensed that this word contained sword intent that was deep like the sea; but when she tried to take a closer look, she couldn't enter it.

The geniuses gathered in the side chamber noticed the expressions of those three, and were shocked as they turned back to the word in Nie Li's hands. Could there really be something profound within it? Otherwise, those three wouldn't show such expressions.

Yan Yang blankly stared at the calligraphy in silence.

At this, Nie Li understood that Yan Yang was already immersed in the word's profound sword intent.

The character that Nie Li had written originates from an ancient and supreme expert's Ten Thousand Heavenly Book of True Intent. The very structure of this word contains that expert's boundless intent. The "sword" that Nie Li had written was only a representation of the underlying basics, but it was enough for experts like Yan Yang to comprehend for several days and nights.

From this one word, each person could comprehend their own version of intent. Some people could even comprehend different profound sword techniques from it.

If Yan Yang wanted to continue comprehending it, it'd be endless. It would take more than a few days at least.

Furthermore, Nie Li didn't want Long Tianming to comprehend anything from it!

"This word's true intents can be written without Dao intent. It's only a word, after all. I wrote it today so everyone could have a look. For those who could comprehend something from it, you can be considered to be fated with it." Nie Li lightly smiled and rolled up the paper. "However, let's end it here!"

Yan Yang felt rather disappointed as he watched Nie Li store the word away. If only he could have several days worth of time, he believed that he could definitely comprehend its true intent and it'd definitely be a great benefit for his cultivation!

Regardless, Yan Yang was still shocked by the display. He stood up straight and said in a respectful voice, "Thanks for the lesson!"

At Yan Yang's words, the entire side chamber fell into a deathly silence. Those who'd mocked Nie Li just a little while ago couldn't help gaping. They still couldn't figure out what was going on, since they couldn't sense anything from that word. However, Yan Yang shouldn't be lying. Could that word really contain an intent that the rest of them couldn't comprehend?

Gu Bei glanced at Ye Xuan and Murong Yu in disdain. "I already told you! The intent in Nie Li's word is far greater than the performances by those three!"

Ye Xuan and Murong Yu were dumbfounded.

Ye Xuan was in extreme puzzlement. This was simply too unbelievable. In his view, Nie Li hadn't even reached the Heavenly Fate Realm so how could he have such powerful Dao intent? To the point that it surpassed Yan Yang's? Not only that, there hadn't been even the slightest ripple of Dao intent when Nie Li wrote that word.

However, even Yan Yang had admitted defeat. People of his level definitely wouldn't lie just to help a nameless guy like Nie Li. Just what was going on?

Murong Yu's brows were knitted tightly. Like the rest of the crowd, he couldn't make heads or tails of the situation. However, he was even more upset because he couldn't sense any of the profundity contained in Nie Li's word! The feeling of being inferior to Nie Li infuriated him.

Xiao Ning'er, however, only pursed her lips and revealed a trace of a smile. Although she couldn't sense the profundity contained in Nie Li's word, she couldn't help feeling proud of him. Even amongst the experts of the Draconic Ruins Realm, Nie Li was still unique and unmatched. No one could stand on par with him!

Long Yuyin sat nearby, her right fist tightly clenched on the table. Even Gu Bei could sense the intent in Nie Li's word but not her. Did that mean that she was inferior to Gu Bei? Just what kind of intent was hidden in Nie Li's word? To someone like herself who was obsessed with the Martial Dao, such a thing was filled with endless allure.

She yearned to know the profundity contained in that word!

She couldn’t contain the curiosity and urge within her heart! She already decided that regardless of everything, even if she had to pay a price, she’d grasp that profundity from Nie Li’s word!

Chapter 316: Selling Words

While all the geniuses in the side chamber were still perplexed, Nie Li was preparing to return to his seat after storing the word.

Nie Li lightly smiled as he glanced at Long Yuyin from afar. He had a full grasp of Long Yuyin's character. Aside from letting Gu Bei comprehend the word, he also meant to arouse the curiosity within Long Yuyin's heart. Before long, she would take the initiative to come to him and get to the heart of the matter. At that time, Nie Li would guide Long Yuyin slowly and systematically to transform some of her ideologies!

Controlling a Martial Dao obsessed Long Yuyin was simply too easy.

Aside from satisfying those two motives, Nie Li also managed to successfully arouse the interest ot Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang. He definitely didn't believe that Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang wouldn't try to get to the heart of it as well.

"Wait a moment!" Yan Yang's voice suddenly sounded to stop Nie Li.

Everyone curiously looked at Yan Yang. Nie Li had already stored that word of his, so what was Yan Yang trying to do now?

Nie Li looked at him and asked, "Senior Brother Yan Yang, is there anything else you need?"

“I wish to purchase this word. I wonder if Junior Brother Nie Li is willing to part with it? I’m willing to make an offer of a hundred thousand spiritual stones!” Yan Yang said. Originally he wanted to offer fifty thousand, but after pondering it over, he realised that fifty thousand didn’t seem too sincere; therefore, he offered a hundred thousand spiritual stones instead.

Yan Yang was willing to offer a hundred thousand spiritual stones for Nie Li’s word?

The entire hall was in an uproar as all the geniuses in the side chamber were shocked!

A hundred thousand spiritual stones for a word!

Hearing Yan Yang’s words, Nie Li hesitated awhile. A hundred thousand spiritual stones definitely wasn’t some small temptation. After all, it was just a word. Nie Li wouldn’t lose anything by selling it, so why not?

Yan Yang’s words also shocked Long Tianming. He wasn’t able to see through the profound intent of that word before Nie Li rolled it up so he couldn’t tell what profound was contained in that word. However, he never imagined that Yan Yang would actually be willing to offer a hundred thousand spiritual stones for it. Could it be that in Yan Yang’s opinion, the intent contained that word was worth more than a hundred thousand spiritual stones?

Mingyue Wushuang’s clear eyes had also landed on Nie Li.

Although she wasn't able to get into the intent, she did feel the boundless sword intent contained in that sword. It was definitely worth more than a hundred thousand spiritual stones!

Seeing that Nie Li was hesitating, Yan Yang said again, "If Junior Brother Nie Li is unwilling to sell it, then what if I offer one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones? Although this price is still far from your word's true worth, I still hope that Junior Brother Nie Li is willing to part with it!"

It was understandable that Yan Yang would want the word so urgently. Nie Li understood its true worth. It'd be weird if Yan Yang didn't feel so desperate for it, since he'd managed to comprehend a little before Nie Li put it away.

Hearing Yan Yang's words, Long Tianming's brows twitched as he lightly smiled. "Since Junior Brother Nie Li doesn't want to sell it, then Junior Brother Yan Yang shouldn't try to force him!" Long Tianming could sense Yan Yang's urgency; based on his urgency alone, this word was worth way more than that Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Only by leaving that word alone, Long Tianming had thousands of ways to get it and keep it from landing in Yan Yang's hands.

Of course Nie Li wasn't going to let Long Tianming have his way. He wrung his hands and said, "Senior Brother Long and Senior Brother Yan Yang are being too serious. I can write dozens of these words in a day. It's just a word, after all. If every Senior Brother and Senior Sister wants one, I can give everyone one!"

Hearing Nie Li's words, whether it was Long Tianming or Yan Yang, both of them were stunned. That's right, he could write many of these in a single day, because he doesn't need any Dao intent to write it at all!

Although Long Tianming didn't want Yan Yang to obtain it, because he could tell that Yan Yang would be able to comprehend an extremely profound intent from it. However, Nie Li had already said that he'd be able to write several of these in a day; therefore, he couldn't prevent Yan Yang from obtaining it anymore. He became rather dispirited. Was Nie Li lacking some wires in his brain or was he just pretending to be stupid?

Yan Yang looked at Nie Li with a deep gaze as he understood the meaning in Nie Li's words. Indeed, Nie Li could write many of these in a day, but the worth of that word in his hand was still undeniable.

"No matter how many words Junior Brother Nie Li can write in a day, I'm still willing to pay a hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones for it!" Yan Yang said calmly. This had always been his way of doing things. He was sincere with making friends, so how could he accept such a precious calligraphy word from Nie Li for nothing in return?

Seeing how serious Yan Yang was, Nie Li pondered for a brief moment. Originally, Nie Li only planned to build a good relationship with Yan Yang; there was no meaning to it by selling the word. After pondering for a moment, Nie Li opened his mouth, and said, "Let's do this then. Since Senior Brother Yan Yang is

willing to spend so many spiritual stones on it, I'll gift Senior Brother Yan Yang a second word!"

Nie Li walked back to the table, spread open the scroll, and quickly wrote the word "martial" below the "sword". Then, he rolled it up and passed it to Qin Yue at his side. "Please pass it to Senior Brother Yan Yang!" The Dao intent contained in the "martial" word was far more profound than the Dao in the "sword".

Qin Yue was overwhelmed by the favor and respectfully accepted it, carrying it with both hands as she walked towards Yan Yang.

Previously, she'd held a little contempt for Nie Li, but now, she realised that she couldn't see through him. She'd gained a little more respect for him, and began treating Nie Li as someone of the same level as Yan Yang.

Yan Yang took the scroll from Qin Yue. When he saw the "martial" written on the lower right, he suddenly experienced a vast and majestic sensation that rocked his heart. After being stunned for a brief moment, he re-rolled the scroll and stowed it away.

"Many thanks, Junior Brother Nie Li!" The shock in Yan Yang's heart was indescribable. This "martial" seemed even more profound than the "sword". Yan Yang never thought that Nie Li would give him another great gift. He took an interspatial ring and seriously said, "Compared to these two words given to me by Junior Brother Nie Li, all ordinary items are too insignificant. From this day onwards, Junior Brother Nie Li is a friend of mine,

Yan Yang's!"

Yan Yang looked at Qin Yue and said, "Miss Qin Yue, please pass this over to Junior Brother Nie Li!"

Nie Li received the interspatial ring from Qin Yue with a casual smile. "In that case, I'm honored to have Senior Brother Yan Yang as a friend!"

Everyone couldn't help the itch that formed in their heart. They had no idea what Nie Li had written as Yan Yang's second character, since they couldn't see it from their positions. However, judging from Yan Yang's expression, it shouldn't be anything simple. However, the crowd couldn't even comprehend anything from the first word; therefore, even if they were given the second word, it'd still be useless to them.

Long Tianming was extremely depressed in his heart. Not only was he unable to prevent Yan Yang from obtaining Nie Li's word, Yan Yang even got two of them.

Mingyue Wushuang smiled sweetly. "I wonder if Junior Brother Nie Li would be willing to write one for me as well. I'll also offer one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones!"

"Of course! To avoid favouring one and discriminating against another, I'll write two words for Senior Sister Mingyue too!" Nie Li wrote another "sword" and then a "bright". This "bright" implied being as bright as the moon. In terms of Dao intent, it was roughly the same as Yan Yang's "martial".

Nie Li then obtained another one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones from Mingyue Wushuang.

“Junior Brother Nie Li seems to have feelings for Junior Sister Ning’er. From today onwards, I’ll take good care of her!” Mingyue Wushuang glanced at Xiao Ning’er as she smiled.

Hearing Mingyue Wushuang’s words, the girls of the Heavenly Note Sect all looked at Xiao Ning’er with extremely envious expressions. Mingyue Wushuang had an extraordinary position within the Heavenly Note Sect: the Holy Maiden! Under Mingyue Wushuang’s special care, Xiao Ning’er would definitely have boundless prospects!

Although Xiao Ning’er’s shocking talent had attracted the attentions of some higher-ups, it wasn’t the same as being taken care of by Mingyue Wushuang.

“Then I’ll have to thank Senior Sister Mingyue!” Nie Li said with his hands cupped. He thought inwardly, he was able to build two connections by simply writing a few words. On top of that, he was able to obtain three hundred thousand spiritual stones. That was definitely a good deal. Why did he feel that selling words could be even more profitable than selling high-grade demon spirits?

Ye Xuan saw Nie Li skillfully dealing with Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang, and felt inferior to Nie Li. Just a short while ago, he’d been mocking Nie Li and calling him a poor bastard. But in the end, Nie Li only had to write a few words to obtain three hundred

thousand spiritual stones from them!

Long Tianming slightly furrowed his brows because both Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang had obtained Nie Li's words. He could only give up, since he hadn't been able to prevent it from happening. As for Nie Li, it was impossible for Long Tianming to spend a hundred fifty thousand for those words.

Nie Li was a disciple of the Divine Feathers Sect. After this event, all Long Tianming had to do was to send some people to get the words from Nie Li. How could Nie Li not give him any?

Not only would Nie Li have to give Long Tianming some words, Nie Li would have to give him even more, unless he didn't want to remain in the Divine Feathers Sect anymore.

Long Tianming began observing Nie Li. If Nie Li really had some talent, getting him as an underling would be a pretty good idea. As for oppressing Nie Li, Long Tianming didn't have those kinds of thoughts at the moment. After today, once the higher-ups heard that Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang had bought words from Nie Li, they'd definitely get in on the action and ask for some words to study. With Nie Li's ability, trying to get a connection with one or two higher-ups should be a very simple task for him.

In the Divine Feathers Sect, Long Tianming still wasn't able to cover everything up.

What Long Tianming cared about the most aside from Nie Li writing those word was just what was his talent? After all, Nie Li

didn’t produce even the slightest ripple of Dao intent when he wrote those words; therefore, Long Tianming couldn’t see through his cultivation.

Even if Nie Li was the ranked first among the newcomer geniuses, he still couldn’t attract Long Tianming’s attention. If Nie Li’s insights towards Dao intent were that profound, it makes no sense that Nie Li still wasn’t able to step into the Heavenly Fate Realm. Or could it be that Nie Li was hiding it?

Since Long Tianming was unable to see through Nie Li, he decided to send some of his men to investigate him.

After Nie Li walked down from the stage, he returned to his table and exchanged glances with Ning’er, Gu Bei, and the rest with a smile on his face.

Both Gu Bei and Li Xingyun had completely accepted Nie Li.

When Nie Li returned, Murong Yu was still gnashing his teeth. In the Ghastly Ruins, he’d done all he could to obstruct Nie Li from obtaining spiritual stones. In the end, despite all his hard work, Nie Li had obtained three hundred thousand spiritual stones from a few casual words, ruining all of his efforts.

That was three hundred thousand spiritual stones! Even if Murong Yu saved up for dozens of years, he still wouldn’t be able to reach that amount!

Chapter 317: Probing Out

Nie Li looked at Gu Bei and asked, “How was your comprehension?”

In Nie Li’s previous life, Gu Bei had been cultivating the path of sword intent, so his understandings towards swordsmanship had reached an extremely high level. The reason why Nie Li reminded Gu Bei to carefully comprehend the word ‘sword’ was because he hoped that Gu Bei would be able to benefit from it.

“I sensed the majestic sword intent. However, it was too profound and I couldn’t completely comprehend it all at once.” Gu Bei’s face was red with shame.

It was normal for Gu Bei to be unable to fully comprehend it. The intent contained in that word wasn’t something that could be comprehended in just one or two days. Furthermore, everyone would have different comprehensions of it. Therefore, Nie Li had no idea what Gu Bei, who excelled in sword intent, could comprehend from it.

“I’ll write you another one when we get back.” Nie Li smiled.

“Nie Li, thank you!” Gu Bei said in a serious tone. That word of Nie Li’s had been sold for a hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones, an astonishing price. Gu Bei himself had benefited quite a bit from Nie Li and he was someone who always repaid others. Nie Li’s graces had been forever engraved in his heart.

“We’re brothers! What is there to be polite about?” Nie Li smiled.

Long Yuyin watched Nie Li and Gu Bei chat. There were several times when she wanted to intervene, but she ended up holding back her words.

What qualifications did she have to ask for a word from Nie Li?

A single word from Nie Li had been sold for a hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones. Could she afford that amount? If she wanted that word from Nie Li, what could she give in exchange? Her relationship with him wasn’t that close, not like how it was between him and Gu Bei.

However, the longing for that word within her heart became more and more intense. That intense curiosity was like ants biting at her heart. To a martial obsessed person like her, it was simply too hard to bear. Earlier, when Nie Li exhibited that word in front of the crowd, Gu Bei had comprehended something; but she couldn’t understand anything at all.

To someone like Long Yuyin, who was eager to be the strongest, that was just too depressing. Was her aptitude that bad?

Just what was concealed within Nie Li’s word?

In the end, Long Yuyin managed to gather her courage and said to Nie Li, “Nie Li, can you let me take a look at that word of yours?”

Nie Li couldn’t help lightly smiling in his heart, as Long Yuyin had finally said it aloud. Actually, with Long Yuyin’s character, it was impossible for her to not be curious about that word. But right now, it still wasn’t ready; therefore, he only gave Long Yuyin a glance and calmly said, “You’re still unable to comprehend that word, let’s talk about it in the future!”

At Nie Li’s words, Long Yuyin’s face turned red. Aside from Nie Li, no one her age could say that to her, since she would definitely give them a thorough beating. However, when Nie Li told her that it wasn’t possible, she had no temper, despite the dejection in her heart.

That was because Nie Li had the qualifications to say that!

Long Yuyin turned her head and fumed with anger. Although she was unconvinced about what Nie Li had said to her, she couldn’t do anything about it.

Xiao Ning’er glanced at Long Yuyin, shifted her gaze to Nie Li, and lightly smiled. Normally, Nie Li would appear to be indifferent, but he treated his friends extremely well. Under this kind of situation, it was absolutely normal for many girls to fall in love with him.

She lightly sighed in her heart as she wondered what kind of position she had in Nie Li’s heart?

The hearts of both girls were tangled messes, but no one else

knew about it. Murong Yu and Ye Xuan pretended not to notice Nie Li as they shifted their gaze elsewhere. Sitting together with Nie Li was simply too shameful for them. However, they couldn't just stand up and leave. If they did that, they'd be looked down on by others. Therefore, even if they felt depressed, they remained here.

Li Xingyun gave Nie Li a thumbs up, "In the entire Divine Feathers Sect, you're the only person I admire!"

Nie Li smiled and said, "Brother Li is praising me too much."

Every genius of the Divine Feathers Sect within the side chamber directed their attention on Nie Li as a single thought rose within their hearts. Gu Bei and Li Xingyun truly did have foresight, since they built good relationships with Nie Li beforehand. As the saying goes, "the pavilion closest to the water enjoys moonlight first". [1] Thanks Gu Bei and Li Xingyun's relationship with Nie Li, it should be easy for those two to get a word from Nie Li.

Many of them were wondering how they could get close to Nie Li. Even if they weren't able to make friends with him, as long as they could obtain one of his words, they'd already have profited.

After all, Nie Li was a disciple of the Divine Feathers Sect; therefore, they had lots of time.

It wasn't just the disciples of the Divine Feathers Sect, even the disciples of the two other sects had similar thoughts.

Qin Yue stood in front, pursed her lips, and smiled. “I never thought that Junior Brother Nie Li’s Dao intent would’ve reach such a level. Earlier, I have judged wrongly. It’s a pity that I’m slow-witted and couldn’t comprehend any profound meaning from his word.” Qin Yue eased the awkwardness a little as she continued, “If it weren’t for the fact that Junior Brother Nie Li sold the word for a hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones, even I wouldn’t be able to hold back from requesting one to fulfil the curiosity within my heart! However, Junior Brother Nie Li has already said before that the profound within that word is meant for those who are fated with it. It seems that I’m not of those fated ones!”

Because of this, Nie Li’s name thoroughly rang throughout the three major sects.

Hearing what Qin Yue just said, Nie Li transmitted his voice to Xiao Ning’er. “Before you return to the Heavenly Note Sect, I’ll write some for you as well. When you get back to the Heavenly Note Sect, you can sell them if you wish. Otherwise, you can gift it to people who are worthy of them!”

“Okay.” Xiao Ning’er nodded. She was an intelligent person and understood what Nie Li was thinking about from his actions. Since that was the case, she decided to be his helping hand. If she could make a place for herself within the Heavenly Note Sect, she would definitely be able to help Nie Li.

“I never imagined that there’d be such a talented genius in the Divine Feathers Sect. I wonder if I’d still be able to meet Junior

Brother Nie Li again in the outside world!" Qin Yue lightly smiled as she gave Nie Li a look filled with interest.

At Qin Yue's words, Nie Li's mind drifted far away. The outside world was naturally something he had to step into as the disciples of the various sects would contest over one another. If they could stand out, they'd be able to assemble their own forces.

At that time, only then would he be able to qualify to fight for the power and position within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Qin Yue's words should be trying to probe him out. Disciples of the three major sects, including Long Tianming, directed their gazes at Nie Li as they awaited his reply.

Nie Li lightly smiled. "Many thanks to Senior Sister Qin Yue's concern. For the time being, I still don't have any plans to head out for the outside world!"

Hearing Nie Li's words, everyone was slightly relieved. If Nie Li headed to the outside world, he'd become a formidable opponent for many of those gathered in the chamber. There were also some people who'd noticed the way Nie Li had placed his words. "Not having any plans for the time being" didn't mean that he wouldn't have any in the future. Nie Li was rather precise with his words and did not speak himself into a dead end.

Yan Yang's voice sounded, "If Junior Brother Nie Li heads to the outside world, disciples of my Skyblaze Sect won't make things difficult for you. If there's anything I can help with, do come and

look for me!”

His words slightly dazed everyone. The Skyblaze Sect wouldn’t make things difficult for Nie Li? The weight of this words were already extremely heavy. Furthermore, Yan Yang actually said that he was willing to help Nie Li. Was Yan Yang trying to take advantage of this opportunity to raise another force?

Long Tianming’s eyes slightly narrowed. He didn’t know how he’d offended Yan Yang, but he could vaguely sense a trace of enmity from him. It couldn’t be that Yan Yang was trying to direct this at him, right? Long Tianming glanced at Nie Li. If Nie Li actually had any thoughts of contending for power, then he definitely wouldn’t allow Nie Li to grow.

Nie Li lightly smiled, “Then I’ll have to thank Senior Brother Yan Yang for that. I already said earlier that I don’t have any plans for the outside world, for the time being.”

At Nie Li’s words, a weight was lifted from Long Tianming’s heart. It looked like Nie Li was still somewhat smart.

The topic seemed to have drifted a little too far as those within the side chamber could sense the peculiar atmosphere. Qin Yue swept her gaze over the crowd as she chuckled, “Who still wants to demonstrate their skills in this segment?”

At Qin Yue’s words everyone smiled bitterly. Only an exceptional person like Nie Li would dare to try standing out after Yan Yang and the other two. The rest of them wouldn’t dare do something

like that. After Nie Li's demonstration, who else would dare to go out there?

After a long pause with no reply, Qin Yue smiled, "It seems like there won't be anyone else then. Today's segment of Dao will end here! Many thanks for attending this gathering and I hope that everyone will participate in the banquet tonight as well!"

The gathering finally dispersed.

Nie Li lowered his head as he said to Xiao Ning'er, "Let's head to my place first!"

As for the evening banquet, he wasn't really interested in participating. The moment he showed up, social interactions would be unavoidable.

"Okay." Xiao Ning'er's face was slightly red as she nodded. After she recalled the her misunderstanding from earlier, she felt a little embarrassed again.

Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and the other also stood up, preparing to leave together with Nie Li.

"Brother Nie Li, I'll take my leave first!" Li Xingyun slightly cupped his hands at Nie Li as he continued, "If there's any news from brother Nie Li, do notify me anytime! As for the one hundred thousand spiritual stones, I'll send someone to deliver it."

“Alright. If there’s any news on my side, I’ll definitely inform Brother Li.” Nie Li nodded as he understood that Li Xingyun was talking about Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirits. However, getting Li Xingyun a demon spirit was second to getting one for Ning’er, of course.

As everyone in the side chamber dispersed, they continued to enthusiastically discuss today’s events.

Nie Li’s actions were like a black horse that’d charged out, attracting endless attention. No matter what, Nie Li’s name was made known within the three major sects.

Only Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang could sense the Dao intent concealed within Nie Li’s “sword”. But Long Tianming was unable to sense it? This caused everyone to be extremely curious.

Yan Yang glanced at Nie Li, who was among the crowd a far distance away. He retracted his gaze and sighed, “It’s a pity that such a person isn’t in our Skyblaze Sect and could only have his talent neglected in the Divine Feathers Sect. If he was in my Skyblaze Sect, he’d definitely become one of our powerful pillars.”

“Senior Brother Yan Yang isn’t worried that he would steal your position?” Several disciples of the Skyblaze Sect asked beside him.

“What is there for me, Yan Yang, to fear? If there was someone whose talent was above mine and could lead the Skyblaze Sect towards glory, then even if I had to give up my position as the Holy Son, why wouldn’t I?” Yan Yang lightly said as his gaze drifted into

the distance.

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[1] Benefitting from a close relationship with a person.

Chapter 318: Abyss Winged Draconic Falcon

Aside from Yan Yang, many geniuses of the three major sects watched as Nie Li left, not knowing what they were thinking about.

The disciples of the three major sects mutually exchanged greetings with each other before they left.

Ye Xuan wanted greet Xiao Ning'er, but she'd already left with Nie Li without even a glance in his direction. His heart felt like the withered leaves in autumn. Originally, he still felt superior when compared to Nie Li when facing him. He thought that once Xiao Ning'er realised that reality, she'd understand who was more suitable for her. But now, Ye Xuan could only bitterly smile incessantly. What could he do to compete with Nie Li?

"Senior Brother Ye Xuan couldn't be admitting defeat, right?" Murong Yu said as he looked at the bitterly smiling Ye Xuan.

"What else can I do?" Ye Xuan said after a moment of silence.

"You're overestimating that kid too much. Think about it. His cultivation hasn't even reached the Heavenly Fate Realm yet. When he was writing that word, he didn't use the slightest bit of Dao intent. My guess is, that kid probably obtained an ancient book from somewhere, a book that has words written by some supreme expert. That kid copied it, so naturally, his word would carry Dao intent!" Murong Yu said after pondering for a moment.

Ye Xuan's heart shook. There is indeed a small possibility in what Murong Yu just said!

"Then what should we do? As long as he's within the Skysoul Institute, there's nothing we can do about him!" said Ye Xuan.

"Indeed, within the Skysoul Institute, there's nothing we can do to him. However, I guarantee that he'll definitely head out to the outside world. When that time comes, I might need the help of Senior Brother Ye Xuan!" said Murong Yu. Back in the Ghastly Ruins, Murong Yu had already set the enmity between himself and Nie Li. Since that was the case, he might as well go all out. Otherwise, he'd definitely face Nie Li's angry revenge. "It's even better that we snatch that ancient book from his hands."

If he allowed Nie Li to successfully grow in strength, then there would no longer be a place for him within the Divine Feathers Sect!

"As long as you can vent this resentment of mine, I'll fully support you in the outside world!" Ye Xuan said after pondering a while. He had great interest towards the ancient book that Murong Yu had deduced.

"Then I have Senior Brother Ye Xuan to thank!" Murong Yu said with his hands cupped together. Ye Xuan could still mobilise a portion of the Ye Clan's forces. With his help, Nie Li would only be able to dream of rising up in the outside world.

The outside world shall be Nie Li's land of despair!

Although the gathering had dispersed, many of the disciples still continued with their discussions.

Shen Ling walked over and said with a light smile, “Young Master Ye Xuan, it seems that Junior Sister Ning’er’s heart is already taken. Even I can’t do anything about it!”

Shen Ling was charming and alluring, leaving a fragrance behind wherever she walked.

“Even so, I have to thank Elder Sister Shen Ling for the help.” Earlier, Ye Xuan had asked Shen Ling to talk more about him in front of Xiao Ning’er. But it looked like it’d had no effect whatsoever. But even so, how could he take back all the things he’d already given?

Murong Yu couldn’t help looking at Ye Xuan. He never thought that Ye Xuan would’ve been so meticulous with Xiao Ning’er. To actually have used so many methods! The more Ye Xuan was concerned about Xiao Ning’er, the more Murong Yu would be able to make use of Ye Xuan!

The night gradually darkened.

After Gu Bei bid Nie Li farewell, he returned to his room.

Lu Piao and Xiao Xue entered Lu Piao’s room. Ping Pang Noises started coming from the room, occasionally punctuated by a

painful groan. Who knows what's going on in there.

Xiao Ning'er and Nie Li couldn't help exchanging glances with smiles. Wherever they went, those two were sure to make a racket with their fighting. But Lu Piao have been made submissive by Xiao Xue, not having the slightest temper to fight back.

When Xiao Ning'er entered Nie Li's room, she looked around a little dazed. After coming to the Divine Feathers Sect, Nie Li had been living here and this room, so that the room was now filled with his familiar aura.

"Xiao Yu rented this courtyard. Lu Piao and I are just subletting from him. I have no idea where Xiao Yu is right now; he left earlier today and still hasn't returned." Nie Li smiled. When he was with Xiao Ning'er, his heart felt at ease.

Nie Li left to make preparations for refining a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit for Xiao Ning'er.

A partition screen stood at the center of the room with a huge tub. This was where Nie Li normally took his baths. A thought crossed Xiao Ning'er's mind and her face turned slightly red.

When he saw Xiao Ning'er looking at the wooden tub, a different thought went through Nie Li's mind. She'd travelled a long distance to the Divine Feathers Sect, was probably travel-worn, and had yet to take a bath. Nie Li then said, "Why don't I step out first, while you take a bath."

“There’s no need.” Xiao Ning’er immediately shook her hands. She didn’t have a lot of time in the Divine Feathers Sect, so she wanted to stay with Nie Li for as long as possible. She was worried that he might disappear. After pondering for a brief moment, she said, “Why don’t I take a bath here, since there’s a screen separating us. It’ll be fine as long as you don’t peek. You can chat with me as well.” Finishing her words, her face started to slightly boil.

Although there was a screen separating them, they would still be in the same room. Therefore, Xiao Ning’er’s heart couldn’’t help jumping wildly. After she recalled the words that Xiao Xue would often whispered in her ears, she gathered up her courage.

After thinking about it, Nie Li had to spend some time refining the God level demon spirit anyways. Refining it in the yard was a little too risky. It’d be a problem if he attracted trouble because of it. Nie Li nodded and said, “Okay, then!”

Nie Li took out the Nightmare Demon Pot and started fusing the demon spirits.

Nie Li started to get busy, and seemed to be focusing all his attention on his task. Xiao Ning’er stomped her feet. She’d finally come to the Divine Feathers Sect with great difficulty, and Nie Li went and got busy with his stuff so quickly.

Xiao Ning’er also busied herself by filling the wooden tub with water. She then gave Nie Li a stealthy glance. Her heart beat wildly as she walked behind the screen and slowly removed her clothes, revealing her smooth shoulders and fantastic figure.

Her skin sparkled like polished jade. Her body was well-proportioned and those jade feet of hers were even more exquisite, like masterpieces created by a god.

She slowly stepped into the wooden tub.

“Ning’er…” Nie Li’s attention returned as he glanced towards the screen. The screen was lit with candlelight, and though it, he could vaguely see Xiao Ning’er’s voluptuous figure. Nie Li couldn’t help rubbing his nose as his room started to fill with a girl’s fragrance.

Xiao Ning’er wasn’t aware that Nie Li had looked in her direction, as she slowly entered the wooden tub after responding to Nie Li and started bathing.

Nie Li retracted his gaze, but he couldn’t stop smiling. He focused his attention on the bottom of the Nightmare Demon Pot, and placed some Ordinary Level Growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits inside. “Ning’er, how far are you in your [Lightning Dragon] cultivation?”

“My [Lightning Dragon] cultivation technique has reached the Forming Thunder Realm.” Xiao Ning’er’s clear voice sounded from behind the screen, “Every stage of the [Lightning Dragon] cultivation technique raises my cultivation by three stages. I started out in the 2-fate realm, with Calling Thunder. But now that I’ve reached Forming Thunder, I’m a 5-fate!

Nie Li couldn’t help secretly sighing at Xiao Ning’er’s words. The

[Lightning Dragon] cultivation technique was indeed a powerful and progressively vigorous pinnacle cultivation technique. It allowed Ning'er's cultivation speed to reach such frightening height. Nie Li also had to hurry up and work hard on his cultivation.

"Since you've reached 5-fate realm, have you gone to the outside world?" Nie Li enquired. Going to the outside world to train could also quickly raise one's cultivation. Furthermore, shocking treasures would often appear in the outside world.

"I've gone to the outside world once. I killed three Dragon Bloodline demon spirits and also gathered some spiritual herbs. But I didn't dare to go any further by myself."

With Xiao Ning'er's character, she probably wasn't willing to join large hunting groups. After all, the hunting groups were complicated. But alone, she really didn't dare proceed any further.

The distant outside world was a mysterious place that even a Martial Ancestor Realm expert could only investigate a portion of. If it wasn't for the fact you could obtain multiple lives upon reaching the Heavenly Fate Realm, no one would dare proceed further.

The various sects only controlled the areas that bordered their sects. In the vast outside world, there were countless powerful Dragon Bloodline demon spirits and powerful demon beast that possessed Ancient Bloodlines. With so many demon spirits, even the pinnacle experts of the various sects wouldn't dare to touch it so easily.

If the major sects hadn't laid down their protection arrays, many powerful demon beasts with Ancient Bloodlines would easily destroy the sects.

However, many people would head out to the outside world to train once they reached the Heavenly Fate Realm in order to make a breakthrough. So much so that they'd assembled their own forces in the outside world. According to the rules of the various sects, only those of the younger generations who'd built sufficient forces in the outside world could gain qualifications to fight for the sect successor's position!

When the various families selected their Patriarchs, they'd also take into account the candidate's ability to operate their own forces. Flowers in a greenhouse wouldn't qualify to become the family's successor.

"I understand." Nie Li was well aware that with Xiao Ning'er's character, she liked to be alone. Having her enter a hunting party was too difficult, not to mention forming her own party. Therefore, Nie Li didn't tell Xiao Ning'er of his decision. All she needed to do was cultivate. As for operating forces, he could handle them alone.

After continuously refining and exhausting a huge amount of Ordinary Level growth rate demon spirits, Nie Li finally produced a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. However, it's a pity that it wasn't a mutated one. This demon spirit was a Abyss Winged Draconic Falcon, which, unfortunately, wasn't very compatible with Xiao Ning'er's cultivation technique.

“What kind of demon spirit are you integrated with right now? Is it still that Heavenly Lightning Sparrow?” Nie Li asked.

“I’ve integrated with an Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. As for that Heavenly Lightning Sparrow that you gave me, it’s been refined into a lightning gale sword.” Xiao Ning’er said as she pursed her lips. How could she possibly throw away that Heavenly Lightning Sparrow that was given to her by Nie Li?

Nie Li never expected Xiao Ning’er to obtain a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirit as well as a lightning gale sword. It seemed that the Heavenly Note Sect was pretty good to its disciples.

The internal struggles of the Divine Feathers Sect were far from intense, unlike the Heavenly Note Sect’s. Furthermore, they possessed far more resources than the Divine Feathers Sect.

Chapter 319: Hierarch Skycloud

Nie Li continued conversing with Xiao Ning'er and even talked about Ye Ziyun's recent developments.

Apparently, Ye Ziyun had compatible bloodline, so she'd been chosen to enter the Heavenly Note Sect's secret training grounds. Her current cultivation was even stronger than Xiao Ning'er's.

Ye Ziyun and Xiao Ning'er both had frightening talents. They'd come to be known as the Twin Star of the younger generation and had received a great deal of attention.

Nie Li felt assured, now that he knew Ziyun and Ning'er were living quite well. As for the power struggles, Nie Li didn't want them to get wrapped up in it.

Through the screen, Xiao Ning'er saw a hazy and familiar figure. However, every time she saw him, she felt at peace. Even if she were to gave herself to Nie Li, she would have no complaints.

"Nie Li, are you prepared to head for the outside world?" asked Xiao Ning'er.

"That's for sure." Nie Li's vision drifted into the distance, but he smiled as he continued, "Right now, I've just stepped into the Heavenly Fate Realm. I'll need to be at least 2-fate to head for the outside world. Otherwise, I won't even know how I died!"

“En.” Xiao Ning’er nodded as she agreed. She wasn’t worried about Nie Li, since he always has his own plans and actions. He had a kind of power that could ease people’s hearts.

Nie Li continued refining the demon spirits. Luckily, Gu Bei had acquired a sufficient amount of demon spirits; therefore, Nie Li could constantly refine them.

He was refining the second God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. Ever since he tried to use Heavenly Energy to force the merge of demon spirits back then, whenever he started refine a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit, he’d use the Heavenly Energy within his body to suppress it.

The second refinement also succeeded. However, this one wasn’t of the Lightning Wind attribute, but a purely Lighting attributed Divine Scarlet Thunderbird. Furthermore, it was a mutated one; therefore, it was still a pretty good match for Ning’er.

The Abyss Winged Draconic Falcon that he’d refined earlier could be given to Xiao Xue. However, Nie Li still needed to refine one more for Ye Ziyun and have Xiao Ning’er deliver it to her.

After a brief moment, Xiao Ning’er stepped out of the wooden tub and wrapped herself with a brocade before walking out.

Nie Li raised his head, glanced at Xiao Ning’er, and was slightly stunned. Her hair was still dripping wet and droplets of water fell from the clear and slightly reddened skin that the brocade couldn’t cover. Her voluptuous figure could be vaguely seen. That exquisite

shoulder looked fragile and her slender long legs made Nie Li unable to shift his gaze.

Eventually, after seeing Xiao Ning'er, Nie Li awkwardly shifted his gaze.

Xiao Ning'er's face was also slightly red as she tried to open her mouth to say something, but after a long while, she shyly pushed it back down. Then, she put on her white training clothes and lightly sighed. Looking at Nie Li, she couldn't gather her courage.

Nie Li shifted the topic to ease the awkwardness. "Ning'er, I've already got a God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit for you. You should integrate with it first."

"Okay." Xiao Ning'er walked to Nie Li's side, even though her face was still boiling.

After receiving the demon spirit from Nie Li, she shut her eyes and started the integration process. She sensed the Dragon Bloodline demon spirit within the demon spirit stone.

Looking at Xiao Ning'er with her white slim-fit training clothes looking pure and charming. How could Nie Li not know what Xiao Ning'er was thinking? But now was not the time. Not yet.

Xiao Ning'er batted her eyelashes in unease when she sensed Nie Li's gaze. A brief moment later, she opened her eyes to look at Nie Li with her clear pupils and said in a shy voice, "Nie Li, if you keep

staring at me like that, I won't be able to calm myself enough to integrate with this demon spirit!"

Nie Li shrugged as he smiled, "I was enticed earlier on. Can't I get a few looks?"

At Nie Li's words, Xiao Ning'er was so embarrassed that she almost hid her face in her chest. Even though she knew that Nie Li was only teasing her, she couldn't help pouting. Nie Li was too bad.

Seeing Xiao Ning'er's expression, Nie Li couldn't help smiling, "You can continue integrating with the demon spirit."

As Xiao Ning'er began integrating with the Divine Scarlet Thunderbird, Nie Li started refining a demon spirit for Ye Ziyun.

The night gradually darkened.

Skycloud Hall of the Divine Feathers Sect

An elder with ashened hair quietly sat there. He had a thin figure, filled with a sage-like appearance. Around him revolved five coloured lights as he emitted a gentle energy like the morning dawn.

"Master," Venerable Redsoul slightly bowed his body towards the elder.

That elder was Venerable Redsoul's Master and one of the five major figures of the Divine Feathers Sect, Hierarch Skycloud. What was different about Hierarch Skycloud was that he rarely participated in the Divine Feathers Sect's internal struggles, and had always maintained a neutral position. He was only loyal to the Sect Master and would always support whoever obtained that seat. Hierarch Skycloud himself didn't possess any forces; he only had thirty-six disciples. Even so, no one dared to underestimate him.

Hierarch Skycloud opened his eyes, looked at Venerable Redsoul, and asked, "Disciple, why have you come looking for me?"

Venerable Redsoul bitterly smiled. "Nothing of importance. Recently, among the new students, there were several with fairly good talent. One of them possesses an 8-grade Heaven Spiritual Root and has such an extraordinary talent that even I couldn't tell what his cultivation technique is."

"Oh?" That aroused Hierarch Skycloud's interest by a bit.

"Aside from that, there was an incident involving him during the recent gathering of the three major sects' disciples. One segment of the event featured a display of Dao by injecting your Dao intent into one of the four arts. Yan Yang of the Skyblaze Sect, Mingyue Wushuang of the Heavenly Note Sect, and Long Tianming of our Divine Feathers Sect all displayed their skills. That student also went up to display his skills after them and had wrote a word. That word was actually quite profound. All the other geniuses in the side chamber, including Long Tianming, couldn't comprehend the profound within that word and thought it was only ordinary

calligraphy. Only Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang could comprehend it and had admitted defeat."

Hierarch Skycloud's thoughts were slightly moved by Venerable Redsoul's news. What word could this student have written to make Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang admit defeat?

Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang both possessed strength and talent which Hierarch Skycloud was fully aware of. The two of them were well-known figures among the younger generations of the Skyblaze Sect and the Heavenly Note Sect, especially Yan Yang. He was the greatest talented that the Skyblaze Sect had seen in the recent hundred years.

"Which family of the Divine Feathers Sect is he from?" asked Hierarch Skycloud. Hierarch Skycloud didn't get involved in the Divine Feathers Sect's internal matters because the dispute within was too serious. Both the Gu Clan and the Dragonseal Family wanted to control the sect, causing a great commotion while they were at it. As for the Ashen Flames Family, although they had remained silent, they also had their own plans. Hierarch Skycloud could only watch as the Divine Feathers Sect declined; there was nothing he could do, and his heart was ashened. Regardless of which family Nie Li belonged to, he would be caught in the center of the struggle.

"That youth comes from the Tiny World and hasn't joined any forces, even now. Furthermore, he has also announced that before he graduates from the Skysoul Institute, he won't join any forces. However, I have no idea how long he can maintain that." Venerable Redsoul said. He was well aware of Hierarch Skycloud's

temper; therefore, he told him everything about Nie Li. As Hierarch Skycloud took special care of geniuses who hadn't joined families.

"Oh? The Tiny World?" Hierarch Skycloud's heart shook. The moment he heard of the Tiny World, he was reminded of someone. After a brief moment of silence, he spoke again. "Since he's unwilling to join a family, he would definitely suffer quite a bit of pressure. Send greetings to the three major families and tell them that I have my eyes on this child from now on. Tell them not to disturb him! As for how this child will progress, I'll have to observe him!"

"Yes!" Venerable Redsoul said respectfully.

Although Hierarch Skycloud hadn't participated in the disputes for many years, he was still one of the five major figures of the Divine Feathers Sect. Furthermore, since he remained in a neutral position, the three major families had to give face to him. After all, none of them were willing to provoke such an authoritative figure.

Just as Venerable Redsoul was about to bid his farewell, Hierarch Skycloud's voice sounded. "Also, go and get a word from him. I'll take a look and see just how profound that word of his really is!"

Even Hierarch Skycloud was interested in Nie Li?

Venerable Redsoul was a little astonished in his heart. After all, Hierarch Skycloud was a Martial Ancestor Realm expert. For him to be so curious about Nie Li's word to the point that would request

a copy…

“Yes, Lord Master.” Venerable Redsoul respectfully said before he bowed and left.

A night passed quickly and dawn gradually arrived.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning’er exited their room. Xiao Ning’er had already finished integrating with her demon spirit and sensed the new power within that demon spirit. A God Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirit was, without a doubt, extremely powerful.

Lu Piao had also appeared from his room. When he saw Nie Li, he ran over with a face full of excitement as his voice filled with thrills. “Nie Li, Xiao Xue, she…”

“What’s wrong with Xiao Xue?” Nie Li looked at Lu Piao as he asked. He noticed that Lu Piao’s face was bruised and, although it’d been smeared with medicine, the bruise still didn’t look quite healed.

“Xiao Xue let me touch…” Lu Piao looked extremely excited.

At Lu Piao’s face, Xiao Ning’er’s face was slightly red.

“Touch what, if you’ve touched, then you’ve touched!” Nie Li bitterly smiled. Was there really a need to be so excited from a touch?

Lu Piao appeared to be a little shy as a blessed look appeared on his face. “She finally allowed me to touch her hands!”

At Lu Piao’s words, Nie Li’s eyes were widened as he stared at Lu Piao. Lu Piao ran over so excitedly just to tell him that Xiao Xue had allowed him to touch her hands? Nie Li slapped Lu Piao over the head and scolded, “Dumbass, what’s there to be excited about? It’s just a hand!”

Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help covering her mouth and smiling at Nie Li’s words.

Nie Li hooked an arm around Lu Piao’s neck over and whispered into his ears.

“Really?” Lu Piao’s eyes widened as he stared at Nie Li. “Don’t bluff me!”

Nie Li seriously nodded. “Of course I wouldn’t lie to you.”

Lu Piao hesitated for a moment as his expression turned serious. He had an expression as though he was walking to his death as he walked back to his own room, where Xiao Xue was still resting.

Chapter 320: Full Of Sincerity

After a brief moment, Lu Piao's mournful wails and shrieks sounded from the room, followed by the sounds of Xiao Xue scolding Lu Piao for being indecent. This was then followed by a series of beatings before things finally settled down.

It was the sound of pure misery.

Xiao Ning'er blinked and asked Nie Li, "What did you say to Lu Piao?"

Nie Li couldn't help showing an evil grin as he replied, "Nothing much."

Xiao Ning'er pursed her lips. Nie Li probably gave Lu Piao some rotten idea. Otherwise, Lu Piao wouldn't have been lectured so badly by Xiao Xue.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er conversed for a while, before a knocking sound came from the door to the courtyard.

"Xiao Yu's probably returned." Nie Li smiled as he walked over to the door. Upon opening it, he saw three people standing there, accompanied by a surge of powerful aura that came crashing in.

The three people looked to be in their twenties, with cultivations above the Heavenly Fate Realm. The one leading them had probably reached the Heavenly Star Realm, as Nie Li could sense

the aura with sharp killing intent.

The youth looked at Nie Li as he said in a solemn voice, “You’re Nie Li?”

The youth’s eyes lit up as they swept over Xiao Ning’er, but he restrained himself.

“Indeed.” Nie Li looked at the other party. He had no idea why they’d come.

“My name is Long You, a member of the Dragonseal Family. Someone has requested me with receiving a calligraphy word from you,” Long You casually said. Although he claimed that he was requesting for a word, his tone didn’t contain any trace of request.

Long You’s Heavenly Star Realm aura made Nie Li feel a little pressured.

This Long You was probably one of Long Tianming’s men. On one hand, they were here to get a word, on the other, they also wanted to give Nie Li a setback and prevent him from becoming too arrogant for his decent talent.

“Aside from asking for a word, my Young Master is also interested in you, and invites you to join the Celestial Dragon Guards of the Dragonseal Family!” Long You looked at Nie Li. From his point of view, Nie Li didn’t have the qualifications to join the Celestial Dragon Guards at all. He had no idea why the Young

Master had told him to agree to any of Nie Li's conditions first if he's willing to join.

"I've already announced that I'm not joining any families. Do forgive me. As for the words, I will write a few and have you bring them back." Nie Li said as a trace of almost unnoticeable light flashed through his eyes.

Indeed, it was as he'd expected. Long Tianming would definitely send someone to get some words.

With Long Tianming's character, of course he wouldn't spend one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones for Nie Li's words. After all, one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones wasn't a small amount. Long Tianming's manners were inferior to Yan Yang's and Mingyue Wushuang's.

He was trying to suppress others with power, and get Nie Li's calligraphy for free. Long Tianming truly thought it out well. He didn't have to pay a thing, but could still gain benefits nonetheless.

As for Nie Li, he'd always been wary of Long Tianming. Therefore, he wouldn't let Long Tianming get his hands on a word so easily!

Long You originally thought that Nie Li would decline. After all, it was rumored that his words sold for an expensive price. However, when Nie Li easily gave in, his expression slightly settled down. It seemed like this Nie Li was rather tactful and knew when to give in.

“Please wait a moment. I’ll write some for the three of you to bring back.” Nie Li politely cupped his hands.

“Alright, we’ll wait for you here.” Long You nodded. As per Long Tianming’s orders, as long as Nie Li agreed to one of the requests, then there was no need to make things difficult for him. Although it was possible that Nie Li could become a competitor, as long as Nie Li willingly gave in, Long Tianming didn’t have any plans to make things difficult for him. For the time being.

After all, there was nothing he could do to Nie Li within the Skysoul Institute.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning’er returned to his room.

Xiao Ning’er looked at Nie Li and asked, “Those three are trying to get your words for free, and just you’re going to give it to them?”

Xiao Ning’er felt a little resentful in her heart. Such things definitely wouldn’t happen in the Heavenly Note Sect. She felt those three were being quite hateful, trying to get something for free and while acting like it was only natural.

“Power is stronger than man. Of course I have to give in. After all, there’s a Heavenly Star Realm expert among them!” Nie Li lightly smiled as he walked to the desk. He opened a white sheet of paper, and raised the brush as he concentrated his eyes.

When Xiao Ning'er looked at Nie Li, it looked as though his body had ignited, as if he was filled with a scorching aura. Furthermore, within this aura, were trace amounts of the Law Energy of Darkness and Light.

That Dao intent converged onto the tip of the brush as Nie Li gently lowered it and began writing.

Xiao Ning'er's eyes widened as she puzzled revealed in her eyes. Back at the gathering, Nie Li hadn't used the slightest bit of Dao intent to write his words. But now, he was using Dao intent.

Since Xiao Ning'er was smart and intelligent, she had it all figured out with a thought. Nie Li was doing this on purpose.

"I have comprehended the Law of Darkness and Light from the tiny World and realised that within them, there was a mysterious Dao intent. Darkness is cold and light is warm. Naturally, this is the Dao intent that I have comprehended, so there's a wide gap compared to the the Dao intent that that supreme expert has comprehended. Long Tianming wants some words from me for free? That's where the saying of 'convenient wouldn't get you good goods' come from!" Nie Li lightly smiled. Within this word, he'd concealed the Dao intent of the law of darkness and light. Therefore, this word naturally wouldn't contain the Dao intent of that supreme being.

As he wrote those supreme words with his Dao intent, his mind is required to enter a miraculous realm!

When she heard Nie Li say that there was ‘convenient wouldn’t get you good goods’, Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help covering her mouth with a chuckle. Nie Li really was a guy who wouldn’t accept the short end of the stick when he got it. No wonder he was so straightforward in agreeing to write some words for those people! Writing a few words wouldn’t waste much time anyways!

Once he finished the “sword”, Nie Li pondered as he smiled. “This doesn’t seem to be filled with enough sincerity, since it’s only one word. I’ll give him two more!”

The “sword” included, Nie Li wrote a total of three words as he lightly smiled, “One word more than what I gave Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang. This time, they should definitely feel my sincerity.”

At Nie Li’s words, Xiao Ning’er couldn’t help smiling. Nie Li was simply too bad. Although she’d seen how cunning Nie Li could be, Xiao Ning’er still felt that Nie Li was the most trustworthy person. All of his cunningness was used on his enemies. When he was with his friends, Nie Li gave them his complete trust and treated them with sincerity.

Nie Li took the words with him as he walked to the entrance and passed them to Long You. “I’m done!”

Long You took the words from Nie Li and concentrated his attention on them. He sensed an indistinct trace of Dao intent from them, but there wasn’t anything terribly impressive. He

couldn’t help furrowing his brows, as he wondered whether Nie Li was fooling them? However, he’d heard that ordinary people couldn’t sense the dao intent hidden within his words. This fact was already widely known throughout the sect.

Long You was a little unconvinced in his heart. After all, he was a Heavenly Star Realm expert and an elite of the Celestial Dragon Guards. Could it be that even he couldn’t comprehend the profound intent within these words? Long You stored the words in a little twitchy before glancing at Nie Li. “I’ve received the words, let’s go!”

He waved his hand and led the other two away from the courtyard.

Xiao Ning’er lightly frowned her brows. She noticed that that person didn’t have any manners. He took things from others without even leaving a “thank you”.

Nie Li, on the contrary, wasn’t too bothered about it, since the word that he’d given them was a fake.

Not long after Long You left, someone else knocked on the door. When Nie Li opened it, he saw Venerable Redsoul.

“What matters would bring the Venerable to my door?” Nie Li asked in a respectful tone. He was still very polite; after all, Venerable Redsoul was his teacher, even if it was only in name.

Venerable Redsoul's expression and attitude were very modest, like a spring breeze. He smiled and said, "I apologise for disturbing you outside of our lessons. I've been entrusted by a lord to ask you for some calligraphy. If you're willing to give, I can give a hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones in exchange."

"Venerable is too heavy with your words. A teacher is asking for something from a student. How could I ask for money in return? I'll write several words for the Venerable. I wonder who wants them?" Nie Li was very polite as he spoke.

Venerable Redsoul was a teacher of the Skysoul Institute. He had many students in the Divine Feathers Sect, so of course he also had a large network of connections. For Venerable Redsoul to address someone as "Lord", this definitely wasn't a common person. Since such an opportunity had presented itself at his door, how could Nie Li miss it? It was just a few words anyways, and it wasn't like he was going to lose any flesh in writing.

"This Lord has always hidden himself, even if I mention him, you might not know who he is. The outside world knows him as Hierarch Skycloud." Venerable Redsoul said. Hierarch Skycloud had been a hermit for many years; therefore, newcomers shouldn't know of him.

Nie Li's heart couldn't help to jump. Hierarch Skycloud was one of the five major figures of the Divine Feathers Sect! How could Nie Li not know of such a powerful figure? Hierarch Skycloud was the only one among the five major figures who didn't contest for power. However, when the Divine Feathers Sect fell apart in his previous life, Hierarch Skycloud couldn't reverse it. Furthermore,

he'd already aged by then and his cultivation had slowly dropped.

However, Hierarch Skycloud was still an authoritative figure within the Divine Feathers Sect.

"Since that lord likes my words, of course I'll do my best so that the Venerable will have something worth showing him." Nie Li bowed slightly, then continued, "Since I don't need very much time to write them, I'll just gift them to the Venerable instead."

Venerable Redsoul gave Nie Li a grateful look. "Many thanks. I'll definitely pass them to Hierarch Skycloud and let him know of your meaning." Venerable Redsoul was unable to reject Hierarch Skycloud's request for Nie Li's words. However, he couldn't bear pulling his face down to ask one of his students and giving nothing in return. His only option was to raise one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones to buy the calligraphy words from Nie Li. However, he never expected Nie Li to be so straightforward and gift them instead.

Venerable Redsoul pondered for briefly, then said, "I will not take your words for nothing. With Hierarch Skycloud's protection, you won't have to worry about any family pressuring you while you remain within the Skysoul Institute!"

Hearing Venerable Redsoul's words, Nie Li rejoiced in his heart. To him, this favor was worth more than one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones.

"In that case, I have the Venerable to thank!"

Chapter 321: Counterfeit

Within the grounds of the Divine Feathers Sect, as long as Nie Li had Hierarch Skycloud backing him, then he'd definitely be eased of many troubles.

It wasn't that Hierarch Skycloud had a supreme position; it was his identity that was too special. No family was willing to offend such an expert.

In his previous life, Nie Li had heard that Hierarch Skycloud was fond of protecting geniuses who didn't join the various families. Nie Li's Master, Ying Yueru, had also been secretly protected by Hierarch Skycloud. Therefore, no one dared to touch her. It was only one hundred years later, when Hierarch Skycloud had aged and the internal conflict within the Divine Feathers Sect became more intense, that Ying Yueru's troubles started to come.

"Please, wait for a moment, Venerable. I'll go and write some words."

When Nie Li returned to his room, he appeared to be even more serious compared to the first time, as he wrote five words. The Dao intent contained in these five words was even more profound than in the ones he gave Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang.

After writing them, Nie Li passed them to Venerable Redsoul.

"Thank you for this." Venerable Redsoul lightly smiled.

“Venerable is being too polite!” Nie Li smiled as he replied respectfully.

After Venerable Redsoul, several other people came for his words. Of course Nie Li didn’t reject them. He wrote his calligraphy with varying degrees of seriousness, all depending on the impressions these people had given him in his previous life. Some were legitimate, while others were just ordinary calligraphy.

Dragonseal Family

Long Tianming's study room.

Long Tianming slowly opened the scroll and saw three words, and felt satisfied. That kid, Nie Li, was quite tactful. He'd given Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang two words, and gave him three.

His gaze fell onto the center of the paper where a vigorous and powerful "sword" was projected on his pupils.

The shape of this word was the exact same one that he'd seen earlier.

Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang could see the profundity contained within this "sword", but he wasn't able to do so. This fact made Long Tianming extremely unhappy. Could it be that his talent was that much more inferior than Yan Yang's and Mingyue Wushuang's?

Or could it be that he just wasn't concentrating enough earlier?

Long Tianming focused his attention as he looked at that "sword" as he tried to sense the Dao intent within. Suddenly, it appeared to him, the warmth of light and chill of darkness. Even though it was just for a moment, it was captured by him.

Indeed, it was easy for him to sense the Dao intent within the

“sword”. It seemed that he wasn’t that much inferior to Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang after all. He couldn’t sense it earlier just because he did not concentrate! Long Tianming lightly smiled as he continued to sense it. However, to his realisation, the “sword” in his hands only contained a trace of Dao intent. With just that much Dao alone, Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang shouldn’t have been so stirred, right?

Could it be that he’d only sensed a portion of the sword intent? There was more profundity concealed in the “sword”?

Long Tianming continued sensing as he tried to fumble the profundity of the “sword”. However, he quickly realised that aside from that trace of Dao intent, he couldn’t sense anymore.

This was impossible!

Could he really be that much inferior to Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang?

He constantly tried, but wasn’t able to succeed.

A thought crossed Long Tianming’s mind that extremely enraged him. Maybe Nie Li had done something to this word. But even still, this word looked exactly the same; it didn’t look like there was anything wrong with it. Furthermore, he’d obviously sensed the Dao intent just now. However, it was only for a moment and he couldn’t feel it anymore.

Time passed. One hour, two hours...

No matter how Long Tianming tried, he still couldn't sense the profundity contained within.

Damn it!

Long Tianming tightly clenched his fists and pounded them on the table surface. A sense of defeat surged up, the sense of inferiority to Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang. He was the number one genius of the Dragonseal Family and he'd always been proud of it. He'd always viewed Yan Yang as one of his opponents.

However, unable to comprehend any Dao intent made him felt defeated.

"Did that kid do something to it?" Long Tianming's brows were knitted tightly, since he couldn't confirm it.

The three words Nie Li had written all looked powerful, and don't look to be something done half-heartedly. Instead, it seemed as though Nie Li was trying to curry Long Tianming's favour. Nie Li was a newcomer. By right, he shouldn't dare offend Long Tianming. Therefore, Long Tianming concluded that there shouldn't be a problem with these three words.

That left Long Tianming with only one answer: he was unable to sense the Dao intent contained within.

As for asking others to confirm, Long Tianming definitely wouldn't. He was a proud and aloof character; he'd never be willing to admit to others that he was inferior to Yan Yang and Mingyue Wushuang.

Long Tianming's mood grew fidgety before he finally threw the paper aside. "Bastard, there's no Dao intent in these words!"

Long Tianming simmered in his rage for a while before the anger within his heart slowly subsided, seated.

A brief moment, Long Tianming picked up the paper and concentrated all of his attention in sensing the Dao intent.

Skycloud Hall

Hierarch Skycloud had received the words and began comprehending one of the Dao intent. A moment later, a deep light flashed though his eyes.

Hierarch Skycloud sighed as he said, “I never expected that only a few simple words could be so filled with the understandings of the Heaven and Earth Dao. Although he might not have been the one to invent these words, it is already quite impressive that he can write them so completely at such a young age. To write these words and the Dao intent of their structures, he’d have to comprehend the Dao intent himself!”

This child’s talent was absolutely extraordinary. In the future, he might grow into an enormous figure.

Even Hierarch Skycloud wasn’t confident that he could write these words so completely.

“The new class of genius from the Tiny World, interesting,” Hierarch Skycloud mumbled as the corner of his mouth revealed a trace of smile. “The Tiny World is indeed a place where geniuses are born. I wonder what kind of person this child will grow up to be?”

Inside Nie Li’s room, Yu Yan woke up from her cultivation.

Only after a period when no one came knocking for calligraphy

did Nie Li place the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting on the table.

Yu Yan greeted Ning'er. When she saw Nie Li opening the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, she flew over and asked, "Nie Li, what's this?"

Yu Yan looked at the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting and felt astonished at the endless of time-space she sensed from it.

"This item is called the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. It has many mysteries concealed within. Ning'er, Big Sister Yu Yan, please protect me. If someone comes in, just tell them that I'm not here. I want to break the seal inscription patterns on the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting!" said Nie Li.

Ning'er looked at Nie Li in shock. She never expected that the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting that Gu Bei had bought would be in Nie Li's hands. Even that higher-up who'd sold it was unable to decipher its uses. Could Nie Li really able to decipher it? Despite her doubts, she still chose to believe in him.

"Alright, I understand. I'll guard the outside, and Big Sister Yu Yan can remain inside!" Ning'er nodded. Nie Li was probably worried that someone might interrupt him; therefore, he'd waited until no one was looking for him before starting to decipher the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Ning’er and Yu Yan prepared to protect Nie Li, one by the door and one the other in the courtyard.

Nie Li started by using the demonic blood of Dragon Bloodline demon spirit to lay down an extremely organised inscription pattern array. Upon activation, it would immediately isolate him from the outside world.

Nie Li approached the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, stared at it, and sensed its aura. He examined the sealing inscription patterns on it. The outer layer was a Myriad Spiritual Lock. This Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting seemed to have been locked with a sturdy wall; those on the outside wouldn’t able to sense anything on the inside.

He had to deconstruct that firm wall piece by piece to decipher the real usage of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Just as Nie Li was about to use his intent to examine the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, his attention was drawn to a separately concealed intent within the painting. This intent should be left behind by that expert. After analysing its strength, Nie Li concluded that it should be from a Martial Ancestor Realm expert.

Nie Li retracted his intent as he bitterly smiled, “No wonder. A higher-up from a major sect would never sell such a valuable treasure for only a hundred thousand spiritual stones with no strings attached. Even if this treasure doesn’t have any actual uses, he’d still find a way to keep it for himself.”

It’s extremely difficult for a Martial Ancestor Realm expert to raise their cultivation. After encountering an ancient treasure that might help him accomplish that, how could he give it up so easily?

“He probably left his intent here so that he’d be able to track this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting whenever he wants. He’s probably waiting for someone to decipher it before he snatches it back.” Nie Li’s expression deepened. If it’d been anyone else, they’d definitely be tricked. However, it was a pity that this expert had encountered Nie Li!

Nie Li’s perceptions were still extremely keen; that’s how he sensed the presence of that intent.

That higher-up probably sold the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting at the auction because there were many people present. There should be at least be one person who knew what this object was. If anyone bought it for a huge sum of money, it was likely that they knew something about the painting’s true uses.

The other party was a Martial Ancestor Realm expert. That meant that Nie Li couldn’t get rid of that intent for the time being; the moment he did, the opponent would definitely sense it and track down the painting’s location immediately. With Nie Li and Gu Bei’s strength at their current stage, it was absolutely impossible for them to fend off a Martial Ancestor Realm expert.

Then, what should they do?

Nie Li stroked his chin as he pondered.

Suddenly, in a flash of light, an idea came to Nie Li!

“I’ve written calligraphy, then I’ll make another painting!” Nie Li brought out a piece of paper and cut it to the size of Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. He quickly started working on it, and made the outside look exactly the same as the original scroll. After the outside was completed, he began working on the landscape itself. Soon, another Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting appeared before him.

After the painting was finished, Nie Li used demonic blood to lay the inscription pattern seal array. The blood formed into inscription patterns and concealed themselves in the fake Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Paintings.

Chapter 322: Myriad Miles Rivers And Mountains

Nie Li laid inscription patterns arrays down on the fake Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Forming layers upon layers of inscription pattern locks. The outer layer was a Myriad Spiritual Lock. This lock alone could even keep out a Martial Ancestor Realm expert, given they weren't proficient with inscription patterns. There were also many other inscription patterns concealed inside it.

A little over two hours later, an identical Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting appeared on the table. Nie Li then slowly shifted that expert's intent from the genuine Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to the fake one.

"Not a bad counterfeit!" Nie Li lightly smiled as he looked at his replica. Secretly, he thought that he have to find an opportunity to get Gu Bei's men to bring this fake Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to the outside world, feigning injury and drop this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting in the middle of escape. Then, this fake will make its way into the hands of experts from the other sects. That way, it'll be hard for that Martial Ancestor Realm expert to guess the location of the genuine article.

'But, it'll be a problem if that Martial Ancestor Realm expert can see through the counterfeit!'

Nie Li didn't dare underestimate a Martial Ancestor Realm expert. After all, a Martial Ancestor Realm expert still had rather brilliant methods up their sleeve. Who knows? He might even be

able to track the fake back to the original.

‘At least this counterfeit can buy me some time. Since that Martial Ancestor Realm expert has sold the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, as long as he can sense the existence of his intent, he’ll most likely wait for a certain period of time. He’ll wait a bit for someone to decipher the painting after breaking it open and adding on to the time that it would take for him to track back here. It would take quite a bit of time by the time he tracked me. It’s best to let this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting transfer hands several times. This way, it’ll be a lot safer,’ Nie Li inwardly thought.

Nie Li placed the counterfeit Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting into his interspatial ring. He lightly smiled and began using his intent to fumble the various sealing inscription patterns on the original Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

This Myriad Spiritual Lock was only a small portion of it that a Martial Ancestor Realm expert could sense it. However, there were still many layers of sealing inscription patterns concealed within the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, aside from that Myriad Spiritual Lock. Rashly breaking the Myriad Spiritual Lock could lead to a rebound.

The Myriad Spiritual Lock on the outside had traces of being touched. This proved that someone had tried to break open the Myriad Spiritual Lock sealing inscription patterns. However, that person probably suffered quite a big backlash, because inside the Myriad Spiritual Lock were even more profound sealing inscription pattern arrays! Once anyone tried to open the Myriad

Spiritual Lock, it will stir up the rebound energy from those sealing inscription patterns behind.

"Even if it's a Martial Ancestor Realm expert, without fifty to sixty years of studying, trying to break these sealing inscription patterns is simply finding a way to suffer!" Nie Li lightly smiled. This was also why that Martial Ancestor Realm expert ended up selling it. There was really nothing else he could do.

A supreme expert once said, "Only those who are virtuous are deserving of treasures". However, he was wrong. Instead, it should be "Those who are capable should deserve them".

Only with sufficient capability could one have the qualifications to use such a treasure. That Marital Ancestor Realm expert couldn't break the sealing inscription patterns on the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains painting; he must not be destined with this treasure.

Nie Li had spent hundreds of years in solitude within the Temporal Demon Spirit Book, constantly studying inscription patterns. If it wasn't for that, it'd be hard for him to unlock the inscription patterns on the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Nie Li took up his brush, dipped it in demonic blood, and started to write down inscription patterns. The lines emitted a lustrous light before they were injected into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nie Li's inscription patterns entered the Myrian Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting and collided with the inscription patterns already inside. They constantly exploded and disappeared.

Nie Li wrote faster and faster as the inscription patterns became a river, flowing nonstop into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Deep and low sounds emitted from the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, along with a dazzling luster and majestic energy that spread throughout the surrounding area.

Nie Li sensed the powerful impact of energy and couldn't help taking a step back and shielding his eyes from the dazzling light with his hands. This was only the energy dispelled from the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, yet it was already so frightening. Luckily he'd already laid down an isolation barrier; otherwise, people in the Divine Feathers Sect would've easily detected it.

Although Nie Li had taken a step back, he continued to write down inscription patterns.

"It'll soon be complete!" Nie Li's heart pounded wildly. He didn't dare to stop, even for a brief moment. If there was even the

slightest pause, the sealing inscription patterns on the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Paint would immediately reseal! This was an extremely complicated process and Nie Li's brain was operating at a high speed.

Ohmm!

A surge of boundless energy spread out like raging waves, blowing towards Nie Li.

Nie Li felt as though he was about to be devoured by this boundless energy. A surge of intense pain coursed through his body and his soul realm quaked madly. This was just a trace of the ancient divine artifact's might and it was already hard for Nie Li to bear.

All the bones in his body felt as though they were about to break apart.

But the moment Nie Li cowered away, all of his efforts would be wasted.

He'd come this far, so how could he possibly allow all his work to go to waste?

Nie Li forcefully endured the pain as his right hand continued to write. Then, he bit his left thumb until fresh blood welled out, quickly pressed it onto the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

As soon as Nie Li finished all the inscription patterns and pressed his left hand into the painting, an energy rushed towards the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. It was an energy that integrated bloodlines. Nie Li felt all of his strength being sucked dry, leaving him weak all over.

“Gasp, gasp!”

Nie Li wheezed for air in great lungfuls. He could sense that he’d successfully established a faint connection with the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Gradually, the energy returned to his body and he felt a little more at ease.

He bitterly smiled. Finally, he’d subdued this fellow.

The Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was finally connected to him through his bloodline.

Nie Li had established a small connection with the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. With a flick of his right hand, the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting disappeared into his body and floated within his soul realm.

Truly, this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was worthy of being hailed as an ancient treasure!

Now that Nie Li had established a soul connection with it, the treasure turned into its soul form and merged with Nie Li’s soul

realm. As long as Nie Li's soul realm existed, the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting would follow to wherever Nie Li's soul went. If Nie Li's soul disappeared, only then would the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting seek a new owner.

Nie Li's right hand moved as he summoned it out.The Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting suspended itself before him. With a thought, Nie Li himself turned into a streak of light and entered the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting

Nie Li hovered in air as an endless mountain range stretched beneath him with slow-flowing rivers.

This vast space that extended for tens of thousands of miles. Mountains of different sizes shaped the range and plants growing, along with zigzagging rivers that ran through them. It looked like a small, independent realm that was filled with a rich amount of Heavenly Energy, roughly the same amount as a spiritual well. Large quantities of spiritual herbs also flourished on the mountain slopes.

This wasn't just an independent space; it was an independent realm!

Currently, Nie Li could only enter and exit the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting; most of the painting's other functions were still unable to be unleashed. According to the legends, the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was a

formidable divine object that had been the cause of endless battles. It exchanged hands, all its previous owners had had their spirits and souls extinguished. Therefore, this painting could be considered an ominous item.

However, Nie Li didn't avoid it because of its status as a taboo. He could take his time to slowly decipher its uses.

Nie Li couldn't help thinking inwardly. 'Actually, Jindan and Yu Yan can be concealed in this space to cultivate!' He suddenly recalled something and took the Nightmare Demon Pot out from his interspatial ring.

The Nightmare Demon Pot was revolved as it flew into the sky, as though some sort of energy was being activated. The pot suddenly unleashed a strong, lustrous light. The image on pot became even more dazzling to the eyes. A trace of smoke released from the mouth of the pot and dispersed into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

After that, a surge of mysterious energy entered the Nightmare Demon Pot and nourished it.

So it was indeed true! The Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting really could nourish other ancient divine artifacts!

Nie Li sensed that although the Nightmare Demon Pot was constantly releasing energy, its energy was also constantly growing stronger.

Next time he refined demon spirits, he could come here to do it!

Nie Li pondered for a brief moment, then retrieved the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword from his interspatial ring. The moment he brought it out, bolts of lightning gathered from the surrounding and landed on the sword. The Thunder God's Meteorite Sword issued a dazzling light as it turned into a huge thunder sword and floated in the air, just like the Nightmare Demon Pot.

Now that Nie Li had reached the Heavenly Fate Realm, his might would be shocking when he used the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword. However, he decided to keep the sword here for now, so that it could be nourished.

As for the other miraculous uses of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, Nie Li was looking forward to discovering them.

Both the the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword and the Nightmare Demon Pot were ancient divine artifacts, far more superior to any other item in Nie Li's interspatial ring.

These three items would form the foundation of Nie Li's strength! However, right now, Nie Li couldn't even unleash even one ten thousandth of their power.

With a move of his thought, Nie Li exited the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Yu Yan, who was guarding Nie Li, was dumbfounded. Just what kind of treasure was that painting that Nie Li brought back? You could enter it according to your wishes?

Nie Li removed the barrier in his room and looked at Yu Yan's shocked expression. He lightly smiled, "Big Sister Yu Yan, this treasure is called the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Inside is a vast space. From now on, you can cultivate inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting."

"There's a separate dimension inside the painting? You can go in to cultivate?" Yu Yan was dumbfounded. It wasn't possible for a living creature to enter a space within an interspatial ring. This painting of Nie Li's could actually be entered and used to cultivate?

No wonder Nie Li had been acting so serious and had even laid down a barrier. This painting was indeed extraordinary.

"In that case, I'll take a look inside." Yu Yan smiled as a strong curiosity towards the space within the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting aroused.

Nie Li opened his right hand so that Yu Yan could stand on his palm, then picked up Jindan who'd been sleeping in a corner of his room. With a flash of his image, he turned into a streak of light and entered the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Chapter 323: Dispute

These days, Nie Li had been using spiritual stones to tempt Jindan and he'd finally been able to thoroughly establish a firm connection with it. Basically, he didn't have to worry about Jindan getting out of his control anymore.

After Jindan entered the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, it immediately awoke to the rich Heavenly Energy. It appeared extremely excited as it opened it's mouth and started to frantically suck the energy in. Instantly, Jindan turned into a huge round ball twice its former size. Even the face shrank back until it almost disappeared.

That little guy became round and plump and was no longer able to move. It landed on the flat ground between the hills. It'd probably take a long time to digest the Heavenly Energy within its body.

This little guy's ability to absorb Heavenly Energy was simply too powerful. Originally, Nie Li was a little worried that Jindan's terrifying appetite might suck the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting dry. However, he realised that Jindan only absorbed a small portion of the Heavenly Energy within the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting and that the painting was still producing Heavenly Energy.

Although Jindan still looked like a little guy, according to in Nie Li's estimations, its strength shouldn't be below a 3-fate expert. Its physical body was nearly invincible; right now, even a Martial Ancestor Realm expert would have an extremely hard time killing

it.

As of now, Jindan's body wasn't fully developed yet, and was still unable to enter combat. But if Jindan continued to absorb Heavenly Energy at this rate, then who knows?

Yu Yan also looked extremely excited upon entering the painting. Her body was ignited with golden flames that burned several times stronger than when she was outside.

Her cultivation had been increasing extremely fast and she'd already reached the 3-fate realm, at least. As to her actual level, Nie Li still couldn't be sure. Furthermore, the might of those golden flames that Yu Yan unleashed were so frightening that even Nie Li couldn't figure out their origins.

"Big Sister Yu Yan, you can stay here to cultivate!" Nie Li lightly smiled.

Yu Yan opened her eyes, pursed her lips into a smile, and nodded. "Okay."

Nie Li looked at the distant Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains. This place was equivalent to a realm of his own, where he could do quite a few stuff!

A few thoughts flashed through Nie Li's brain and he smiled. He'd already formulated his plans.

Nie Li exited the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Paint and walked out of his room.

Xiao Ning'er hadn't moved a step as she guarded the door. When Nie Li came out, she finally loosened herself up and asked, "Nie Li, how did it go?"

"It's done. It's already merged with my soul realm." Nie Li nodded.

Xiao Ning'er was a little astonished. She never imagined that Nie Li could actually break the seal on the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. She started to admire him even more because of that fact. That was something that even that higher-up couldn't accomplish. Nie Li had always been their leader, whether it was in the Tiny World or in the Draconic Ruins Realm. Therefore, her heart was filled with adoration towards him.

Nie Li was together with Xiao Ning'er and he also tactfully declined a few gathering invitations. Xiao Ning'er also wanted to cherish the time she had with him.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er stopped by Gu Bei's courtyard to pass the counterfeit Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to Gu Bei and remind him that this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was to quietly "disappear".

Nie Li had forged this Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting after he'd noticed the trance of intent left behind by that Martial Ancestor Realm expert. Gu Bei was shocked; at the same

time, he couldn't help admiring Nie Li a little. He never thought that Nie Li could actually come up with such an ingenious idea.

"I understand! You can leave this to me! By the way, here are the newly acquired Dragon Bloodline Ordinary Level growth rate demon spirits!" Gu Bei passed an interspatial ring to Nie Li before getting busy with other matters.

After receiving all those demon spirits from Gu Bei, Nie Li found a secluded place and started refining them inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Twilight slowly descended.

Unlike the usual night, today's night in Skysoul Institute was especially bustling. Almost all the institute's students were moving along the paths that wound through the forest.

The geniuses of the Skyblaze and Divine Feathers Sects were organising a grand gathering. Rumors claimed that there'd be sparring matches between the geniuses. The higher-ups of the three major sects had apparently arranged a generous award for the winner.

However, Nie Li wasn't interested that kind of sparring.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er returned to their courtyard just as Xiao Yu walked in with his head lowered. When Xiao Yu raised his head, he saw them.

“Ning’er, you’re here too?” Xiao Yu was rather surprised and showed an embarrassed and unnatural expression on his face.

“Yep! Xiao Yu, we meet again.” Xiao Ning’er said with her lips pursed.

“Xiao Yu, where have you been for past two days? Why haven’t I seen you at all?” Nie Li suddenly felt that there was something wrong with Xiao Yu‘s aura and he couldn’t help frowning. “Wait, you already reached 4-fate a while back. So, why have you dropped back to 3-fate? You’ve gone to the outside world?”

“Yeah.” Xiao Yu replied as he bitterly smiled. He’d wanted to conceal that fact, but he’d been instantly exposed by Nie Li.

“Who was it?” Nie Li’s face suddenly darkened as he emitted killing intent. With a flash of his thoughts, he understood that there was only one person who might go after Xiao Yu. Nie Li sought confirmation, “Was it Hua Ling?”

Nie Li had experienced too many stuff in his previous life. Because of those experiences, the one thing he couldn’t tolerate was people hurting his friends!

“Yeah.” Xiao Yu knew that he couldn’t hide it any longer and smiled bitterly. “I made a trip to the outside world. Originally, I wanted to send some stuff to an uncle of mine, but I never thought that Hua Ling would track me. After several twists and turns, I got killed by one of his underlings.”

Luckily, before Xiao Yu headed for the outside world, he'd placed his fate soul in the soul hall.

"How many forces does Hua Ling control in the outside world? What's their location?" Nie Li asked while furrowing his brows.

"Hua Ling's forces in the outside world are pretty much concentrated in the norther region, near the Ling Jade Deity's Lake. He has about sixty people, all of whom are Heavenly Fate Realm experts. Ninety percent of them are from the Little Heaven Realm," said Xiao Yu. His heart trembled when he saw how enraged Nie Li was acting. Nie Li looked to be truly enraged; Xiao Yu was worried that he'd take rash actions. "Forget about it. They have too many people. With our strength, it's impossible for us to confront them!"

Xiao Ning'er also jumped to try and calm down Nie Li. "Nie Li, you haven't reached 2-fate yet. Heading to the outside world is still too dangerous; furthermore, the other party has so many people!"

Nie Li was well aware of the Ling Jade Deity's Lake. It was a low-grade Deity's Lake that was on the verge of drying up. Originally, it'd be impossible for people like Hua Ling to gain control of an entire Deity's Lake. The only reason why Hua Ling could occupy it was because it produced too few spiritual stones!

In the outside world, all kinds of forces were fighting for Deity's Lakes. The more Deity's Lakes a force could occupy, the more underlings they'd be able to recruit and expand their power. A

small force like Hua Ling's group was basically the pit bottom in the outside world.

Hmph!

"They killed someone from my side! How could I possibly not make them pay the price?" A chilling light flashed from Nie Li's eyes as he patted Xiao Yu's shoulders. "Don't worry, I'll help you get revenge!"

When Nie Li patted his shoulders, Xiao Yu's face turned slightly red as he winced a little, appearing embarrassed.

Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er did not notice his expression.

"Nie Li, what are you planning to do?" Xiao Ning'er asked as she looked at him. She's worried that Nie Li might be acting rashly. After all, Nie Li is just a 1-fate.

"Don't worry, I know my limits. I won't be the one to take actions!" Nie Li pondered for a brief moment, then continued, "Follow me, we're going to meet someone!"

With Xiao Yu and Xiao Ning'er in tow, Nie Li headed to Li Xingyun's courtyard.

Li Xingyun's courtyard.

One of Li Xingyun's underlings, Li Hu, led the party inside. When they entered, they heard a dispute echoing from the hall.

"Young Master Li has a guest?" Nie Li asked, looking at Li Hu with a puzzled expression.

"Yes." Li Hu nodded. His mood didn't seem too good. "Please wait outside."

Nie Li looked in the direction of the hall and concentrated his attention on the dispute.

Inside the hall were two well-dressed elders. One of them was having a dispute with Li Xingyun.

The elder said in a solemn voice, "Xingyun, even we have to admit that your talent is indeed pretty good. But compared to Li Yufeng's, it's still inferior. Among the ten elders of our Ashen Flames Family, six of them have already decided that Li Yufeng should be the next Patriarch. As for the remaining four elders, two of them support Li Liushui, one supports you, and the other one gave up his vote. Li Liushui has already decided to step down from the Patriarch's competition and is fully assisting Li Yufeng. We all wish for you to take the big picture into consideration."

Li Xingyun's face was dull, but he looked unresigned, "Third elder, since Li Liushui has withdrawn from the competition, I'll withdraw as well. However, I cannot agree to what you've requested. On what basis should I, Li Xingyun pass all my forces and business to Li Yufeng? How is he qualified to command my

brothers and my businesses?”

The third elder’s voice went cold, “In the Ashen Flames Family, only one Patriarch is enough!”

“I never said that the Ashen Flames Family requires two Patriarchs. For all the previous patriarchs, none of them have ever taken over the forces of successor candidates. Why should I?” Li Xingyun said proudly.

“Li Xingyun, are you pretending not to know?”

“Pretending not to know? I don’t understand. He, Li Yufeng, is indeed stronger than me in terms of strength. But his underlings are pitiful! He wants to have all my brothers follow him? Sure! If he can gain the consent of all my brothers. No matter what terms you offer, as long as they are willing to leave, I will not prevent them!” Li Xingyun said in a solemn voice as he looked at the third elder.

The third elder frowned. Even he couldn’t help admiting that Li Xingyun was indeed capable, since all of his underlings were unswerving in loyalty. They’d all tried several methods to threaten and bribe them, but no one was willing to submit to Li Yufeng.

Chapter 324: A Good Show

“If you wholeheartedly follow Li Yufeng, everyone else will heed you!” the third elder growled, slightly enraged by Li Xingyun.

“If you want my loyalty towards the family, consider it done. But if you want me to become Li Yufeng’s dog, he’s not qualified! In the recent years, only one Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit has appeared in the Ashen Flames Family. Speak from your hearts. Back then, was my talent any inferior to Li Yufeng’s? That demon spirit was originally meant for me, but just because he was the son of the previous Patriarch, he used an underhand method to merge with that demon spirit. I’ll admit, in these last few years, my strength can’t be compared to his, but I’m not resigned to it!” Li Xingyun’s voice carried traces of indignation.

For someone in Li Xingyun’s position, he shouldn’t be saying those words. However, with a character like his, it was impossible for him to endure the injustice.

The third elder’s face was sullen. “Li Xingyun, you’ve still not resigned from that matter? Back then, your talent was indeed inferior to Li Yufeng’s. Everything is just a misunderstanding.”

“Regardless of whether it really is a misunderstanding, I don’t want to pursue this any further. Even for elders like you, don’t you have your own forces? Why should I let Li Yufeng have my brothers?” Li Xingyun looked at the other elder and said, “Fifth elder, why don’t you tell me the reason. Is there such a rule in our Ashen Flames Family?’

“Li Xingyun, this is the decision of the family. The forces that you wield are definitely a danger to the future of the Ashen Flames Family!” The fifth elder said with his brows scrunched up.

“Haha, you’ve finally said the words in your heart. Although that kid, Li Yufeng, is indeed stronger than I am, he couldn’t capture the hearts of the people and no one is willing to heed his orders. You guys are worried that as my brothers grow, I’ll start competing with him; therefore, you guys are trying to nip the problem in the bud, right?” Li Xingyun coldly laughed. “You guys have indeed put in a lot of effort to give Li Yufeng that position!”

The two elders furrowed their brows. Li Xingyun was being too arrogant and unyielding. Trying to force Li Xingyun to agree would probably be very hard. After all, there was still an elder who stood behind him, so it wasn’t good for them to do things too harsh.

However, Li Xingyun was indeed a cause for the family’s uneasiness, especially since he’d recently acquired a huge quantity of demon spirits and had greatly enhanced the strength of his underlings. The danger towards their future had grown larger.

Nie Li heard the conversation from outside the hall and lightly smiled. So that was the situation. According to Nie Li’s previous life, Li Xingyun had eventually broken away from the family, probably because he’d been pressured to his limits. However, that wouldn’t happen anytime soon, since Li Yufeng hadn’t become Patriarch yet. Li Xingyun would only break away after that happened.

Nie Li rather admired Li Xingyun. He highly values loyalty and that's also why Li Xingyun had been able to assemble such an unyielding following of brothers. Often, when a group of people follows a leader, it's not because their leader is stronger, but because their leader is reliable and would never do them injustice!

"Two elders, I must ask you to leave. No matter what, asking me to give away my brothers' loyalty and become Li Xingyun's dog — that's absolutely impossible!" Li Xingyun coldly snorted.

"Li Xingyun, don't 'refuse a toast and have wine shoved down your throat'!" said the third elder, enraged.

"I, Li Xingyun, have not violated any family rules. Third elder, fifth elder, do you two want to pressure me with your strength?" A chill of light flashed through Li Xingyun's eye. "In that case, go look for my Uncle!"

Li Xingyun's uncle was the second elder of the Ashen Flames Family, an existence right beneath the Patriarch.

"Hmph, there'll definitely be a day when you regret this!" The third and fifth elder stood up in anger and left the premises.

After the third and fifth elder left, Nie Li and his group walked in.

"Brother Nie Li, I never thought that you guys would come!" Li

Xingyun showed a smile.

"And you can still smile." Nie Li smiled in reply.

"Why can't I? Should I be crying then? It seems like you guys overheard from outside. However, it's nothing much even if you guys hear it. It's just a family spat. It must have been a joke to you guys." Li Xingyun shrugged as he continued, "I wonder what Brother Nie Li is here for? I've already prepared a hundred thousand spiritual stones!" Li Xingyun threw an interspatial ring towards Nie Li.

Nie Li caught the interspatial ring and quickly swept an eye inside and noted that there were indeed a hundred thousand spiritual stones inside. He lightly smiled and said, "You're not afraid that I'd go back on my word upon receiving the money?"

"Hilarious. I, Li Xingyun, have no other talent except for using my eyes to see the truth in people. I believe in Brother Nie Li!" Li Xingyun straightforwardly laughed.

"I've already gotten the thing that you wanted!" With a flick of his right hand, Nie Li threw a demon spirit stone over to Li Xingyun.

"So fast?" Li Xingyun was stunned for a moment upon receiving it in his hands. Originally, he thought that Nie Li would need at least half a month to get a demon spirit of this level! Li Xingyun quickly checked the contents of the stone in his hand and saw the Gold-Scarlet Blood Jiao-dragon inside. It really did have a God

Level growth rate.

"Furthermore, it's also a mutated one. I guarantee that it's much stronger than the one that Li Yufeng's integrated with!" Nie Li lightly smiled.

Li Xingyun clenched his right fist and gave Nie Li a deep look. After a few moments of silence, he finally opened his mouth and said, "I wouldn't say any thankful words, if there's anything that you need from me, Brother Nie Li can just say the word!"

"Actually, I do need some help from you this time around. This friend of mine was killed by one of Hua Ling's underlings in the outside world and I want to borrow some men from you to annihilate them!" Nie Li said as he looked at Li Xingyun.

Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li as he said straightforwardly, "Friends of Brother Nie Li are also my friends. How many men do you need? When do you need them?"

"At least two hundred. It's best if there are several Heavenly Star Realm experts. I'll need them the day after tomorrow," said Nie Li.

"Rest assured, leave it to me. I'll send several Heavenly Axis Realm brothers as well!" Li Xingyun said with his brows slightly twitched.

Indeed, Hua Ling's forces were simply incomparable to Li Xingyun's.

“Thanks!” Nie Li lightly smiled.

“Is there really a need to thank me? If so, how many thanks should I say to Brother Nie Li?” Li Xingyun smiled. Nie Li had done him a huge favor. Li Xingyun wasn’t terribly strong only because he’d been stuck with an Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirit. It was a rather depressing fact for him. But now, he’d finally got ahold of a God Level one!

There would come a day when he’d prove to all his clansmen in the Ashen Flames Family that he, Li Xingyun, definitely wasn’t inferior to Li Yufeng. He wanted to crush that despicable man beneath his feet!

Nie Li’s group conversed with Li Xingyun for a while before leaving his place.

Now that Xiao Ning’er knew that Nie Li was making use of Li Xingyun’s forces, she felt much more at ease. Since Nie Li was only a 1-fate, it was too dangerous for him to head outside by himself. After all, frightening demon beasts occasionally appeared that even a Heavenly Axix Realm or even more powerful experts falling prey to them.

“Nie Li, are you going out as well?” Xiao Ning’er asked in concern.

“That’s for sure, but don’t worry about it. In two days time, I’ll reach 2-fate, since I reached the pinnacle of 1-fate just recently.

And by using a certain method as a catalyst, it won't take more than a few hours for me to break through to 2-fate!" Nie Li lightly smiled. After merging with the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, Nie Li sensed that his strength had undergone an obvious rise. With just a little more time, he'd be able to make a breakthrough. And all he had to do was spend a few hours inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to cultivate.

At Nie Li's words, Xiao Ning'er lightly smiled and felt more assured. As long as Nie Li reached 2-fate, even if anything happened in the outside world, it shouldn't be too much of a problem. At most, he'd only a drop a stage in cultivation.

Xiao Yu felt touched in the heart. Nie Li was out to seek justice for him. However, after he saw the smooth dynamic between Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er, his heart became tangled.

After Nie Li and his group returned to the yard, they saw Gu Bei anxiously waiting for them. When he saw Nie Li and his group return, Gu Bei's brows loosened.

"I've been waiting for you guys for a long time!" Gu Bei said excitedly.

Nie Li looked at Gu Bei and asked, "Is there a problem for you to be waiting for us here?"

"I'll bring you guys to see a good show!" Gu Bei mysteriously smiled as he continued, "Quick, follow me!"

Although they had no idea what Gu Bei was talking about, they still followed him.

“I’ve already sent someone to finish the matter you asked of me, so rest assured. I’ll definitely finish the task beautifully! Something’s going to happen tonight!” Gu Bei revealed a meaningful smile as his eyes flashed across a chilling trace.

Hearing Gu Bei’s words, Nie Li gained a vague sense of understanding as the three of them followed behind Gu Bei.

Skysoul Institute, Martial Field.

Tens of thousands of people were gathered in an arena that were all lit up. Roughly fifty to sixty battles were happening simultaneously, each surrounded by their own little crowds. A sea of heads bobbed around. This was the sparring gathering between the three major sects.

“Over here!” Gu Bei smiled.

Nie Li turned to look. He saw Gu Lan sitting on a chair with a blanket covering her legs. Her face was no longer the ashen white that she’d had previously, and there were also several touches of pink that made her look more energetic.

The party walked to Gu Lan’s side.

“Big Sister Gu Lan’s colour seems much better!” Nie Li lightly

smiled.

“I have to thank this good sir for bestowing that to me!” Gu Lan lightly nodded as her gaze fell onto Xiao Yu and Xiao Ning’er who were standing behind Nie Li and lightly smiled with a nod at them.

Nie Li looked out towards the front of the arena and noticed that everyone was paying close attention to the stage, where some people were sparring. People were yelling and cheering from the sidelines. The brother-sister duo of Gu Bei and Gu Lan were here. Were they planning something? Nie Li couldn’t help smiling as he thought inwardly.

“More than ninety percent of the people of the Gu Clan are here and there are also a few elders present. Right now, it’s the battle between the newcomers of the Gu Clan.” Gu Bei said in a soft voice.

“Oh.” Nie Li nodded as he glanced into the distance. Watching from the front was Gu Heng who was smiling and chatting with several seniors who sat beside him. Those seniors should be the elders of the Gu Clan.

Chapter 325: Brother And Sister

There were fifty to sixty stages on the martial field, each surrounded by its own observers. One could call this a “distinguished” gathering.

The Ashen Flames Family, Gu Clan, Dragonseal Family, as well as some of the larger families were all present and occupying their own stages. You could say that this was a meeting where they tested their newcomers’ strengths against each other.

“Let’s go over there!” Gu Lan glanced at Gu Bei and lightly smiled.

“Okay.” Gu Bei nodded. Although his expression was calm, his emotions moved like waves within his heart.

The party turned to look in Gu Heng’s direction. Gu Bei gathered a surge of energy, then lightly lifted Gu Lan from her chair.

When they saw Gu Lan and Gu Bei approach, all the Gu Clan clansmen backed away and broke out in soft discussions.

“The brother and sister Gu Lan and Gu Bei are also here!”

“Ever since Gu Lan’s meridians were clogged, she’s been living in seclusion. She’s finally come out!”

Those from the Gu Clan also sighed in sorrow. There were many factions within the Gu Clan and among the younger generations, there were many who'd supported Gu Lan. Back before Gu Lan was crippled, her prestige in the Gu Clan was extremely high and had far surpassed Gu Heng's. Although her meridians were clogged and her cultivation was crippled, many people still respected Gu Lan very much.

"Have you guys heard? Gu Bei gained large amount of limelight yesterday when he was at the auction. After a rough calculation, he seems to have spent over four hundred thousand spiritual stones. That's absolutely shocking! I wonder where did all that money come from?"

"Gu Bei hasn't gone to the outside world to establish his own forces yet, nor has he participated in any competitions over a Deity's Lake. How could he get so many spiritual stones?"

"I'm not sure, but spending money alone isn't a capability! It could be his sister Gu Lan's money!"

The clansmen of the discussed in soft voices. After Gu Lan's meridians were clogged, they actually expected something from Gu Bei; however, Gu Bei was a disappointment to everyone, a complete good-for-nothing. At such a young age, he already had more than twenty wives. Although his talent was a shocking 7-grade Heaven Spiritual Root, his cultivation didn't rise in expectation.

Gu Bei had always been treated like trash, even by those at the bottom of the Earth Fate Realm.

However, yesterday's performance caused everyone to feel a little surprised. After all, such shocking wealth wasn't something that an ordinary person could take out from nowhere. Therefore, some of them have started to re-evaluate Gu Bei.

Today, Gu Bei and Gu Lan had appeared. Who knows what kind of plans they might have?

Gu Heng's gaze fell onto Gu Bei and Gu Lan and he couldn't help laughing, "Gu Lan, Gu Bei, the two of you have also come to join the gathering?"

Finishing his words, his eyes flashed with an untraceable chill. He was well aware of Gu Bei's limelight yesterday.

Gu Bei's little display placed Gu Heng on alert. This pair of brother and sister: one was crippled and the other one was not content with his own place!

However, no matter how uncontent the both of you are, I'll let you suffer a ruthless setback.

Gu Bei laughed, showing a sloppy manner. "Good day to you, Elder Cousin Gu Heng. We're only here to stroll around. Tonight's atmosphere is pretty good!"

A few elders had their gazes fixed on Gu Lan.

“Gu Lan, how are you doing?” One of the gold robed elders kindly smiled. He was the first elder of the Gu Clan, Gu Ya.

“Thanks to First Elder fortune, I’ve been feeling much better.” Gu Lan nodded. Right now, she was using a special method to conceal her strength that even Gu Ya couldn’t sense her true strength.

“Alright.” Gu Ya nodded as he sighed inwardly. Gu Lan’s clogged meridians basically made her a cripple. The heavens really hadn’t blessed the Gu Clan. Her talent was the most outstanding he’d seen in over a hundred years; the current first successor, Gu Heng, was far from her by comparison.

Gu Heng sighed, “Pity, Gu Lan’s complexion seems much better compared to before. It’s too bad that the clogged meridians aren’t able to recover.”

Although Gu Heng appeared to be heartfelt, Gu Lan could hear the ridicule in his words. If she’d heard such words before, she’d definitely have been heartbroken. But now, she was calm and tranquil. If Gu Heng found out that her cultivation had already been restored to her pinnacle state, and that she’d even improved her cultivation, who knows what kind of expression he’d have on his face?

Gu Bei changed the topic. “Today is so lively. I heard that the younger generations of the Gu Clan are sparring here, so I came to join the fun.” Although he wasn’t happy with Gu Heng, he still had to endure it for the time being, so he wasn’t harsh with his words.

Right now, Gu Heng was the first successor of the Gu Clan. Although Gu Bei wanted to pull Gu Heng down, since they were in front of all the elders, he still had to put up an act.

Nie Li and his group stood to the side. Nie Li observed everyone's expression and captured some of the internal relationships of Gu Clan. It seemed like everyone was still rather concerned about Gu Lan and Gu Bei.

"Oh? Younger Cousin Gu Bei is also interested? Our Gu Clan's younger generation happens to be sparing right now on the lookout for some fine and fresh saplings. Why doesn't Younger Cousin Gu Bei go up for a try?" Gu Heng said with a light smile.

Gu Ya and the others were all looking at Gu Bei. This was the famed good-for-nothing of the clan. He'd always been slacking off in his cultivation. However, yesterday's matter caused them some confusion. After all, four hundred thousand spiritual stones wasn't something anyone could bring out on whim. Even elders like them wouldn't dare say that they'd be able to take out four hundred thousand spiritual stones in one go! That event made them take note of this youngster. After all, he was still Gu Lan's brother!

Gu Bei's talent was still pretty good. If he could work hard in his cultivation, he might be able to gain some achievements and become one of the pillars of the Gu Clan.

Gu Ya and the rest all wanted to take a look at Gu Bei's strength. However, Gu Bei seemed to have remained at the pinnacle of Earth

Fate Realm, and was yet to step into 1-fate. They couldn't help feeling a little disappointed at that. Long Yuyin, who was from the same generation as Gu Bei, had already reached Heavenly Fate Realm.

Gu Heng saw the change of expressions in Gu Ya and the rest, and a trace of viciousness flashed through his eyes. Was this kid, Gu Bei, finally going to show himself? It seemed that he had to find someone to suppress Gu Bei a little!

"Since Younger Cousin Gu Bei is interested, why don't I have Gu Kuan play with you a little?" Gu Heng looked at Gu Bei as he chuckled, "After all, Gu Kuan is also at the pinnacle of Earth Fate Realm!"

Gu Bei hesitated for a moment, then said with a little difficulty, "That doesn't seem too good, right?"

Gu Heng thought that Gu Bei was afraid, so he smiled. "Since it's just sparring between members of the younger generations, Younger Cousin Gu Bei doesn't have to worry about it. I'll have Gu Kuan set some limits!"

Gu Bei pondered for a brief moment, as though he was making a difficult decision, before he said, "Okay then."

Xiao Ning'er couldn't help smiling and covering her mouth. Although she didn't know how strong this friend of Nie Li's was, she could tell that dealing with a pinnacle Earth Fate Realm person shouldn't be a problem for him. However, Gu Bei pretended that

this would be very difficult, just like when Nie Li pretended to be the prey while preying on the predator. Indeed, “birds of a feather flock together”.

When they heard that Gu Bei was going to participate in the competition, the entire Gu Clan immediately became energetic.

“Have you heard? That good-for-nothing that has over twenty wives is going to compete!”

“I heard that his cultivation is at the pit bottom of the Earth Fate Realm! Because he hasn’t been training his combat abilities, he’s always lost terribly against those of the same realm as him! He’s simply rubbish!”

“But he has a 7-grade Heaven Spiritual Root!”

“What’s the use of having a 7-grade Heaven Spiritual Root?”

“But I still don’t want that Gu Bei to be trash; after all, he’s Gu Lan’s brother!”

“The difference between this sister and brother is too huge! Are they really blood siblings?”

Those from the Gu Clan discussed as they prepared to pay attention to this battle.

Hearing the discussions, Gu Heng transmitted his voice over to Gu Kuan and coldly snorted, “Gu Kuan, beat him up mercilessly until he no longer has any confidence to cultivate!” The moment Gu Bei had any thoughts of emerging, he had to mercilessly suppress him!

Gu Kuan gave Gu Bei a glance as his eye flashed with a trace of contempt. Teaching a lesson to trash like Gu Bei was going to be too easy. He leapt onto the stage.

Gu Bei had also jumped up with steps as light as a feather, as though he wasn’t exerting any strength.

The surrounding disciples couldn’t help shaking their heads upon seeing that. Gu Bei was probably emptied by girls. With such light steps, how was he going to fight? It’s a problem if Gu Bei know any combat abilities.

Nie Li smiled. Gu Bei was simply too good at acting. Wasn’t he afraid of being struck by lightning[1]?

Xiao Ning’er smiled as she transmitted her voice over to Nie Li, “Nie Li, Gu Bei learned it from you, right?”

Nie Li rubbed his nose as he awkwardly chuckled, “He learned from me? Do I do that?”

Xiao Yu couldn’t help smiling as he pursed his lips. He was well aware of Gu Bei’s strength. With that God Level growth rate

demon spirit alone, he could leap levels and challenge stronger opponents and that he was actually acting scared of.

Those of the Gu Clan were cheering from below.

“Gu Kuan, go at it! Smash that good-for-nothing!”

“Gu Bei, go at it!”

The cheering continued to rise in volume.

“Gu Bei, I look down on good-for-nothings like you. Trash like you don’t have any qualifications to remain in our Gu Clan. That 7-grade Heaven Spiritual Root of yours is wasted on you! Today, I’ll represent the family and teach you a lesson!” Gu Kuan coldly snorted as he strode wide steps towards Gu Bei. A majestic aura surged toward the skies.

Like a ferocious tiger that had just stepped out of the mountains, Gu Kuan roared and pounced towards Gu Bei. When he was in the air, his body transformed as he merged with an Iron Back Goshawk[2] with claws like steel.

Even though Gu Kuan had underestimated Gu Bei, he didn’t hold back even a little in his attack.

Gu Kuan was exerting all his strength. Gu Bei would probably have a hard time withstanding them. Several elders sighed and

couldn’t help shaking their heads. After all, they were well aware of Gu Bei’s strength. As a good-for-nothing; that kid usually didn’t put any effort towards his cultivation.

With a terrifying manner, Gu Kuan aimed those iron-like claws at Gu Bei’s head.

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[1] Chinese superstition says “if you do bad things, you’ll get struck by lightning”.

[2] A type of hawk with short wings.

Chapter 326: Dragon Bone Winged Tiger

Gu Bei was slow with his cultivation; in reality, that was what he deliberately showed others.

Actually, Gu Bei had spent the majority of his time cultivating sword intent under Gu Lan's tutelage. His sword intent had already reached a frightening degree; if he didn't intentionally suppress his cultivation, he'd immediately display his Heavenly Fate Realm strength. That was also why he could integrate with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit.

Just as Gu Kuan's sharp claws were about to land on Gu Bei's head, Gu Bei slightly shifted his body and dodged the attack. Simultaneously, he used both his hands to grab Gu Kuan's claws and slammed him into the ground with thunder-like momentum.

Boom!

Gu Kuan's head smashed heavily into the ground and the inscription patterns on the stage started to glow. If it wasn't for the inscription pattern arrays that'd been laid down beforehand, the impact probably would've shattered the entire stage. However, thanks to the inscription patterns arrays, the ground became extremely firm; therefore, Gu Kuan suffered heavier injuries.

Gu Kuan's demon spirit transformation slowly vanished, leaving him lying on the ground, unconscious.

This was a thorough defeat in terms of strength!

Upon seeing this scene, a light lit up in the eyes several elders, including Gu Ya. Gu Bei's strength had already reached the Heavenly Fate Realm! Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to defeat Gu Kuan in one strike. Gu Kuan had been integrated with the Iron Black Goshawk!

The clansmen were all stunned. They never expected Gu Bei to take care of Gu Kuan in just one strike. Didn't that kid have light feet when he got up there?

The entire area was silent. They felt like they'd just met Gu Bei for the first time.

"It seems like that kid has been concealing his strength!" Gu Ya couldn't help lightly smiling. He felt gratified now that he knew that this youth of his family wasn't actually the good-for-nothing that everyone believed he was. Gu Kuan wasn't able to test out the true potential of Gu Bei. Gu Ya glanced at Gu Heng and said, "Gu Heng, send a Heavenly Fate Realm up to test that kid."

Gu Heng nearly lost himself with anger. He originally thought that sending Gu Kuan was enough to get Gu Bei beaten up. However, he never expected that this kid would've actually pretended to be prey while preying on the predator, and defeat Gu Kuan in just one strike. He could sense the appreciation contained in Gu Ya's tone.

Although Gu Bei's strength wasn't very outstanding, but he was still young. Once Gu Bei exhibited sufficient talent, the family

would definitely pay closer attention to him. In one or two decades, when it came time to find a new Patriarch, Gu Bei might be the one threatening Gu Heng!

Gu Bei was Gu Lan's brother; therefore, Gu Heng didn't dare underestimate him again. Furthermore, Gu Heng could not tolerate it!

"Gu Yun, you go!" Gu Heng coldly snorted. Gu Yun belonged to the pinnacle of the 1-fate Heavenly Fate Realm.

"Yes!" Gu Yun nodded as he leapt onto the stage.

Someone removed the fainted Gu Kuan from the stage.

Gu Yun eyed Gu Bei and softly snorted, "I never expected trash like you to still have some ability. However, you have no chance of beating me!"

"What do you mean 'some ability'? Didn't you see me smash him into the ground with one strike?" Gu Bei mimicked a falling posture, which looked extremely odd. "Don't you admire me even a little for that?"

Towards Gu Bei, who was acting like an idiot, Gu Yun twitched his lips and said, "I'll take a look at how capable you are!" Gu Yun bounced up and swung both hands towards Gu Bei. Those fists burst forth with blazing light as they grazed the air their with intense energy.

Gu Yun looked as though he didn't plan to merge with his demon spirit. He was only a step away from 2-fate and could crush Gu Bei entirely!

As Gu Yun took action, Gu Bei stood straight up and his expression turned serious. He positioned his right hand in front of his chest with two fingers pointing outwards.

Right now, Gu Bei was being enveloped by the sword intent.

His finger was a unsheathed sword. Ever since he'd received Nie Li's 'sword', he'd gleaned an entirely new comprehension towards sword intent, so much that he'd reached a new level.

The instant Gu Yun attacked him.

Woosh!

Gu Bei's body turned into a streak of light and shot past Gu Yun. He ran his opponent through with just the sword intent concentrated in his two fingers.

Originally, Gu Yun thought that he'd definitely be able to smash Gu Bei down. After all, he stood at the pinnacle of 1-fate. Therefore, he didn't bother to merge with his demon spirit. He never thought that once they engaged in combat, he wouldn't even be able to tell how Gu Bei had attacked him.

Gu Bei didn't even turn his head around to face Gu Yuan as he said in a deep voice, "Get off the stage. If this had been a real battle, you'd already be dead!"

A faint breeze blew through Gu Bei's long hair. His expression was faintly chilly and prideful.

Exclamations of excitement and admiration sounded from the girls standing below the stage. That move from Gu Bei was just too cool. They couldn't tell how Gu Bei had done it either.

Gu Ya's eyes lit up when he saw Gu Bei's attack. He never thought that Gu Bei's sword intent would've reached such a level already. With sword intent alone, even a 2-fate expert might not make a proper opponent!

Cultivations are easily raised, but things like sword intent were extremely difficult to bring up. But once it was achieved, Gu Bei's cultivation would leap in soars and bounds!

It seemed like they'd underestimated Gu Bei far too much, thinking that he was a good-for-nothing. In reality, while they were unaware, Gu Bei had already cultivated a powerful sword intent!

With just that sword intent alone, a spot had opened up for Gu Bei among the Patriarch's successors.

However, Gu Yun was still unresigned; he still hadn't figured

how Gu Bei had attacked him. He turned around, intending to continue the battle with Gu Bei.

“Gu Yu, come back. You’re not his match!” Gu Ya said, as a trace of joy permeated his voice.

The elders exchanged glances and noticed the joy reflected in each other’s eyes. They felt like they’d just found a new genius who was rising to fame. And that person was Gu Bei, the good-for-nothing they’d never held any expectations towards.

Gu Heng tightly gripped the chair until veins popped from his arm. Only now did he realise that he’d seriously underestimated Gu Bei. It turned out that Gu Bei had been working hard all along, training his sword intent. Cultivating sword intent was most time-consuming. But once you succeeded in it, the results would be extremely shocking.

Once Gu Bei successfully cultivated his sword intent, he would be able to challenge opponents of even higher ranks.

Although Gu Bei’s sword intent had yet to reach such great heights, it was already extremely shocking for his age.

In that instant, Gu Heng felt threatened. If Gu Bei continued to show more of his powerful talent, he would definitely become a successor candidate. It’d be a problem if Gu Bei could pull Gu Heng, the current first successor, down from his seat.

Nie Li lightly smiled. All of this was within his expectations. Gu Bei's sword intent had also progressed further than before.

Currently, Long Yuyin was quietly watching the stage from the part of the crowd where outsiders were allowed. When Long Yuyin saw Nie Li walking on the other side of the arena, she went over to observe and saw the scene of Gu Bei defeating Gu Yun.

She could easily confirm that Gu Bei's strength had already surpassed her own. But earlier on, Gu Bei's strength was obviously far from her's. Was that sword intent comprehended from that 'sword' word of Nie Li's? Both her hands clenched into fists. She wanted to see what kind of sword intent was hidden in that 'sword' word. However, Nie Li had already rejected her, which made her extremely depressed.

However, the price of Nie Li's 'sword' word was one hundred fifty thousand spiritual stones. How could she just go up ask for one from him?

She was extremely depressed in her heart. She really wanted to get her hands on one of Nie Li's words.

Gu Ya revealed a gratified smile at the corner of his mouth as he waved his hand. "Gu Bing, go up and spar with Gu Bei!"

Gu Ya called up another of Gu Heng's underlings. This Gu Bing was a 3-fate Heavenly Fate Realm expert.

An unwavering determination flashed through Gu Bei's eyes as he moved around the stage. He was actually really excited inside. Ever since his sister had been disabled, he'd been pretending to be weak. Every time he sparred, he'd accept an awful beating. Now that he no longer had to suppress his strength, all the pent-up emotions burst forth. He wanted to mercilessly crush Gu Heng's underlings beneath his feet!

Gu Bing leapt onto the stage. Unlike the two before him, he didn't dare to underestimate Gu Bei.

Gu Bei's sword intent made him feel fear.

"I'll admit that we've underestimated you. Your strength has surpassed all of our expectations. Since Elder Gu Ya sent me up here, I definitely won't go easy on you!" Gu Bing said in a solemn voice.

"Suit yourself." Gu Bei shrugged as he quietly looked at Gu Bing.

Gu Bing didn't know why, but he felt a little more nervous at Gu Bei's tranquil disposition. However, he coldly snorted the feeling away and merged with his demon spirit. He'd integrated with a God Level growth rate demon spirit, but it was one with an ordinary bloodline. It was only a 3-fate Scarlet-Titanic Flame Bear. His merged form was three meters tall and bursting with blazing flames.

An overwhelming heatwave rolled over, accompanied by a terrifying aura. Gu Bing began pressuring Gu Bei.

Finally, Gu Bei felt some pressure from the strength of this 3-fate expert before him. However, his heart was boiling as his fighting spirit soared into the sky. He no longer had to conceal his own strength, allowing his power to shoot towards the pinnacle of the 1-fate realm. However, Gu Bei's aura didn't stop there. Pressured by the 3-fate aura, the barrier within Gu Bei's soul realm finally broke.

Gu Bei issued a painfully deep howl as the energy inside his body surged. His cultivation had reached the 2-fate stage as the second fate soul slowly formed within his soul realm.

He'd finally obtained the opportunity for a breakthrough!

A light flashed through Gu Bei's eyes and he suddenly merged with his demon spirit. His body rapidly grew larger, turning into the shape of a gigantic Dragon Bone Winged Tiger. The tiger was five meters tall with a huge pair of skeletal wings protruding from its back, burning with black soul flames and emitted heavy pressure.

A Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit: the Dragon Bone Winged Tiger. Gu Bei's cultivation had just now reached 2-fate level and the Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear was still a stage above him. However, with that kind of demon spirit in his possession, Gu Bei had the absolute advantage.

Roar!

The Dragon Bone Winged Tiger's furious roar made the Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear look like a child!

They were of two completely different strengths!

Chapter 327: Successor's Position

The Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear trembled with fear. It was immobilized by the terrifying pressure of the Dragon Bone Winged Tiger.

The Dragon Bone Winged Tiger lifted its huge palm and slammed the Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear, the wind whistling as it went by.

Boom!

The terrifying energy slammed the Scarlet Titanic Flame bear into the ground. Its bulky legs constantly twitched.

This Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear was on par to a Dragon Bloodline Excellent Level growth rate demon spirit. Furthermore, both Gu Bing and his Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear were already at the 3-fate realm.

However, the Scarlet Titanic Flame Bear was smashed into the ground with just one strike from the Dragon Boned Winged Tiger.

At the sight of this, Gu Ya abruptly stood up. With his keen eyesight and his perception of auras, how could he not sense that Gu Bei's Dragon Bloodline demon spirit had a God Level growth rate?

He couldn't mask the astonishment in his heart. He understood exactly what having a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate

demon spirit meant.

A Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit meant pinnacle pillar strength. Once Gu Bei grew up, he would definitely become an important existence within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Over the years, the Gu Clan had been constantly hunting demon beasts in the outside world and had only obtained two Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirits. One of them had been given to Gu Lan, but since her meridians had been blocked, it was impossible to change the owner. As for the other one, it'd been given to Gu Heng. However, Gu Heng's talent had always been inferior to Gu Lan's.

But now, another Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit had appeared in the Gu Clan!

Where did Gu Bei get that demon spirit from?

Under normal circumstances, demon spirits of that level could only be found in the hands of some major family; they were simply too hard to find. You'd have to kill thousands or even tens of thousands of demon spirits to find one Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirit with a Dragon Bloodline. As for God Level growth rates, those were entirely dependent on luck. Even with the entire family hunting nonstop, the Gu Clan would be lucky to find one after several years.

However, Gu Bei had actually got a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit!

Although Gu Ya had no idea where Gu Bei might have gotten it from, he was certain of one thing. With such a powerful demon spirit, Gu Bei would definitely become second-in-line to the Gu Clan. Furthermore, the first successor's position would also be reconsidered.

Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirits were extremely rare. However, someone with heaven-defying luck might be able obtain one from hunting a Dragon Bloodline demon beast. After all, it was something of low probability. It didn't matter where Gu Bei got it from. The important point was that another talented member of the younger generation had appeared within the Gu Clan!

This matter would shake the entire family!

Gu Heng was watching from the sidelines with unrestrained shock. Gu Bei actually got himself a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit! Suddenly, Gu Heng felt his own position had become unstable.

All this time, Gu Heng had never placed Gu Bei with much importance; but now, Gu Bei had actually become a huge threat.

This brother and sister. One was crippled and still wasn't resigned to the fact. Now the other wanted to come out and fight?

A vicious light flashed across Gu Heng's eyes. Since Gu Bei appeared with the intention of fighting for position, then he

should have a certain amount of confidence. ‘Since that’s the case, then I’ll play with you!’ Gu Heng knew that trying to poison Gu Bei definitely wouldn’t work again. First, Gu Bei would definitely have precautious. Second, if both sister and brother had their meridians clogged, it’d start smelling fishy. The family would investigate the matter to its end. If that happened, then Gu Heng would definitely be suspected and it’d affect his prestige within the family.

He had to think of another way to prevent Gu Bei from growing up!

If Gu Bei intendeds to fight for his position, then Gu Bei would definitely have to build his own force in the outside world. Out there, Gu Heng definitely wouldn’t give Gu Bei any trace of a chance.

Gu Lan, who was sitting on her chair, swept her gaze over Gu Heng. Her expression remained calm, no one knows what she was thinking about. Gu Heng would never expect that Gu Lan had already recovered fully. His opponent wasn’t Gu Bei alone; it was the two of them together!

Gu Bing, who was a 3-fate, had also lost. The bystanders all looked at Gu Ya, curious to see whether Gu Ya would send anyone else to test Gu Bei.

Gu Ya waved his hand as he laughed, “Gu Bei’s test will end here! We will host an urgent meeting of the elders now. All clansmen of the Gu Clan, listen up! Gu Bei will become one of the successor candidates to the Gu Clan. As to the line-up of the successors, we’ll decide that later!”

Gu Heng stood up as he laughed, “Congratulations to Younger Cousin Gu Bei for obtaining a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit and becoming one of the successors as well. I never imagined that this would happen. Younger Cousin Gu Bei has indeed given us a huge shock!”

Hearing Gu Ya’s words, everyone couldn’t help discussing among themselves.

“Gu Bei’s Dragon Bone Winged Tiger is a God Level growth rate demon spirit?”

“Where did his Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit come from?”

“I never imagined that our Gu Clan would have another genius who’d integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit! Although his cultivation can’t match up to the other successors’, with the Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit, he could probably become the second-in-line successor!”

“Second-in-line successor” was probably in Gu Bei’s gasp. After all, within the entire Gu Clan, there were only two people of the younger generation who’d integrated with a demon spirit of such a level!

Very quickly, the news spread. Gu Bei had integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit and became

one of the successors. The news spread so far that even the other families were also made aware. Some were depressed because the Gu Clan's strength had grown again. Meanwhile others were happy that another genius had emerged in the Divine Feathers Sect.

Gu Bei and Gu Heng looked at each other as their fighting spirits started to burn in their eyes. Both of them would undoubtedly fight for the successor's position of the Gu Clan.

Gu Clan.

Gu Ya and the other elders rushed back to the family grounds and soon launched an Elder's meeting.

Dozens of elders sat in the hall of the Gu Clan.

The current Patriarch of the Gu Clan, Gu Tianlong, was seated at the front.

Gu Tianlong's gaze swept past the elders as he asked, "Regarding this matter with Gu Bei, what are your opinions?"

"We have to thoroughly investigate how Gu Bei obtained his Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit." The third elder spoke in a solemn voice as he continued, "Furthermore, he has violated the family rules by integrating with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit without notifying the clan. He should be disciplined. Otherwise, people will start

following his lead and integrating with demon spirits as soon as they obtain them. Wouldn't that ruin the family rules?!"

Gu Ya lightly smiled as a ray of brilliant light flashed in his eyes, "Third elder, you're going to discipline a genius who has integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit? Gu Lan's meridians are already clogged. As her brother, he's also suffered quite a bit. Furthermore, he's been enduring and keeping a low profile. In the end, he amazed all of us with a single brilliant feat. Wouldn't it be too sad to punish him further?"

"However, it's a fact that Gu Bei violated a family rule!"

"There are many who've violated family rules!" Gu Ya looked at Gu Yu as a chill flashed through his eyes. "Gu Heng is also one of them!"

Gu Yu's brows twitched as he asked, "What rule has Gu Heng violated?"

"Hmph, hmph! If you don't want anyone to know, then don't do it! Third elder, do you want me to continue speaking?" Gu Ya glanced at Gu Yu with slanted eyes.

Gu Yu opened his mouth, but remained silent in the end, feeling depressed in his heart. Could Gu Ya have found out the truth? That Gu Heng had poisoned Gu Lan?

All the elders began to discussing as Gu Tianlong remained silent

and pondered for a long while.

Finally, one of the elders turned to Gu Tianlong and said, “Regarding this matter, why doesn’t the Patriarch make a decision? In my opinion, this child, Gu Bei, seems to be a good-for-nothing on the surface. But in reality, he’s been working hard behind the scenes. Add on the fact that he’s integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit, he totally qualifies to be the second-in-line successor.”

“I agree!”

“I agree!”

Very quickly, more than half of the elders agreed for Gu Bei to become the second-in-line successor. Everyone looked at Gu Tianlong, since the final decision was still his.

Gu Tianlong said calmly with a deep voice, “I have decided to make Gu Bei the first-in-line successor. What are you opinions?”

Half of the elders were instantly stunned at those words. Making Gu Bei the second-in-line successor was already shocking enough; however, Gu Tianlong actually wanted to put Gu Bei as the first-in-line successor? What was going on?

“Patriarch, Gu Bei’s cultivation is still insufficient, nor has he established his own force in the outside world. If we were to set him as the first successor of the Gu Clan, doesn’t that seem a little

too impetuous?" the third elder, Gu Yu immediately said as he stood up.

Gu Tianlong glanced Gu Yu. His voice contained a trace of sharpness as he replied, "Gu Heng's character is dishonorable. Although his strength and talent are satisfactory, he still isn't qualified to become the first-in-line successor. For the time being, he will be the second-in-line successor and we will observe him!"

After hearing Gu Tianlong's words, Gu Yu no longer dared to dispute. He sat down, feeling dejected.

The other elders also discussed in soft voices. There should be a reason why the Patriarch made this decision. Gu Tianlong said that Gu Heng's character was dishonorable, but they couldn't see a problem in Gu Heng's usual performance. However, linking it with Gu Lan's meridians had been clogged and that Gu Bei had actually been hiding his talent for many years. It didn't take them long to put two and two together.

"I agree with the Patriarch's decision!"

"I agree with the Patriarch's decision as well!"

In a moment, ninety percent of the elders agreed. Since Gu Bei's current strength was still insufficient, he would be the first-in-line successor in name only. There was no harm in giving Gu Bei the title as it could also be considered some sort of compensation for his years of suffering.

Chapter 328: Second Fate Soul

Gu Heng thought it was a secret that he'd poisoned Gu Lan and clogged her meridians. However, Gu Tianlong and his men had already investigated the truth to its end. However, they faced a problem. Now that Gu Lan was out of the picture, Gu Heng was left as the only one amongst the younger generation who possessed a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate demon spirit; he was the only qualifying successor. If the matter was revealed, then Gu Heng's prestige within the clan would be completely lost. If the Gu Clan couldn't find someone to replace Gu Heng, then the clan's decline would be unavoidable.

After all, a God Level growth rate demon spirit wasn't easy to find.

Gu Tianlong and the others were gratified. When Gu Bei finally revealed himself, he'd already cultivated sword intent and possessed a God Level growth rate demon spirit. Their previous worries were solved. First, they'd remove Gu Heng from his position of first-in-line successor to beat him down a little. Otherwise Gu Heng might really start taking matters into his own hands!

The meeting ended. Few hours later, the elders' decision was made known throughout the Gu Clan.

All of the Gu Clan's clansmen were stunned. They originally thought that Gu Bei would only be promoted to the position of second-in-line successor. They never imagined that Gu Bei would be moved to the first-in-line successor's seat. Many of the

clansmen were unable to digest this news for some time.

They all vaguely sensed that something was up, but no one dared to say anything out loud. After all, this matter could be considered a family scandal.

Who would've thought that the Patriarch would've made the decision so quickly. The news made its way back to the martial field.

Gu Heng felt gloomy when Gu Ya and the other elders had left some time ago. However, he wasn't terribly hung up on it; he thought that the Patriarch would only arrange Gu Bei as the second-in-line successor. He believed his position as first-in-line would still be very stable. However, when he received the news, he was no longer able to remain calm.

He never thought that the Gu Clan would remove him from first-in-line successor. After all, Gu Bei still hadn't established any forces in the outside world!

How could Gu Bei be qualified?

Gu Heng was so angry that his lungs nearly exploded. His blood surged. He wanted to find the Patriarch and demand a reason. However, his rationality returned after a while. It seemed that the Patriarch knew something, so he was trying to give Gu Heng some setbacks! Gu Heng felt even more dejected and looked at the distant Gu Bei. That kid must be feeling very proud right now.

Gu Heng became the second-in-line successor. So what?

Gu Heng narrowed his eyes. Back then, that person had helped him pull Gu Lan down from her position. He would most likely help him again. It's simply impossible for Gu Bei to rise!

Nie Li and his group were chatting amongst themselves.

"I never imagined that the Patriarch would actually make me the first-in-line successor!" Gu Bei was astonished in his heart. He showed a smile and said with narcissism, "Could it be that the Patriarch has noticed that I'm a one-in-ten-thousand genius? That I'm the only man who can save the Gu Clan?"

Nie Li couldn't help rolling his eyes at Gu Bei's words. "You're thinking too much. It's secondary that the Patriarch did something to support you, no matter how talented you are, there's no need to make you first-in-line in one go. He probably did it to give Gu Heng a setback. The Patriarch probably knew about matter between Gu Heng and your sister. However, he couldn't do anything, since that left Gu Heng as the only one with a God Level Dragon Bloodline demon spirit. But now that you've made yourself a second one, they're worried that Gu Heng might try to repeat things. That's why they gave Gu Heng a setback, so they can restrain him!"

Gu Bei smiled, "Gu Heng deserved it! Now that the first-in-line successor seat is no longer his, he'll probably be depressed for some time!"

Gu Lan looked at Gu Bei and said, "Although Gu Heng couldn't

maintain his first-in-line successor position, he's established a powerful force in the outside world. You have none. When the time comes for the final selection of the Patriarch, Gu Heng will still take first because the Patriarch's seat definitely won't be passed to someone who has no foundation!"

Gu Lan's words were meant to warn Gu Bei not to be complacent after becoming the first-in-line successor.

Gu Bei nodded. "I understand, Elder Sister." Although they'd already got some capital to fight against Gu Heng, it was still too shallow. The only way to gain a solid foothold was by building their own forces in the outside world.

Right now, Gu Bei was a little excited in his heart.

Nie Li, Xiao Ning'er, Xiao Yu, along with Gu Bei and Gu Lan, went to watch the other matches.

Gu Heng eyed Nie Li and his group as they left. When he saw Nie Li's figure, his expression turned sullen. That kid "refused a toast and has to be forced". Then so be it. He's been together with Gu Bei and Gu Lan for a while now. Although it was impossible for him to do anything to Gu Bei and Gu Lan for the time being, dealing with Nie Li would be easy.

Gu Heng coldly snorted, "Let's go!"

He lead a group of people and left.

“Nie Li, the sun will rise soon and I’ll have to return to the Heavenly Note Sect with my Junior and Senior Sisters.” Xiao Ning’er raised her head and looked at Nie Li as tears flickered in her eyes. She couldn’t bear the thought of leaving him.

“Alright. Remember to take good care of yourself in the Heavenly Note Sect!” Nie Li patted her on the shoulder and gave her a small smile. Although he felt the sorrow of parting in his heart, after experiencing that endlessly long life, he’d learned to see things more mildly.

Xiao Ning’er looked at Nie Li, turned on tiptoe, and kissed him on the cheek. Her face boiled hot. Just as she was about to turn and run, Nie Li pulled her back he passed her an interspatial ring. “Inside are some spiritual stones and things like Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary growth rate demon spirits. Take them with you and split them up!”

Xiao Ning’er kissed Nie Li and felt embarrassed to death. However, she was pulled back by Nie Li.

“Oh right, I’ve also written some words and placed them inside. If there’s anything you lack, let me know right now.” Nie Li held onto Xiao Ning’er’s hands. He had to admit that her hands were very smooth and soft. He couldn’t help smiling when he saw how embarrassed she was.

Xiao Ning’er’s face was boiling and she couldn’t help stomping her feet.

“If there’s nothing else, then I’ll be going now!” Xiao Ning’er felt embarrassed to death. She didn’t dare to raise her head to look at his eyes.

Nie Li couldn’t help smiling as he watched her leaving. A girl’s heart is like a piece uncarved jade: pure and extremely beautiful. Both Ziyun and Ning’er were people who he’d give up his life to protect!

The Heavenly Note and Skyblaze Sect’s disciples all gathered together. Xiao Ning’er waved to Nie Li from far away.

Mingyue Wushuang couldn’t help glancing at Nie Li before shifting her eyes to Xiao Ning’er with a tranquil smile. It seemed like Nie Li and Xiao Ning’er had a pretty good relationship.

Yan Yang walked over to Nie Li and lightly smiled. “Junior Brother Nie Li, it’s a pity that time was limited and I couldn’t have a good chat with you. I’ll bid you farewell today. If we meet again in the future, or you come to the Skyblaze Sect, please find me anytime. We can have a pleasant chat to our heart’s content.”

“Many thanks to Senior Brother Yan Yang. When such an opportunity presents itself, I’ll definitely pay you a visit!” Nie Li said with his hands cupped. Regardless of anything, building a good relationship with the future Sect Master of the Skyblaze Sect would be the right move!

Yan Yang wasn’t as hard to approach as the rumours said!

What Nie Li didn't know was that Yan Yang couldn't be bothered about ordinary people, or even people like Long Tianming. However, Yan Yang had looked at Nie Li in a new light.

The disciples of the Skyblaze Sect all saw how courteous Yan Yang was acting towards Nie Li. They took note and engraved Nie Li's profile into their minds. If any of them encountered Nie Li in the future, they definitely won't cause a conflict with him. It'd be in their best interest to make things more convenient for Nie Li as well; after all, he was someone who the Holy Son regarded as important!

Even the Holy Son have acknowledged Nie Li. If ordinary people were to provoke Nie Li, they'd definitely receive a miserable lesson from the Holy Son.

In the Skyblaze Sect, Yan Yang possessed an extraordinary position!

"Then I'll go ahead and take my leave!" Yan Yang nodded before he lead the disciples of the Skyblaze Sect and left.

As Ye Xuan left with Yan Yang, he afforded Nie Li one last cold glare. The fact that Xiao Ning'er and Nie Li had spent a night together left a tight knot in his heart. Ye Xuan was even more pissed by the fact that he himself couldn't do anything to Nie Li; he could only secretly hope that Murong Yu would take care of it for him.

Lu Piao and Xiao Xue also bid each other farewell.

The disciples of the two major sects. Nie Li watched Xiao Ning'er wave her little hand as she faded away into the distance.

Xiao Yu couldn't help sighing as he watched Nie Li and Xiao Ning'er bid each other farewell. Indeed, the two of them made a good pair. He turned his gaze into the distance. No one knew what he was thinking about.

After sending Xiao Ning'er off, Nie Li retracted his gaze.

For the sakes of Ziyun, Ning'er, his clansmen, and his friends and brothers, Nie Li knew that he had to raise his strength as quickly as possible. He had to reach the 2-fate realm so that he could head to the outside world, establish his own forces, and compete for power and position within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Together with Xiao Yu and Lu Piao, they returned to the courtyard.

Nie Li immediately entered the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to cultivate. A few hours later, his aura abruptly burst as the second fate soul slowly formed in his soul realm.

Outside of his expectations, this second fate soul was actually blue in colour. One red and one blue. He was stunned as he had no idea what was going on.

An ordinary person’s fate soul should be colourless!

Nie Li opened his eyes from his cultivation state. Everything else was to his expectations. By using the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting as a catalyst, he only needed a few hours to complete his rank-up. However, he was bewildered by the state of things afterwards. Since he couldn’t figure it out, Nie Li decided that there was no use thinking about it.

Nie Li finished consolidating his cultivation, then turned to Yu Yan and Jindan who were cultivating. Both their cultivations had risen a lot compared to before entering the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

After Nie Li finished cultivating, he made a trip to the soul hall and placed his fate soul inside.

Now that he’d finally reached the 2-fate realm, he could finally to the outside world. The best part of the show was about to begin!

Chapter 329: Total Annihilation

The outside world, north of the Divine Feathers Sect. Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

The Ling Jade Deity's Lake was a small floating mountain with springs flowing down its sides. At the bottom of the mountain was a pool of water that occasionally produced spiritual stones.

The Deity's Lake would absorb a large amount of Heavenly Energy from the surrounding area and use it to produce spiritual stones. Because there were many Deity's Lakes around, they thinned out the Heavenly Energy in the Draconic Ruins Realm. However, people could obtain Heavenly Energy from the spiritual stones produced from these lakes.

A Deity's Lake is similar to a flower or a plant in that they have life spans. A Deity's Lake that is within three thousand years old is at its prime, and thus its most flourishing period. It will produce large numbers of spiritual stones annually. Once those three thousand years have passed, a Deity's Lake will gradually begin to dry up.

The Ling Jade Deity's Lake had already existed for five thousand years. At most, it could only produce a few thousand spiritual stones annually. Normally, decently sized forces wouldn't pay any attention to the Ling Jade Deity's Lake. Therefore, this Deity's Lake had become occupied by Hua Ling and his men.

Hua Ling was patrolling the Ling Jade Deity's Lake when he

received some good news which greatly improved his mood. The first was that the Ling Jade Deity's Lake was actually showing signs of recovery. The second was that Xiao Yu had been killed by one of his men. Both pieces of news made Hua Ling rather happy.

Since long ago, Hua Ling couldn't stand Xiao Yu long ago. Xiao Yu always looked down at him with a cold and prideful expression. On top of that, for a man, Xiao Yu's looks were actually even better than a girl's. Everytime he went out, he'd attract screams of excitement from the girls, which greatly annoyed Hua Ling.

"Xiao Yu asked for it. In the future, when he comes to the outside world again, I'll make sure that he's killed whenever I see him! Who let that father of his fight against my father for that position?" Hua Ling coldly snorted, then turned around to look at the Ling Jade Deity's Lake. This was his foundation in the outside world. Every year, they received few thousand spiritual stones from it. Although that wasn't a huge sum, it was still a fairly decent quantity.

Hua Ling had a total of sixty men under him. Every one of them could receive quite a bit every year. Not only that, they could cultivate while they guarded the lake, since no forces came to fight with them over it.

Of course they weren't the only force from the Little Heaven Realm. In the far depths of the outside world, the other Little Heaven Realm experts also occupied their own Deity's Lakes.

While they cultivated, three auras entered their perceptions.

A chilly look flashed through Hua Ling's eyes, followed by a loud peal of laughter. "Xiao Yu that trash still dares to show his face around here? He really is tired of being alive. Did he really think that bringing two others would accomplish anything?"

Hua Ling had a clear perception regarding the powers behind Xiao Yu. There really weren't a lot of experts from the Tiny world; the number of them in the Divine Feathers Sect was even fewer!

Even if they killed Xiao Yu, there was no one who Xiao Yu could seek help from.

However, Xiao Yu actually dared to come! He must have his head sandwiched by a door!

Nie Li, Xiao Yu and Lu Piao stood in the sky and looked at the people stationed by the Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

Nie Li's gaze fell onto the distant Hua Ling.

"Hua Ling, come out!" Lu Piao yelled towards the Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh! Over sixty people flew into the sky.

Hua Ling's eyes fell onto the three of them and the corner of his mouth leaked into a cold smile. "Xiao Yu, it seems like you want to

die even more. While coming to get yourself killed, you actually brought along two short-lived lives!”

“Hua Ling, you had so many people to deal with Xiao Yu. You’re too shameless!” Lu Piao’s left hand was on his hip, while his right hand pointed at Hua Ling. “How should we settle this? Are you going to compensate us or will you kowtow and admit your wrongs?”

“Compensate? Kowtow and admit my wrongs?” Hua Ling laughed as if he’d heard a hilarious joke. “Has your brain been soaked in water? You guys think that this outside world is the same as the Skysoul Institute? You three fools!”

Everyone behind Hua Ling burst into laughter. The three of them really were ridiculous. Just the three of them would dare to joke around them?

Nie Li appeared calm as his eyes swept sharply past Hua Ling and his men. “You hurt my people. For that, you’ll pay the price. Leave everything you have behind; that will be Xiao Yu’s compensation. If you do that, I can spare all of you.”

At Nie Li’s words, Xiao Yu’s face couldn’t help to slightly heating up as he lowered his head. Who knew what he was currently thinking?

“Ridiculous! You demand compensation? In the outside world, the strong feed on the weak. You really are tired of living, since you’re daring to be so arrogant without the strength to back it up.”

Hua Ling waved his hand as he barked, “Brothers, send this trash back to the Soul Hall.”

Sixty people quickly surrounded Nie Li and his friends.

“It was you who said that the strong feed on the weak. That being the case, then there’s nothing else I can do!” Nie Li shrugged he coldly stared at Hua Ling.

When Nie Li finished speaking, a surge of powerful aura had locked onto Hua Ling and his underlings, immobilizing them.

It was an absolute suppression through power!

Li Xingyun had sent a bunch of Heavenly Star Realm experts and one Heavenly Axis Realm expert to heed Nie Li’s orders. As for Hua Ling’s underlings, they were just bunch of Heavenly Fate Realm experts. They were totally not on the same level.

Hua Ling turned his head around with great difficulty and realised that he’d already been surrounded by a group of no less than two hundred people. Hua Ling could recognise the one leading them. These were Li Xingyun’s men!

“Hua Ling, it seems that your memory is a little rusty. Boss Xingyun said to distance yourself from Nie Li. Since you guys refused to take heed, then don’t blame us!” Li Hu said with a solemn voice as a surge of pressuring aura bore down on Hua Ling’s men.

Under that frightening pressure, Hua Ling nearly spat out a mouthful of blood as he felt depressed. It turned out that Nie Li had actually brought help with him. But even if Nie Li and Li Xingyun had a little business relationship with each other, how could Nie Li have gotten Li Xingyun to send so many people to help him? Hua Ling couldn't figure it out; after all, Nie Li doesn't have any family background!

Li Xingyun's Heavenly Path League was an extremely powerful force among the armies of the younger generations. It wasn't something that Hua Ling could confront!

"Boss Xingyun and I have no bad blood, so why is he helping them fight me?" Hua Ling looked at Li Hu as he asked in dejected tones.

"That's none of your concern! Right now, we obey Young Master Nie Li's orders. All your fates are in his hands!" Li Hu said with disdain. If it wasn't for Li Xingyun's orders, people like Hua Ling wouldn't be worth his time!

"Kill them all!" Nie Li's voice sounded solemnly. Indeed, it was just as Hua Ling had said. In the law of the outside world, the strong prey on the weak. Countless numbers of people competed and killed each other to obtain more cultivating resources so that they could grow stronger.

These people killed Xiao Yu. As the saying goes, "if you give them an inch, they'll ask for a mile". Unless Nie Li and co. return a tooth

for a tooth to Hua Ling and his men, then they'd grow bold and outrageous!

Li Xingyun's underlings closed in on Hua Ling's men.

In order to avoid danger, Li Xingyun had arranged two hundred people to accompany Nie Li. Quite a few of them were Heavenly Star Realm, while one was a Heavenly Axis Realm: Li Hu.

Hua Ling understood that trying to be humble now was useless. His face went cold as he looked at Li Hu. "I don't understand why Li Xingyun would help those three fellas fight against me! What I want to say is that the Little Heaven Realm isn't that easy to pick on. If you guys kill us, then you'll have a war against the experts of our Little Heaven Realm! Doesn't Li Xingyun fear the vengeance of the experts of Little Heaven Realm? Li Xingyun is just the third in line successor of the Ashen Flames Family! Making many enemies would only harm, no benefit him while he's competing for the Patriarch's position!"

Hua Ling tried to persuade Li Hu, but his words were useless.

For anyone other than Nie Li, Li Xingyun definitely wouldn't have spent such a huge force to annihilate Hua Ling and risk making enemies. However, this was Nie Li he was talking about. Nie Li had given him a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. What could such a small favor be considered?

Li Hu casually smiled, "Are you threatening us? Our Heavenly Path League has never feared anyone before! If you want to start a

war, so be it!”

Hua Ling’s last hope was shattered by Li Hu’s words. “If that’s the case, then today I, Hua Ling have fallen. However, I’ll definitely seek vengeance!”

Suspended in midair, Li Hu released palms of energy. Boom Boom Boom Hua Ling and his men exploded and blood rained from the sky.

This was a one sided massacre!

Lu Piao was speechless inwardly. After interacting with Li Hu for so long, he knew that Li Hu was absolutely loyal to Li Xingyun and followed behind him like a servant. However, he never expected that Li Hu’s strength was so powerful. Even though there were so many Heavenly Fate Realm experts, they were all killed in just one minute.

Li Hu’s strength had fully suppressed Hua Ling and his men.

Killing this bunch of Hua Ling’s could also be considered taking revenge for Xiao Yu!

“Young Master Nie Li, these are the interspatial ring retrieved from Hua Ling’s group!” Li Hu made a pulling gesture through the air, sucked the interspatial rings from Hua Ling and his men, and passed them over to Nie Li.

If you die in the outside world, you drop everything you have on you, including interspatial rings and artifacts. Everything gets left behind and taken by someone else. Therefore, people usually didn't bring items that were too precious. That's why the interspatial rings collected from Hua Ling and his men didn't have many good items inside.

Nie Li looked at Li Hu and smiled, "Many thanks to the brothers of the Heavenly Path League for your help. Since your brothers have come to help us, how can I let them return empty-handed? Why don't you split these among yourselves?" With a move of his right hand, Nie Li threw an interspatial ring, which contained a large quantity of spiritual stones, over to Li Hu.

Li Hu hurriedly followed up. "This task was entrusted to us by our Young Master. How can we have the cheek to accept your item?"

"No worries. It's only right of me to do this. You guys ran an errand for me, so I should at least pay the toll booths along the way. Otherwise, wouldn't it make me look petty? I'll speak to Li Xingyun. If you don't accept it, then you're not giving me any face!" Nie Li straightforwardly laughed.

Li Hu pondered for a moment, then decided not to reject the interspatial ring. He stored it away.

"You guys wait here awhile, I'll be back in a bit!" Nie Li flew over to the distant Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

Chapter 330: Opening Of The Demon League

In reality, the people from the Heavenly Path League also had some complaints stored in their hearts. Two hundred people had been sent to deal with the likes of Hua Ling. That was far too many than needed. It was just a waste of their time! However, since it was Li Xingyun who'd sent them, they didn't dare to voice their complaints.

And when Li Hu split the spiritual stones that Nie Li had given him, all their pent-up complaints evaporated entirely.

Nie Li was indeed generous to give so many spiritual stones at once. When the stones were split among them, each person actually received fifty spiritual stones. Such a simple trip had earned them so much, so of course they were happy about it. Such a sum was actually even more than their monthly allowance. For just one trip, Young Master Nie Li had actually given out ten thousand spiritual stones!

Great heavens! Such wealth was simply too shocking!

Li Xingyun had sent two hundred people just to help Nie Li deal with Hua Ling and his men. Now, they were starting to see why Li Xingyun treated Nie Li with such value. This Young Master Nie Li definitely wasn't a simple man! These people had spent years in the Draconic Ruins Realm and knew that such fortune was almost unheard of. All of them immediately withdrew their contempt and dissatisfied thoughts.

When they saw Nie Li fly over to the Ling Jade Deity's Lake, Li Hu and the rest looked at Nie Li in confusion. What was he going to the Ling Jade Deity's Lake for?

Although the Ling Jade Deity's Lake did produce spiritual stones, it was only a few thousand, annually. Nie Li was able to shell out tens of thousands of spiritual stones in one go, so why would he bother with such a paltry sum of spiritual stones?

Xiao Yu and Lu Piao wanted to follow him, but Nie Li stopped them. They stood and watched as Nie Li reached the Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

The Ling Jade Deity's Lake.

Nie Li's calves were submerged in water as he quickly wrote inscription patterns.

The inscription patterns fell, one after another.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The patterns blasted into the depths of the Deity's Lake and caused the water to splash around. Nie Li's mysterious inscription pattern arrays quickly gathered at the bottom of the Deity's Lake. The entire lake started to shake intensely.

The inscription pattern array emitted a dazzling light. Then, in the depth of the lakes, a black shadow slowly floated up. Though

the shadow was a little snake-like, it definitely wasn't a snake.

This was the origin of the Deity's Lake, the legendary Deity Root!

Mysterious things were born in the depths of the Draconic Ruins Realm, and this Deity Root was one of them. It's said to possess intelligence and is deep underground, absorbing the essences between Heaven and Earth. After being nurtured that way for thousands of years, it would gradually amass a mountain of earth and slowly float into the sky, forming a Deity's Lake. Then, it would produce spiritual stones and it grew from absorbing the ambient Heavenly Energy.

No one else knew about the existences of the Deity Roots, since they concealed themselves deep inside the earth and made themselves hard to find. When a Deity's Lake dried up, the Deity Root would also disappear. The only way to remove a Deity Root from the earth was to use special inscription pattern arrays.

Nie Li extended his hand and grabbed the Deity Root. The root struggled, trying to escape.

Trying to run? Not so easy!

With a flick of his right hand, Nie Li threw it into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

The first Deity Root, captured!

The captured Deity Root would be nurtured within the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Although the Ling Jade Deity's Lake was nearly dried up, it was still better than nothing!

Nie Li flew back.

Li Hu saw Nie Li take something from the Deity's Lake, but he couldn't tell what it was.

Nie Li smiled as he arrived back. "Let's go!"

The group returned.

After Nie Li and his group left, the floating Ling Jade Deity's Lake began crumbling and rapidly fell from the sky.

The Ling Jade Deity's Lake thoroughly disappeared.

Several days later, Hua Ling led a huge group of people and returned to that place. At this moment, where was the Ling Jade Deity's Lake? When Hua Ling saw it, he roared furiously and veins popped out all over his body. "Nie Li! Li Xingyun! Killing me wasn't enough?! You actually destroyed my Deity's Lake?! I will definitely seek revenge!"

Hua Ling couldn't understand it. Just killing them should've been enough, so why did they destroy the Deity's Lake? Who the hell would destroy a Deity's Lake after killing its occupants? Weren't they taking this grudge too far? The Ling Jade Deity's

Lake only produced a few thousand spiritual stones per year. Was there really a need for them to be so ruthless?

In the outside world, fighting over and stealing others' Deity's Lakes was a common occurrence. But no one had ever destroyed a Deity's Lake after killing its owners.

Just what was going on?!

Hua Ling was so angry that his lips were trembling. This was utterly heartless!

Without the Ling Jade Deity's Lake, it'd be hard for Hua Ling to provide for all of his men with just his own earnings. He didn't have the strength to fight for a new Deity's Lake either. Destroying Deity's Lake, this grudge is absolutely irreconcilable! As he thought about his destroyed Deity's Lake, Hua Ling had the urge to vomit blood.

Xiao Yu's courtyard.

Nie Li was quietly cultivating in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. The Deity Root that he'd previously captured had already formed another floating mountain with a small Deity's Lake at the bottom.

Furthermore, Nie Li sensed that this Deity Root was receiving an extremely large amount of nourishment in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. The quantity of Heavenly Energy in the

Draconic Ruins Realm was extremely thin; therefore, there was a limit to how much Heavenly Energy a Deity Root could absorb. However, the amount of Heavenly Energy in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was simply endless.

The Heavenly Energy flowed like a tidal wave into the Deity's Lake.

Once nourished by Heavenly Energy, Deity Roots would start to flourish as they matured.

The Deity's Lake was producing more spiritual stones than it ever had before.

Indeed, the interior of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was the most suitable place to nurture a Deity's Lake! Nie Li didn't know why, but none of the previous owners of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting did not nurture Deity's Lakes within the painting. What Nie Li didn't know was that the scenery of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting didn't always look like it did now. After enduring many great battles, the landscape within the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting returned to its original state.

Nie Li concentrated on his cultivation. By coincidence, the Skysoul Institute's League Hall was hosting an event that helped leagues recruit new members.

Gu Bei and Lu Piao were yelling loudly.

“The Demon League is recruiting! Twenty spiritual stones a month and all kinds of bonuses! Those with Earth Spiritual Roots get thirty spiritual stones a month. Those with Heaven Spiritual Roots get forty spiritual stones a month!”

“No deadline, those who sign the league contract get an allowance of thirty spiritual stones immediately!”

Once an expert signed a contract, they would be bound to it. Despite that, the majority of the newcomers still joined various large forces. When an expert reached 2-fate, they’d head for the outside world. However, a person’s strength is insufficient! In order to obtain more resources, it was a must for them to be part of a larger force.

Gu Bei and Lu Piao’s loud yelling attracted attention.

Many people crowded in their direction. Usually, a newcomer would only receive an extremely low allowance upon joining a large force; ten spiritual stones a month was already pretty good. But Gu Bei and Lu Piao were offering several times that amount, per month!

However, many people were still hesitant. Before these newcomers joined a force, they’d make sure that their potential boss had prospects. After all, once the contract was signed, its effects would always be in place, unless special circumstances occurred. If they broke their league contracts, it’d be hard for them to gain a foothold within the Divine Feathers Sect. They’d become objects of disdain.

The newcomers stood in groups, discussing it amongst themselves.

“Where are these two from?”

“Don’t you know? That youth is Gu Bei! It’s confirmed that he had integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit and promoted to the first-in-line successor’s seat of the Gu Clan!”

When the newcomers heard that, their eyes lit up. The first-in-line successor of the Gu Clan. Who knows, he might become the Gu Clan’s Patriarch in the future! Furthermore, Gu Bei had yet to establish any forces of his own in the outside world. If they joined now, once Gu Bei became the Patriarch of the Gu Clan, they’d become honorable subordinates who helped raise the dragon!

This was definitely a great temptation!

Furthermore, Gu Bei was also giving such shocking and tempting conditions.

Soon, one after another, the newcomers started signing the league contract with Gu Bei.

However, these newcomers quickly realised that the boss of the Demon League wasn’t Gu Bei, but actually someone else. Curiosity arouse within them for this mysterious person. Just who was this person? To make someone like Gu Bei serve him willingly?

The other recruiters all dumbfoundedly watched the flood of newcomers moving towards Gu Bei and Lu Piao. Only a few headed in their own direction.

After all, the difference in salary was too much!

They looked at the salary that they themselves were offering and looked at the salary that Gu Bei was offering. No one spoke a word. Even some of the recruiters felt the urge to join the Demon League.

“Take it easy, take it easy!” Lu Piao immediately shouted after he realised that too many people were crowding over. However, his face still betrayed his excitement.

He never thought that so many people would be willing to join Demon League, especially since they’d just formed it. As Lu Piao looked down on the crowd, he couldn’t help imagining them conquering the world. With just a wave of his hand, thousands or tens of thousands of experts would flood the sky and ground. He became even more excited at the thought of it.

Gu Bei proudly announced what Nie Li had told him. “As long as you spare no effort for the Demon League, we’ll definitely treat you fairly. As long as you come to our Demon League, we’ll give each of you a suitable cultivation technique that could help you reach the Martial Ancestor Realm. If you reach the Heavenly Star Realm, we’ll give you a Grade 3 Artifact. If you reach the Heavenly Axis Realm, we’ll give you a Dragon Bloodline demon spirit with an Excellent or even Extraordinary Level growth rate! Mark my

words, the words of Gu Bei!”

When everyone heard Gu Bei’s announcement, the excitement bubbled up to another level.

This kind of treatment was simply too shocking! Not to mention one Martial Ancestor Realm cultivation technique for everyone! He was actually giving artifacts and distributing Dragon Bloodline Excellent and Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirits?! Great heavens!

Everyone felt their blood boiling. Finally, some of the hesitating geniuses made up their minds to follow Gu Bei!

The recruiters from other factions gloomily looked at their empty areas. The boiling voices of the Demon League recruiters depressed them even further. Just what was going on? This was simply defying the rules! Wasn’t Gu Bei afraid of plunging the Gu Clan into poverty?

Chapter 331: Medium Grade Deity's Lake

After one entire day, Gu Bei had recruited a total of six hundred people. The majority of them were of the Heavenly Fate Realm and three of them were Heavenly Star Realm experts. For various reasons, those three Heavenly Star Realm experts hadn't joined a faction before. However, after seeing the generous terms of the Demon League, they decided to join.

The other factions only recruited about a dozen people in a day.

But just in one day, the size of the Demon League had swelled to over six hundred people. It was about time that they moved out and occupied a Deity's Lake or two.

Gu Bei's newly established force attracted the attention of various other factions. However, due to Gu Bei's status, no one dared to start a conflict with the Demon League. Are you joking? Gu Bei was the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan! If they provoked him now, what would happen when he became the Gu Clan's Patriarch? Wouldn't they be inviting a storm-like revenge?

Nie Li had taken that into consideration, which was why he'd asked Gu Bei to help him recruit. As for those whom they aren't on good terms with, like Gu Heng and Murong Yu, it didn't matter what they did. Those people would still go against them. Only the forces that had no conflicts with them would take care not to offend Gu Bei. On the contrary, they might even send some people to establish good connections.

Once the Demon League finally started its mad expansion, it'd be huge. People like Gu Heng, Hua Ling, and Murong Yu had their eyes turning red. The Demon League had formed only recently and they'd already expanded such a degree. If this continues, would people like themselves have a place left in the future of the Divine Feathers Sect? Their hearts would be extremely down.

Xiao Yu's courtyard.

After the Deity Root is placed into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Certain thoughts proceeded to cross his mind. One Deity Root wasn't enough. He needed several more, at the very least. That way, they'd continue to produce lots of spiritual stones which he could use to support an enormous force!

After experiencing defeat in his previous life, Nie Li understood something. Fighting alone wasn't the way to win. If he wanted to win against the Sage Emperor, Nie Li would have to establish his own enormous force that could contend against him! Only then, would he be able to destroy the seal that the Sage Emperor had imposed on the endless time and space.

The Sage Emperor had control over the space inside the Draconic Ruins Realm. He was the true ruler of the Ancestral Demonic Saint Land.

In his previous life, only the inhabitants of the mysterious Ancestral God Land had the power to confront the Sage Emperor. However, the Holy Maiden of the Ancestral God Land suddenly disappeared and the entire Ancestral God Land was burned to the ground by golden flames. Only then did the Sage Emperor become

the most domineering existence.

Before the Ancestral God Land was destroyed and the darkness descended, Nie Li had to establish his own power that could confront the Sage Emperor!

The first step was to ascend to the Sect Master's position of the Divine Feathers Sect!

Over the next month, Nie Li, Gu Bei, and Lu Piao reorganized the entire Demon League and imparted Martial Ancestor Realm cultivation techniques to the members. After that, they picked out members with decent characters who were worth being groomed, and prepared to turn them into true elites and the backbone of the Demon League.

The entire Demon League entered into intense training.

During this period, Li Xingyun visited several times to teach Gu Bei and Lu Piao how to lead their underlings, how to be impartial with reward and punishments, and when to retreat or advance as an army. Gu Bei and Lu Piao to grew quite a bit from these lessons.

Although the Demon League hadn't truly stepped into the outside world, they'd stirred the attention of the Skysoul Institute and became the focus of attention for many people.

Gu Bei looked at Nie Li as he bitterly smiled, "Nie Li, the Yin League released a notice stating that if we dare to head to the

outside world, they'll hunt us!"

"The Yin League?" Nie Li furrowed his brows for a brief moment, "What kind of force is that?"

"It belongs to the Yin Clan. Their existence is second to the three major families. The one leading is called Yin Wufeng, and he's the first successor of the Yin Clan. He's roughly in the Heavenly Axis Realm and has close connections with Gu Heng. Since Gu Heng belongs to the Gu Clan, it isn't a good idea for him to show his face. That's why he's borrowing the hands of the Yin League to suppress our Demon League," said Gu Bei.

"I understand. But this isn't much. Quite a fights are a given if we want to gain a foothold in the outside world. Right now, it'd be too hard for us to deal with the Yin Clan head on. Therefore, we need to rely on Li Xingyun's hand to help us slowly expand. I've already spoken with him, and his underlings will bring ours into the outside world!"

"What about you?" Gu Bei curiously asked.

Nie Li mysteriously smiled. "I have other matters to attend to."

Gu Bei was a little curious, since he had no idea what Nie Li was planning to do. However, he didn't ask.

The day gradually darkened. Nie Li paid a visit to Li Xingyun's courtyard. Together with Li Xingyun, they headed to the outside

world.

“Brother Nie Li, I’ve already contacted a seller for you. Why would you want to buy almost dried up Deity Lakes?” Li Xingyun asked out of curiosity.

An almost dried up Deity’s Lake could only produce a few thousand of spiritual stones a year, not to mention the fact that they’d have to send some people to look after it. There wasn’t much profit there.

However, that was because Li Xingyun is rich and wealthy. For people like Hua Ling, an almost dried up Deity’s Lake was extremely important to them.

“Of course have a use for it, but I wish for Brother Li to keep it a secret!” Nie Li lightly smiled. Since he’d placed the Deity Root into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, it formed itself a new Deity’s Lake and was producing two to three thousand spiritual stones per month.

And it wasn’t just spiritual stones!

Nie Li was shocked. Usually, it was rare for a Deity’s Lake to produce something like spiritual stone essence. Even high grade Deity’s Lakes had a one in a thousand chance of it. However, the Deity’s Lake within his Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting actually produced three spiritual stone essences in a month!

One spiritual stone essence was equivalent to a thousand spiritual stones!

After the numbers were crunched, the sheer quantity of spiritual stones that the Deity's Lake produced was shocking.

Even the most pricy dried up Deity's Lake would take only about six or seven thousand spiritual stone to purchase. All Nie Li needed was two months to earn it back. And he'd still gain a profit on top of that!

Under Li Xingyun's lead, Nie Li met a blue-robed youth. This youth pointed at the mountain in the distance and said, "That's the Fiery Rain Deity's Lake. Since you're a friend of Boss Xingyun, I'll go ahead and warn you. This Deity's Lake doesn't have much prospects. It only produces two thousand spiritual stones a year. If you want it, five thousand spiritual stones will do!"

This blue robed youth, guarded this Deity's Lake along with seven others. They depended on it to gain some spiritual stones.

Li Xingyun looked at that blue robed youth and said, "Teng Ze, Nie Li is my brother. Three thousand five hundred spiritual stones, no second price!"

Hearing Li Xingyun's words, Teng Ze pondered for a brief moment. Then he bitterly smiled and said, "Alright then. Since Boss Li Xingyun said so!"

Nie Li paid three thousand five hundred spiritual stones to Teng Ze and completed the transaction.

Teng Ze's group left.

"Those guys have been guarding this Deity's Lake. Although it's nearly dried up, there are still people trying to snatch it. Who knows when it'll land in the hands of others? They should be happy with three thousand five hundred spiritual stones in their pocket. They probably couldn't ask for better!" Li Xingyun smiled, "Although we could've snatched it from them, your methods are more just. Those who're just deserve help; those who're unjust deserve to be neglected. We can't bully and humiliate others just because they're weak."

"Yeah." Nie Li smiled as he nodded. Then, he went up high into the sky before landing on the Deity's Lake and began to scribbling inscription patterns on it.

Li Xingyun's eyes widened as he looked at Nie Li. Just what was Nie Li planning to do?

Then, Li Xingyun saw Nie Li grab the Deity Root of the Fiery Rain Deity's Lake and quickly store it. He asked in shock, "What was that?"

He never expected that there'd be such a thing in the Deity's Lake.

“This is the Deity Root. Without it, the Deity’s Lake will crumble very quickly. You absolutely cannot tell this secret to a second person. Otherwise, the consequences will be extremely severe!” Nie Li warned in a serious tone.

“Understood!” Li Xingyun couldn’t help feeling a little surprised as he nodded his head seriously.

Another Deity Root acquired! Not only that, but it was through a transaction instead of force. It was a faster method and didn’t offend anyone.

Next, with Li Xingyun’s help, Nie Li acquired another seven Deity Roots. Added the two previous ones, Nie Li had a total of nine Deity Roots. These Deity Roots would be nourished and grow in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. In the future, they’d produce an endless amount of spiritual stones!

Of course, Nie Li didn’t plan to end it at that. He planned to take in more Deity Roots!

Nie Li thought for awhile before he said to Li Xingyun, “Brother Li, do you have any Deity Lakes to sell me?”

Li Xingyun made a difficult expression as he said, “I won’t hide it from Brother Nie Li. I control a total of three low grade Deity Lakes. These they’re all pretty decent and produce twenty to thirty thousand spiritual stones a year. They’re the foundation to the huge force I control. But if Brother Nie Li wants them, I can give one to you!”

Nie Li had given him a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. How could a low grade Deity's Lake compared?

"There's no need to gift it. I'll buy from Brother Xingyun. Price-wise, how about a hundred thousand spiritual stones?" Nie Li said as he lightly smiled. He'd been wondering just how many spiritual stones a Deity's Lake that wasn't nearly drying up could produce?

"No need for that. I insist on gifting it. Brother Nie Li has given me a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. If I, Li Xingyun couldn't even take out one low grade Deity's Lake, I'd be too petty. Luckily, I've discovered an unmanned medium grade Deity's Lake in the depths of the outside world! The only problem is that the Deity's Lake is guarded by Dragon Bloodline Demon Beasts and I couldn't make up my mind to attack it. It just so happens that I can make use of this chance to lead my men to attack that medium grade Deity's Lake!" Li Xingyun smiled.

Although Li Xingyun appeared relaxed, Nie Li understood that since Li Xingyun wasn't willing to attack that medium grade Deity's Lake. This meant that the Dragon Bloodline Demon Beast guarding wasn't a small matter.

Nie Li thought awhile, then opened his mouth and said, "I'm interested in that medium grade Deity's Lake. Could Brother Li bring me to it and let me have a look?"

Li Xingyun was slightly shocked when he heard that. He immediately replied, "Brother Nie Li, it's best if you don't go. That

place is too dangerous!”

Chapter 332: Formally Becoming A Disciple

Nie Li looked at Li Xingyun and lightly smiled. “Danger is unavoidable. But right now, I’m already at 2-fate, so what is there to worry about? If Li Xingyun could protect me and help me reach the heart of the Deity’s Lake, it’d be greatly appreciated!”

At Nie Li’s words, Li Xingyun’s heart slightly shook as looked at Nie Li and understood his true meaning.

Since Nie Li had a way to remove the Deity Root, all Li Xingyun needed to do was escort Nie Li to the heart of the Deity’s Lake.

Trying to get that medium grade Deity’s Lake would still be rather difficult, since there were many Heavenly Axis Realm Dragon Bloodline Demon Beasts guarding it, and even one of the Dao of the Dragon Realm. If Li Xingyun wanted to strike down that medium grade Deity’s Lake, his own forces alone were insufficient. He would have to form an alliance with other forces.

But if he did join forces, then the distribution of the rewards from that medium grade Deity’s Lake would no longer be his decision alone. That was also why Li Xingyun couldn’t make up his mind about attacking the medium grade Deity’s Lake.

Compared to take over the Deity’s Lake, just entering the heart of it would be much easier.

Since Nie Li needed his help, how could he refuse?

“Alright! Since Brother Nie Li needs it, I’ll make a trip with my men and help Brother Nie Li capture the Deity Root of that Deity’s Lake!” Li Xingyun nodded, “When will we move out?”

“Two days from now!” Nie Li said after a brief thought. Once placed in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, a medium grade Deity’s Lake would definitely produce a shocking quantity of spiritual stones. Therefore, it was definitely worth the risk!

Li Xingyun nodded. “Alright. I’ll go and gather my men to fight for this success!”

Nie Li followed Li Xingyun and reached a Deity’s Lake that was guarded by five to six hundred people. All of them were Li Xingyun’s underlings. This Deity’s Lake was also one of Li Xingyun’s safehouses in the outside world.

Li Xingyun began gathering his men from the area.

Ever since Nie Li had obtained those Deity Roots, he could feel a trace of energy flowing out from the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting and nourishing his soul. Suddenly, he felt some insight, so he sat down in an empty area near the Deity’s Lake and began cultivating the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique.

Among all the cultivation techniques, the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique was one of the most powerful to exist

between heaven and earth. As time passed, Nie Li slowly floated into the air as surges of violent and majestic energy rotated around him.

Complicated inscription patterns revolved in his soul realm, around the mysterious vine.

Slowly, the vine's first flower bud bloomed and released a clear and fresh fragrance that filled his entire soul realm.

After that, his two fate souls also started blazing as the impurities inside were slowly removed, and they were purified. The instant that fragrance was released, Nie Li felt his entire body heating up as though he was engulfed in flame.

Boom!

His soul realm felt as though it'd exploded. Nie Li's face turned ashen pale and beads of sweat dripped from his face.

Although he had no idea as to what kind of cultivation path he was walking, Nie Li still relied on his senses to keep refining his fate soul. The third fate soul began forming within his soul realm.

Time passed. One hour, two hours.

Fwoosh!

Another fate soul ignited in Nie Li's soul realm. He hadn't expected himself to enter 3-fate so quickly. Furthermore, this fate soul was actually yellow in colour.

Red, blue, and yellow.

These mystical fate souls baffled Nie Li. He could also sense his own cultivation was getting out of his control. Sometimes, it'd be extremely slow. No matter how many spiritual stones he absorbed, his cultivation wouldn't budge. Other times, he'd miraculously rank up with no challenges at all.

Was it because of the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting?

However, it's still a good thing that his cultivation had risen.

Nie Li continued to consolidate his cultivation on 3-fate.

Suddenly, outside the Deity's Lake, a vigorous figure flew over. A beautiful girl.

"Who are you?" Li Xingyun's underlings immediately surrounded her.

Long Yuyin stood still as she observed the people surrounding her. Finally she said, "My name is Long Yuyin! I'm here to look for Nie Li! I'm his disciple!"

Everyone exchanged glances. They'd heard that Long Yuyin was from the Dragonseal Family. As to whether she was really Nie Li's disciple, they had no idea if that was true. However, since Long Yuyin's cultivation was only at Heavenly Fate Realm. That was entirely within their control.

One of the Heavenly Star Realm experts said, "Young Master Nie Li is currently cultivating. You cannot approach him. You may only sit here to wait for his cultivation to end!"

"Okay," Long Yuyin nodded in acknowledgement.

Long Yuyin sat on a stone dozens meters away from Nie Li and stared at him as he cultivated. The aura on Nie Li made her feel a powerful pressure.

She had no idea what cultivation technique Nie Li was practising.

Long Yuyin only realised it recently. Everything that'd happened before only gave her confirmation. Nie Li's comprehension on the Martial Dao had reached an absolutely unimaginable height.

Since the beginning, aside from her original master, he was the only one who she'd accepted!

Only Nie Li could lead her to the pinnacle of the Martial Dao!

Therefore, she'd decided to be Nie Li's disciple!

Even though Nie Li was Ying Yueru's disciple, and that'd mess up the seniority between them, Long Yuyin didn't care. To someone like her who was obsessed with the Martial Dao, something like that was trivial. How could those common views obstruct her determination towards the Martial Dao?

Right now, Nie Li was still in the middle of cultivating; therefore, she could only obediently sit to the side and wait.

Nie Li was still immersed in his cultivation as he constantly operated his newly-formed, third fate soul. The power of the fate soul surged as it decorated itself around the the vine. Nie Li sensed a surge of energy entering the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. The strength of his demon spirit was rising like crazy. 1-fate, 2-fate, 3-fate. Gradually, it surpassed Nie Li's own cultivation, only stopping after reaching 5-fate.

Luckily it was bound by the vine; otherwise, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon would definitely struggle free.

Nie Li quickly condensed his cultivation and withdraw his own power. In order to avoid letting the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon go out of control, he couldn't let its strength raise any higher.

The strength of a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit was indeed formidable. Although the Fanged Panda and Shadow Devil demon spirits were also around 5-fate, the battle strength of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was several folds above them.

After a long while, Nie Li finally opened his eyes. When he did, Long Yuyin's clear and elegance cheeks entered his line of sight.

"Why are you here?" Nie Li asked in puzzlement.

Long Yuyin stood stiff and straight as she puffed out her chest. "I've thought about this for a long time when I got home. I've decided that I want you as my master! Please take me as your disciple!"

When Nie Li saw how serious Long Yuyin was being, he was slightly stunned. Finally, he smiled and said, "This is against customs. You're my Master's Junior Sister, but you want me to be your master?" Nie Li waved his hand, "Forget it!"

Finishing his words, Nie Li turned around and started to walk away.

"Wait!" Long Yuyin stopped Nie Li. "That's not a problem. In the path of the Martial Dao, anyone who's attained understanding of the Martial Dao can be a master! Please, accept me!"

Nie Li turned back and looked at Long Yuyin's anxious, yet unyielding face. He understood that once Long Yuyin made a decision, even nine bulls couldn't drag her back. This woman really was too obsessed with the Martial Dao. Long Yuyin should've sensed that aside from Nie Li, there wasn't a second person who could guide her in the Martial Dao.

“Are you joking?” Nie Li smiled as he continued walking. In his heart, he’d actually started to wonder if accepting Long Yuyin as his disciple wasn’t a bad idea.

“I’m not joking. I’m serious about it,” Long Yuyin immediately followed up. “As long as you’re willing to take me as your disciple, I’ll agree to anything you ask of me!”

“Are you sure?” Nie Li turned his head as he looked at Long Yuyin with a smile that wasn’t quite a smile.

“I’m sure!” Long Yuyin nodded, though she hesitated for a brief moment before she continued, “As long as it’s not something that will betray the Divine Feathers Sect or my family!”

“Really?” Nie Li took several steps toward Long Yuyin, until he was only a single step away from her. He was close to being in contact with her chest. The corner of his mouth curled into a sinister smile as he lowered his head to see Long Yuyin’s face, leaving only a tiny distance between them.

As she noticed Nie Li’s posture, Long Yuyin’s chest heaved up and down as her face blushed all the way down to her neck. She lowered her head as her heart pounded wildly. Both her fists were clenched and her breathing seemed to have quickened a little. However, after she thought about it, she still stubbornly raised her head and looked at Nie Li.

Long Yuyin’s skin was pearly white. She was picturesque and he

could faintly smell the scent of a woman from her body. Nie Li had to admit that her fiery temper aside, she was definitely a beauty.

Nie Li was just teasing Long Yuyin a little bit. Looking at how nervous she was, he couldn't help laughing as he retracted his gaze and turned around. "Okay, then!"

Although she had a stubborn and fiery temper, she was still an inexperienced young girl.

"What?" Long Yuyin raised her head and asked in a trembling voice. She never expected Nie Li to actually agree so straightforwardly.

"I can take you as my disciple, but it'll depend on your performance. If I'm not satisfied, I'll kick you out!" Nie Li said as he lightly smiled. All the events were progressing as he'd expected. He knew that Long Yuyin would definitely seek him out. He also knew that once she made up her mind, it was simply impossible to make her give up. It was just that Nie Li didn't expect Long Yuyin to use the method of Master and Disciple.

Long Yuyin gazed at Nie Li's silhouette for a moment, then happily quickened her steps and followed up.

Chapter 333: Heaven's Divination Technique

Long Yuyin lightly chewed her lip, before asking, "Then, Master, may have a look at your 'sword'?"

"Sword intent is not suitable for you. I'll write another one for you to slowly comprehend!" Nie Li smiled. He was well aware that Long Yuyin was hung up on that.

"But I still want to give it a try!" Long Yuyin said. She still felt rather unresigned in her heart. Why could Gu Bei comprehend it, but not her?

"Alright then. But there are thousands of paths on the Martial Dao, everyone has something that they're good at. Comparing your shortcomings against the strengths of others is a silly thing to do," Nie Li lectured sincerely. "Once it takes the form of obsession, one could become stuck that realm, forever unable to take a step forward."

Long Yuyin's heart shook at Nie Li's words. She nodded, "Yes."

Seeing how serious Long Yuyin was, Nie Li smiled and couldn't help thinking that the current Long Yuyin was just an ignorant young lady. What did she encounter in his previous life that'd change her into that vicious woman? However, there was no way that Nie Li could investigate those past events.

After his rebirth, it's pretty good if he could reform Long Yuyin.

Next, he'd have to get Long Yuyin to participate in the competition for the Dragonseal Family's Patriarch's seat.

Nie Li looked into the sky, showed a solemn look and sighed. "In this universe, there are many things that you're unaware of."

"What is Master speaking of?" Long Yuyin asked in puzzlement.

"Aren't you at all curious? Even though I'm the same age as you, my insight in intent has greatly surpass yours? That's because I know many things that many people in this world don't. Martial Ancestor Realm isn't the limit to the Martial Dao. In this world, there's an absolute existence called the Sage Emperor. He's sealed the once endless space and time and controls the three worlds within the Draconic Ruins Realm. Once someone emerges to go against his absolute authority, he'll ensure them a miserable death. In the hundreds of thousands of years, there've been countless numbers of people who've divinated fate and fought against time and space just to confront him."

Nie Li's words made Long Yuyin's eyes widen. What Nie Li was saying was simply unimaginable to her.

Nie Li continued, "There are many things that you're unaware of. Only those who've learned the Heaven's Divination technique could come in contact with this. Ancestral Master Phaseless, Ancestral Master Profound Sky, and your Master, Venerable Witchfeather of the Divine Feathers Sect, all wielded the Heaven's Divination technique. The technique constantly evolves within

their body. Before it reaches the pinnacle, they'd have to die; otherwise, it'd bring annihilation to the Divine Feathers Sect. That's because when the technique reaches the pinnacle, the Sage Emperor would be able to divinate their existence! Those who've practice the Heaven's Divination technique are the mortal enemies of the Sage Emperor!"

"In the tens of thousands of years, the number of supreme geniuses who've died at the hands of Sage Emperor is simply countless. He wants to maintain his absolute supremacy!"

"Naturally, there are some people who've rebelled against him. Many geniuses who wield the Heaven's Divination technique have tried all sorts of methods in order to reverse the seal on timespace and fight against the Sage Emperor. However, no one has succeeded."

At Nie Li's words, Long Yuyin vaguely understood.

Back when her Master, Venerable Witchfeather, died she'd said to her, "Heaven is brutal and humans are destined to break. Millions of souls will not die in vain. Long Yuyin, time will have an end, and the life of each person is just a node to the boundless time and space. You don't have to mourn me. But no matter what, you must not practise the Heaven's Divination technique! Only one inheritor for the Heaven's Divination technique is needed!"

The Heaven's Divination technique was a powerful cultivation technique that had once aroused Long Yuyin's strong curiosity. She wanted to learn it. However, it was snatched away by Ying Yueru and she wasn't able to learn it.

So that was the truth!

Long Yuyin's heart trembled as tears flickered in her eyes.

Didn't that mean that her Senior Sister, who'd learned the Heaven's Divination technique, could die at any time?! Long Yuyin's misunderstandings towards Ying Yueru were lifted along with her doubts. Now, she couldn't help worrying for her Senior Sister.

Nie Li looked at Long Yuyin as he said in a low voice, "Long Yuyin, everything that I'm planning to do is meant to confront the Sage Emperor. Are you willing to help me?"

At Nie Li's words, Long Yuyin looked deeply into his eyes. So it turns out that Nie Li was actually so selfless and great! Fighting the Sage Emperor was a task that no one had ever succeeded. However, Nie Li still didn't back down. He'd set his heart to it.

"No matter what you ask of me, I'll listen to you!" Long Yuyin said seriously.

Nie Li looked at Long Yuyin as he said, "Long Yuyin, facing the Sage Emperor alone won't be enough. I want you to gain control of the Dragonseal Family and become its Patriarch!"

At Nie Li's words, Long Yuyin's face went blank, "You want me to become the Patriarch of Dragonseal Family? How could I

accomplish that? After all, Long Tianming is so much stronger than me!”

Nie Li looked at Long Yuyin as he seriously said, “Once you’ve set your heart to it, it can definitely be done. Your talent isn’t worse than Long Tianming’s, it’s just that he started cultivation way earlier than you. Furthermore, you also have a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. Now that you have me to guide your cultivation, you’ll definitely surpass Long Tianming in time! But before that, I need you to form a force in the outside world under your name. I will fully support you with that!”

At Nie Li’s words, Long Yuyin’s blank gaze gradually turned clear and firm as she nodded, “Okay, I’ll listen to you!”

“You have the Blood Dragon Bloodline flowing within your body. There are still some crucial meridians that have yet to unlock. Once those meridians are unlocked and all of your potential is released, your strength will rise to a frightening stage. That kind of power isn’t something that Long Tianming can touch either. Since I’m your Master, I’ll help you open up your meridians! We’ll find a secret location someday to settle this matter for you!” said Nie Li.

Unlock the meridians in her body?

Although she couldn’t quite understand Nie Li’s words, Long Yuyin had a feeling Nie Li’s words weren’t false. Once her meridians opened, what kind of level would her strength reach?

Long Yuyin couldn’t help raising her expectations.

If Long Yuyin could help him take control of the Dragonseal Family, then Nie Li would be a step closer to being Sect Master of the Divine Feathers Sect.

In order to fight for the Sect Master's position, there were still many key qualifications that needed to be fulfilled! Even people like Long Tianming had yet to fulfil them. Therefore, Nie Li could afford to take it slowly.

A brief moment later, Li Xingyun returned. When he saw Long Yuyin beside Nie Li, he became stunned, before laughing and giving Nie Li a thumbs up.

Nie Li really was powerful. He just saw Xiao Ning'er off not long ago, and here he'd already made another beauty surrender to him. Furthermore, it was that Long Yuyin, who was renown for her fiery temper. When he how obediently Long Yuyin was, standing beside Nie Li, Li Xingyun was suspected that his eyes were deceiving him.

Indeed, when a vicious woman meets a man who can subdue her completely, she'll lose her viciousness.

Nie Li knew that Li Xingyun had misunderstood, so he bitterly smiled. "It's not what you think. She was just asking me to be her master!"

Li Xingyun was stunned for a moment, then he nodded and smiled, "Okay then, I still think that she's your woman!"

Long Yuyin's face turned red and she became embarrassed hearing Li Xingyun's words.

Li Xingyun sure was direct. He didn't give a second thought about Long Yuyin's face as a lady.

In reality, Li Xingyun rather admired Nie Li. Whatever the relationship between Long Yuyin and Nie Li was, he was still well aware of her temper. It's said that she'd even crippled her fiancé. And yet, she stood beside Nie Li so obediently.

"Brother Xingyun, Long Yuyin has decided to fight for the Patriarch's seat of the Dragonseal Family. If she wants to establish her own force in the future, I'd like to ask Brother Xingyun to help her out." Nie Li lightly smiled.

Hearing Nie Li's words, Li Xingyun was stunned for a moment. This was even more shocking to him.

Somehow, Gu Bei had become the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan. Under Nie Li's instigation, Long Yuyin had also decided to fight for the Patriarch's position. Without anyone knowing, two families were already inside Nie Li's pocket. And Li Xingyun as well was was being forced to participate in the competition for the Patriarch's position of the Ashen Flames Family.

Was this a coincidence?

Or was it all by Nie Li's intentions?

If this was intended, then it was simply too shocking!

Li Xingyun reasoned it out a little. His business transactions with Nie Li should've been purely by coincidence; therefore it couldn't have been by Nie Li's intentions.

Li Xingyun recovered from his thoughts and lightly smiled. "Rest assured. Leave this matter to me. Before Gu Bei and Long Yuyin's forces have fully grown, I'll definitely do my best to aide them."

Long Yuyin said, "It'll be easy to establish a force of my own. Some of my father's subordinates are all near retiring since I wasn't fighting for the Dragonseal Family's Patriarch position. But once I decide to fight for it, they will definitely return at my call."

This was part of the reason why Long Yuyin's position within the Dragonseal Family was so special.

She wasn't the first-in-line successor, but her father could afford to leave behind a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit for her. One could imagine how powerful her father once was.

Since some old subordinates were still loyal to Long Yuyin, no one in the Dragonseal Family dared to touch her. Even if she was only the seventh-in-line successor, she didn't regard Long Tianming very highly.

Nie Li somehow understood why his Master said that Long Yuyin was a crucial point towards his plan to become the Sect Master of the Divine Feathers Sect!

Once Long Yuyin obtained the Patriarch position of the Dragonseal Family, then it'd be easier for Nie Li to fight for the Sect Master's position. However, Long Yuyin still had to step over Long Tianming if she wanted to get the Patriarch's position!

However, Nie Li wasn't anxious about that. He could take these matters slowly.

After arranging a few more things, he asked Long Yuyin to return ahead of him and her gather her father's subordinates.

Three days later, Li Xingyun brought Nie Li along and a few of his men to the depths of the outside world.

Chapter 334: Mantis Stalks the Cicada [*]

Li Xingyun gathered over five hundred people. Sixteen of them were Heavenly Axis Realms, and thirty-six were Heavenly Star Realms. This was all in order to help Nie Li obtain that medium grade Deity's Lake. You could say that Li Xingyun was doing his very best.

Nie Li said, "Brother Li, please tell your brothers that if we succeed, those who've accompanied us will earn two hundred spiritual stones. If someone dies, a Heavenly Fate Realm will receive an extra one hundred as compensation, a Heavenly Star Realm will receive two hundred, and a Heavenly Axis Realm will receive five hundred! I will be the one to pay them!"

Li Xingyun turned to Nie Li in shock as he thought about it. Right now, Nie Li was a moneybag, so of course he'd be generous about it. "In that case, I'll thank you on behalf of my brothers!"

"That's what I should be doing." Nie Li lightly smiled.

Li Xingyun brought so many brothers to risk their lives in the outside world. Although all these experts willingly heeded Li Xingyun, there was certain to be complaints in their hearts if they weren't given any form of compensation, even if they didn't voice them aloud. Nie Li was helping Li Xingyun resolve the issue.

Li Xingyun felt that his interactions with Nie Li were just too good for comfort.

When everyone heard Nie Li's announcement, they were extremely excited. Once they succeed, the reward would be extremely generous.

The group gradually moved deeper into the outside world.

As Nie Li and the group flew on, a different group of people followed them from a distance.

Their leader was Gu Heng, with a total of seven hundred people in tow. Quite a few of them were Heavenly Axis Realm and Heavenly Star Realm experts.

The Heavenly Axis Realm experts that Gu Heng sent to scout had returned.

Gu Heng looked at the Heavenly Axis Realm expert and asked, "Have you investigated their intentions?"

"Report, Boss Gu Heng, I've used the Sound Gathering technique to eavesdrop on their conversations. It seems that they've discovered a medium grade Deity's Lake deep in the outside world and are preparing to take it down," the Heavenly Axis Realm immediately reported.

A medium grade Deity's Lake?

Gu Heng's eyes lit up at the Heavenly Axis Realm expert's report. A trace of smile smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. "I never

expected them to discover a medium grade Deity's Lake! There'll definitely be lots of Dragon Bloodline demon beasts guarding it! Li Xingyun can be the mantis stalking the cicada while we're the siskin behind. [2] We'll wait until they've taken down that medium grade Deity's Lake, then we'll take action and snatch it from them. Let them suffer a waste of effort!"

Hearing this, Gu Heng's men became excited.

A medium grade Deity's Lake has extraordinary value!

"Boss Gu Heng, Li Xingyun's forces aren't small at all. In fact, they're comparable to ours. If we snatch their Deity's Lake, wouldn't it invite their vengeance?" one of his underlings voiced his worries.

"Fool! With that medium grade Deity's Lake on our side, is there anything to fear from them? When we take that Deity's Lake from them, there'll certainly be a huge quantity of spiritual stones gathered there. At least tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands, or even millions of spiritual stones. There'll still be lots of spiritual stone essences as well. With all those spiritual stones, we can recruit some experts to keep watch over that medium grade Deity's Lake. After that, what could Li Xingyun possibly do to us?" Gu Heng's brows twitched. Although Li Xingyun's forces really weren't small, Gu Heng had been the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan for so many years. How could his force be inferior? How could he fear Li Xingyun?

Who asked him to protect Nie Li anyways?

Nie Li and Gu Bei, the two of them must die!

Gu Heng led his men after Nie Li and Li Xingyun.

Nie Li and Li Xingyun's group flew on for a while before one of Li Xingyun's underlings quickly flew to the front with a report.

"Boss Xingyun, we're being followed!" the underling whispered in a soft voice.

"Followed? Who is it?" Li Xingyun asked with his brows frowned.

"We're still unsure. There seems to be six to seven hundred people. After sensing them, I immediately came up to report and didn't dare alert our enemy!"

"Well done." Li Xingyun nodded as he exchanged looks with Nie Li.

Although they didn't know who the other party was, their intentions were easy to guess. Most likely, the intel about the medium grade Deity's Lake had been leaked. Someone was trying to pluck their peaches while their backs were turned!

"What are we going to do next? Since we're already here, we can't hide the medium grade Deity's Lake anymore." said Li

Xingyun. Right now, it was too late to retreat.

The enemy would definitely find the location of the medium grade Deity's Lake!

After pondering for a moment, Nie Li said, "There's no reason to rush. Since our motive isn't to occupy that medium grade Deity's Lake, but to remove the Deity Root. The other party definitely won't know our motive. They'll think we're struggling with the guardian of the Deity's Lake. Since we're on guard, they get won't pull one over us!"

Indeed, their aim wasn't to win the medium grade Deity's Lake, but to remove its Deity Root. That was something that the other party definitely wouldn't think of!

Li Xingyun pondered for a brief moment, then and his eyes lit up with a sudden idea. If they wanted to follow, then so be it! He, Li Xingyun, wasn't someone who feared others!

Their group advanced further in the outside world. Along the way, they carefully hid from the Dragon Bloodline demon beasts that would occasionally streak over the sky.

A majestic Deity's Lake appeared in front of them at a distance. The size of this Deity's Lake was roughly three times that of the Ling Jade Deity's Lake. This floating mountain had a densely packed forest with many scarlet winged snakes entrenched in it. Some of these demon spirits were roughly a dozen metres long, while others were only a few metres.

At the mountain's summit sat a gigantic Infernal Lightning Winged Snake that was dozens of metres in size. Its scales were a dazzling scarlet luster.

"Those are Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes. They're extremely irritable and they're extremely territorial. If any living creature, other than their own, approaches, they'll take the initiative to attack." Li Xingyun continued, "One of the Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes is at Dao of the Dragon Realm. Its extremely strong and commands over thirty Heavenly Axis Realms."

Nie Li looked into the distance and said, "We'll go in as originally planned. Send some Heavenly Axis Realm experts to lure them from the west side. They only need to lure, no need for a hard battle. After that, take a small group and escort me in!"

"Alright, leave it to me," Li Xingyun said as he nodded.

As Li Xingyun and his group closed in on the Deity's Lake, Gu Heng's men slowly enveloped them. However, they were just watching from afar and carefully concealing themselves. They didn't plan to move just yet.

Gu Heng's heart was filled with excitement as he looked at the medium grade Deity's Lake from a distance. After all, all the lakes that they'd occupied in the past were low grade Deity's Lakes. A medium grade Deity's Lake was extremely hard to obtain. Who knew how old this Deity's Lake was? Who knew how many years it'd gone unharvested?

After Li Xingyun and his group finished making preparations, they began taking action.

Gu Heng and his men waited for a long time; however, there weren't any movement in the distance.

"What are they doing?"

"No idea. It doesn't look like they're trying to take down that medium grade Deity's Lake!'

Gu Heng couldn't understand Li Xingyun's actions anymore. They weren't intending to attack it from the front. He suddenly thought of a possibility. Could it be that they weren't interested in taking down the Deity's Lake, but instead only wanted to stealing the accumulated spiritual stones?

Gu Heng furrowed his brows. If that was the case, then there was nothing in it for him!

When Li Xingyun and his group successfully removed the spiritual stones, they'd place it into their interspatial rings. Even though Gu Heng had so many people on his side, trying to stop Li Xingyun would still be difficult.

"No. We'll follow up and obstruct them in their retreat!" Gu Heng said solemnly after some thinking.

Under Gu Heng's lead, the group slowly approached the medium grade Deity's Lake.

Li Xingyun and Nie Li stood beside the lake and exchanged glances with light smiles.

"Let's begin!" said Nie Li.

On the west side of the Deity's Lake, six of Li Xingyun's Heavenly Axis Realm experts charged at the Deity's Lake and started their attacks.

Those six Heavenly Axis Realm experts killed several low grade Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes with their strength, causing a disturbance among the demon spirits as those demon spirits charged at them.

A group of Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes were attracted. Not long after, another group of six Heavenly Axis Realm experts charged into the Deity's Lake, attracting the attention of another batch of Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes.

Tssss! Tssss!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor that on the summit swept an eye over the area. Those few Heavenly Axis Realm experts weren't enough to make it feel threatened. However, it still remained on alert.

Demon beasts and humans alike wanted to snatch this Deity's Lake from it. Who knew if there might be some expert concealed in the area!

If these humans thought that it'd fall for their trick so easily, then they've seriously underestimated its intelligence!

On the east side of the Deity's Lake, Nie Li and Li Xingyun exchanged glances. If that Dao of the Dragon Realm Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor didn't leave, it'd be hard for them to reach the heart of the Deity's Lake!

However, they still patiently waited for their chance. This was just the beginning of their plan!

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[1] Pursuing a narrow gain while neglecting a greater danger behind.

[2] The mantis preys on the cicada while the siskin preys on the mantis. While Li Xingyun and his group are after the Deity's Lake, Gu Heng's men will be waiting for them from behind.

Chapter 335: Bastard

Suddenly, an explosion sounded from the bottom of the Deity's Lake. The entire lake began quaking, as if it were about to crumble.

The rupture inscription patterns that Nie Li had placed were finally doing their job.

It was impossible for the rupture inscription patterns to destroy the Deity's Lake, but it still caused quite a considerable commotion with its series of explosions.

At last, that Dao of Dragon Realm Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor couldn't stand it anymore. What a huge commotion! Was someone trying to destroy its Deity's Lake?

Woosh!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor soared into the sky. With a woosh, it turned into a streak of light, on its way to see what was going on at the bottom of the Deity's Lake.

Once the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor left, Nie Li and Li Xingyun immediately took action.

Their window of opportunity wasn't very large!

Nie Li and Li Xingyun entered the Deity's Lake. The remaining

Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes realised that strangers were invading. They flapped their wings and pounced towards Nie Li and his group.

“Kill them!” Li Xingyun barked and immediately charged forward with his men.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A chaotic war burst out as Li Xingyun and five hundred of his men attacked the Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes.

“Brother Nie Li, we’ll stall them! You go in! Hurry!”

“Yes!” Nie Li nodded as he merged with his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, flapped his wings, and flew down.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nie Li collided with several Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes; however, he powered through with his powerful physique.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

More infernal lightning attacks struck Nie Li, but thanks to the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon’s physique, Nie Li possessed a powerful resistance towards fire-attribute attacks. Therefore, he didn’t suffer many injuries.

Three Heavenly Star Realm Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes surrounded Nie Li, trying to stop him. However, Li Xingyun and his men quickly intervened.

Swords flashed and blood splattered. The three Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes were diced and sent writhing as they fell from the sky.

At last, Nie Li broke through the heavy siege, landed on the Deity's Lake, and rapidly laid down his inscription patterns. One by one, the designs fell into the lake and blasted its bottom.

There were many spiritual stones and spiritual stone essences lying at the bottom of the Deity's Lake, but Nie Li didn't give them a second thought as he continued to focus on writing the inscription patterns.

Li Xingyun and his men entered a harsh battle that brought death to many of his subordinates. However, many of the Infernal Lightning Winged Snakes were also being killed.

As Li Xingyun and his men were caught up in a heated battle, the enormous Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor appeared again. This was their king, a demon spirit of the Dao of Dragon Realm. Once it realised that the bottom of the Deity's Lake were just merely explosion, it quickly returned to the surface find Li Xingyun and his men closing in on the Deity's Lake. It was instantly enraged.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor shrouded itself in a rolling cloud of Infernal Lightning and dived down. Its blazing flames seemed as though they were trying to melt everything.

Li Xingyun and his group never expected the emperor to return so quickly. His face changed as he barked, “Get over there and obstruct it!”

Li Xingyun’s voice sounded

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Countless figures charged the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor.

The emperor hissed as it flicked its red tongue and ruthlessly whipped its tail.

The tail struck dozens of people, turning them into explosions of flesh, burnt to ashes. Among them were a few who were at least of the Heavenly Star Realm.

The strength of that Dao of Dragon Realm Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor was unimaginable.

However, there were still many people who charged towards it.

While Li Xingyun and his men were fighting, Nie Li concentrated

on writing inscription patterns.

The inscription patterns dived downwards into the lake and gradually merged into one huge inscription pattern array, emitting a dazzling luster.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor issued an angry roar as it sensed the array. All of a sudden, it charged downwards.

Li Xingyun's face went cold. He couldn't allow that Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor to approach Nie Li. Otherwise, everything that they'd done up to now would end up in vain.

"Move together!" Li Xingyun furiously roared as he lead his remaining men and charged the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor.

Li Xingyun roared and merged with his Dragon Bloodline God Level Demon Spirit. His subordinates also merged with their own demon spirits.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor furiously spat out more flames, filling the sky and turning the area into a flaming sea. Hundreds of people were instantly vaporized. The flames also headed in Nie Li's direction.

Li Xingyun, who'd already transformed into a Gold-Scarlet Blooded Jiao-dragon, brandished his sharp claws and dispersed the flames. In the process, his palms were charred black.

“Your opponent is me!” Li Xingyun coldly stared at the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor. Although the emperor before him was of Dao of Dragon Realm, Li Xingyun didn’t feel the slightest fear. On the contrary, a powerful fighting spirit burst forth from him.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor never expected that an ant would actually dare to challenge the likeness of itself. It locked its aura on Li Xingyun, roared, and pounced with wings flapping.

That terrifying might instantly bored down on Li Xingyun, pressuring him to the point where he couldn’t move.

“Boss Xingyun, be careful!” Two Heavenly Axis Realm experts charged the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor.

Boom! Boom!

The two Heavenly Axis Realm experts died from the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor’s impacts.

Li Xingyun managed to escape, but when he saw that two of his brothers had been killed in front of him, his field of vision instantly turned red. However, the emperor’s powerful bursts of aura made him realise that, at his current strength, it was impossible for him to confront it. Instead, just obstructing its path would be enough!

Li Xingyun exhaled a dragon's breath from his mouth that exploded at it landed on the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor. However, his dragon's breath was unable to cause any damage to the creature.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor swept a glance at Li Xingyun. This demon spirit had an intelligence that was comparable to a human's; it could tell that Li Xingyun was only trying to stall it. The linchpin was that human standing in the middle of the Deity's Lake!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor ignored Li Xingyun and charged towards Nie Li.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor got closer and closer to Nie Li and it breathed its flames towards him.

"No!" Li Xingyun wanted to charge up there, but it was already too late. He was way too slow compared to the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor.

Nie Li was about to be devoured by the blazing heat, but he continued calmly writing the inscription patterns, until the design was finished. A snake-like object flew up from the center of the lake, struggling as it went.

This was the Deity Root of this Deity's Lake!

Nie Li grabbed the Deity Root and threw it into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Now that he'd finally gotten his hands on it, a smile showed at the corner of his mouth.

The moment Nie Li obtained the Deity Root, he merged with his Shadow Devil and activated its void-form.

Boom!

Flames blasted the Deity's Lake, evaporating the water upon contact. A thick, white steam filled the sky.

How dangerous!

Nie Li dodged the flames and immediately moved away from the lake, quickly flying out. The steam had created a good cover for his escape.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor blankly stared at the lake for a while; it hadn't realised what had actually happened. It still thought that it'd killed Nie Li. As it stared into the depths of the Deity's Lake, it could sense that something was off; however, it couldn't tell exactly what that "something" was.

Back while Li Xingyun was fighting the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor, Gu Heng was observing from few meters away with his men.

“Haha! It seems that Li Xingyun’s men were beaten quite badly!” Gu Heng said, feeling a little joy at Li Xingyun’s misfortune. That Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor was too powerful. After Gu Heng pondered for a moment, it was best for them to not provoke it.

After coming all the way here and realising that he couldn’t do anything, Gu Heng felt a little unhappy. He could only look at the medium grade Deity’s Lake in front of him and feel gloomy.

Suddenly, the Deity’s Lake filled with cracks and started to crumble.

What was going on?

Gu Heng was stunned for a moment. Why would a perfectly good Deity’s Lake suddenly crumble?

Only now did the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor react. It didn’t know what the intruders had done to its Deity’s Lake, but it could sense that the lake’s strength was being sucked dry. Rage filled its heart. Someone was actually trying to destroy its Deity’s Lake!

Those damnable humans!

As that was happening at the Deity’s lake, something happened thousands of metres away. Another aura had appeared.

The person who'd been standing at the heart of the Deity's Lake wasn't dead!

That person definitely took something from the Deity's Lake!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor flapped its wings and chased after Nie Li. Its entire body turned scarlet red as it became consumed with rage.

The moment Nie Li appeared, a pair black and white wings quickly unfurled behind him. He became like a meteor, streaking away through the sky.

"Brother Xingyun, don't follow me. Take your brothers and quickly retreat!" Nie Li yelled as he ran. At that moment, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor definitely had its eyes on him. If Li Xingyun were to follow, there'd definitely be an increase in casualties.

Li Xingyun frowned for a moment. Nie Li had obtained the Deity Root, but it should be stored in his interspatial ring. If Nie Li died, then the Deity Root would be gone! However, under the current situation, he didn't too much time to dwell on it. He followed Nie Li's suggestion and led his men in retreat.

What Li Xingyun didn't know was that Nie Li's Deity Root wasn't inside an interspatial ring; it was actually inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, which was fused with Nie Li's fate soul. Such a treasure wouldn't drop, even if Nie Li was killed.

Therefore, as he ran, Nie Li made mental preparations for his own death.

After all, escaping from the claws of a Dao of Dragon Realm Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor wasn't going to be easy. If at all possible.

However, Nie Li suddenly saw Gu Heng's men from afar. An idea flashed across his mind and he flew in Gu Heng's direction.

Gu Heng was rejoicing at the carnage that'd been wrought on Li Xingyun's army. But suddenly, he noticed a figure turn into a streak of light and fly in his direction. That person was Nie Li. Behind him was the titanic Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor, roaring as it emitted frightening might from its body. It was an existence that was at least of the Dao of Dragon Realm.

Gu Heng's smile froze on his face, then turned black and he cursed, "Nie Li, you bastard! Everyone evacuate!"

Chapter 336: Failed To Steal The Chicken *

Nie Li violently charged into the middle of Gu Heng's group.

An instant later, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor caught up and smashed into them too.

"Mommy!"

"Save me!"

Gu Heng's large army instantly devolved into chaos.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor was simply going way too fast. When its titanic body slammed into Gu Heng's army, it instantly crushed dozens of them. When it bellowed out flames, dozens more were instantly turned into ashes.

It was a was an invincible existence!

Gu Heng was dumbstruck as he stared at the scene. He lead a small group of people, turned tail, and fled.

Gu Heng didn't have any thoughts about confronting that Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor. After all, it was a Dao

of Dragon Realm existence!

Nie Li's eyes located Gu Heng. The slight lift at the corner of his mouth turned into a faint smile. Nie Li knew that he couldn't escape death. But since Gu Heng was here, then Nie Li have to be sorry. He flapped his black and white wings, turned into a streak of light, and charged in Gu Heng's direction.

Realising that Nie Li was behind him, Gu Heng started cursing in rage. "Bastard! Don't follow me! If you follow me, I'll guarantee you a gruesome death! Nie Li, I'll definitely have your soul destroyed!"

Although Nie Li was only at Heavenly Fate Realm, he was extremely fast. His speed wasn't any inferior to Gu Heng's!

However, what made Gu Heng even more afraid was the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor's speed. It was gaining on them.

Nie Li flapped his wings as he charged onward, closely tailing Gu Heng. He said fakely, "Young Master Gu, I'm not going this on purpose. That Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor keeps following me and I have no idea where to run!"

"Go die by yourself! Don't drag me down with you!" Gu Heng continued cursing as he flew.

"I'm not trying to drag Young Master Gu down, I don't really have a choice. Why don't you send some men over to delay it for a

bit? If you'll do that for me, then I won't follow you anymore!" Nie Li was grinning. He couldn't help feeling joy at the sorry state of Gu Heng and his men.

Gu Heng's lungs nearly exploded from the anger. Nie Li was simply shameless! He wants him to send people to delay that snake so that he can escape?

"Everyone, delay that man! Stop him here!" Gu Heng roared. Several of his underlings turned around and went to stop Nie Li.

Powerful aura locked onto Nie Li, which slowed him a little.

After all, Nie Li was only a 3-fate while Gu Heng had many Heavenly Star Realms serving him. They thoroughly blocked his path.

It looked like Nie Li wasn't going to be able to escape. However, everything had already gone as expected. Making Gu Heng lose so many men was the cherry on top.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor behind them suddenly opened its mouth and breathed out blazing flames.

Boom!

The flames penetrated through Nie Li's body. He instantly blacked out.

Since coming to the outside world, this was his first death.

After killing Nie Li, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor was confused for a moment. Nie Li's aura had completely disappeared; however, nothing fell from his body. This human definitely took something from the Deity's Lake. So why couldn't it find the stolen object?

From a distance, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor could see its Deity's Lake crumbling, but it didn't know why or how to stop it. Its heart was filled with rage.

This bunch of cunning humans! That one must have passed the item to someone else while escaping!

A ferocious light flashed through the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor's eyes. In a fit of rage, it turned into a streak of light and massacred the surrounding people.

Gu Heng felt a sense of peace when he saw Nie Li die. That hateful fellow finally wasn't chasing after him anymore. That means that the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor should stop chasing them too!

However, when Gu Heng turned around to look, he was frightened stiff. After Nie Li was killed, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor had gone on a rampage and started a massacre. It chased after his men and killed them one by one.

After all, it was an Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor of the Dao of Dragon Realm; Gu Heng's underlings didn't stand a chance.

After it'd killed several dozen of his men, and started coming towards Gu Heng himself. Gu Heng became scared stiff.

"Hurry! Protect me as we retreat!" Gu Heng barked.

Gu Heng's men nearby gathered around him, desperately running while protecting him.

After that Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor killed dozens of people, its eyes landed on Gu Heng's small entourage. Thanks to its intelligence, a single look told it that Gu Heng was the most important person among that group. All the others were protecting him in his escape!

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor flapped its wings, ignoring the other experts and chased after Gu Heng.

At the sight of this, Gu Heng instantly understood what was going on and gloomily cursed, "Don't follow me, lure that snake away!"

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

The group dispersed.

But even after the group had dispersed, the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor continued to chase after Gu Heng.

At the sight of this, Gu Heng was simply speechless. There were so many people, so why was this Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor going after him? He felt the urge to cry.

The Infernal Lightning Winged Snake Emperor quickly pounced on him.

As that was going on, Li Xingyun had completed the evacuation with his subordinates. They'd lost over two hundred men this time. As for Gu Heng's side, Li Xingyun didn't give a damn. It'd be wiser for them to leave before the Infernal Lightning Winged Snake started eyeing them.

Soul Hall of the Skysoul Institute

The Soul Hall was a majestic construct, with a spacious interior. Pitch-black metal boxes hovered around, densely packing the air. The few hundred of them crowded together looked like a strange world.

Suddenly, a yellow soul emitted a dazzling luster as a body gradually formed.

Six to seven hours later, Nie Li walked out from the Soul Hall.

His cultivation had dropped to 2-fate. For the time being, his fate soul was still unstable; therefore, he couldn't place it in the soul hall. Which meant that he couldn't head for the outside world.

He had to wait for his fate soul to stabilize!

Although his cultivation had returned to 2-fate, Nie Li felt that something was off. There were still three fate souls inside him: red, blue, and yellow. Except that the yellow fate soul seemed to be slightly weaker.

Usually, when dropping from 3-fate to 2-fate, a fate soul should be extinguished. However, Nie Li's fate soul was still there.

Since his fate soul hadn't been extinguished, he could cultivate it back very quickly!

Nie Li stretched his body a little. The profits from this trip to the outside world this time were enormous. He'd acquired a medium grade Deity Lake's Deity Root. He wondered how many spiritual stones that Deity Root could produce in the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting? Even though he'd died to get it, it was still worth it.

Li Xingyun and his men saw Nie Li from far away and stood up.

"Pity, we weren't able to protect you. That Deity Root was also lost, right?" Li Xingyun bitterly smiled at Nie Li.

Nie Li shook his head as he smiled, “I still have the Deity Root! Many thanks to Brother Xingyun!”

Hearing Nie Li’s words, Li Xingyun was slightly stunned. He didn’t know how Nie Li had kept the Deity Root, even when he died. However, since he had the Deity Root, this trip wasn’t wasted.

“Let’s head to Brother Xingyun’s courtyard!” Nie Li lightly smiled.

“Okay.” Li Xingyun nodded.

Just as they were about to leave, a stream of people flowed out from the Soul Hall.

They were all Gu Heng’s men!

From far away, they saw Gu Heng coming out with a black expression. When he saw Nie Li and Li Xingyun, he was as if he’d seen his enemy.

Li Xingyun smiled when he Gu Heng’s condition. “Oh, if it isn’t Young Master Gu? What happened to you? Why’d you come out from the Soul Hall?”

“Li Xingyun, Nie Li, remember this. I’ll definitely remember

this!” Gu Heng said as he ground his teeth.

“Young Master Gu is too heavy with your words. How have we offended you, that you’d say something so heartless?” said Li Xingyun as he faked innocence. But in his heart, he was beyond happy. Gu Heng and his men tried to steal his peaches while his back was turned. But in the end, they failed to steal the chicken and ended up losing the rice; they paid for it with their lives.

Gu Heng felt like his heart was bleeding. He’d brought over seven hundred people with him. Although he didn’t know how many had died, he knew that it was more than just three or four hundred. He knew that if he stayed in front of the Soul Hall, he’d only be mocked by Li Xingyun and Nie Li. He said with a sullen face, “Don’t get too happy. Better start watching your backs from now on!”

Gu Heng led his men and left.

As they watched Gu Heng and his men leave, the corner of Li Xingyun’s mouth turned up. In the outside world, he’d experienced all sorts of battles. At least tens of thousands of them, or at the very least, thousands. There wasn’t anyone who he feared!

Nie Li smiled, “This will probably make Gu Heng depressed for a long time. Let’s go!”

Together, they headed for Li Xingyun’s courtyard. Nie Li did a few quick calculations and estimated that he’d spent at least tens of

thousands of spiritual stones for Li Xingyun's subordinates. However, that was nothing but a hair from nine oxes to Nie Li.

After finishing his business, Nie Li returned to Xiao Yu's courtyard and concentrated on his cultivation.

The day gradually darkened and the bright moon rose into the sky.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

The sound came from outside.

Nie Li opened his eyes and stood up. When he opened the door, he saw Long Yuyin standing there. She wore a white dress and appeared so different from her usual self that Nie Li was almost unable to recognise her. Usually, she like to wear tight-fitting clothes, which made her look heroic and formidable. But today, she gave a different impression.

The white dress gave her a touch of gentleness. Nie Li had to admit that Long Yuyin truly was a beauty. No matter what she wore, she'd always look good in it.

"Master, could you help me open my meridians today?" Long Yuyin looked at Nie Li with eyes of hope. Nie Li had told her that he could open her meridians and unleash all of her potential. For someone like her, who was obsessed with the Martial Dao, there was no way that she could endure waiting. She rushed over the

moment she'd heard that Nie Li had returned.

She wondered what it'd feel like once her meridians were opened.

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[1] The full idiom is "failed to steal the chicken, and ended up losing the rice". Means that they tried to gain an advantage, but ended up worse off than before.

Chapter 337: Opening The Meridians

Long Yuyin was deeply curious about Nie Li's mysterious cultivation technique and the Martial Dao intent that he grasped.

This was the Martial Dao realm that she'd never come in contact with before!

Long Yuyin was filled with admiration towards Nie Li.

After Nie Li asked her to start fighting for the Dragonseal Family's Patriarch position, she sent the news to her father's old subordinates. They'd probably return before long.

Long Yuyin raised her head to look at Nie Li.

Next on the list, he was supposed to help her open up her meridians. Nie Li removed a set of acupuncture needles from his interspatial ring.

Long Yuyin appeared nervous; her face looked like it was slightly boiling and her state of mind was a mess. After all, this was the first time she'd been alone with a boy in the room.

After Nie Li finished his preparations, he turned to Long Yuyin and said, "Take off your clothes."

"What?" Long Yuyin cried out in shock.

“If you don’t take off your clothes, how am I supposed to put the needles in?” Nie Li said. As far as he was concerned, she was only a young girl; therefore, he wasn’t too bothered by it.

Long Yuyin’s face started boiling even more, all the way down to her neck. After a brief moment, she grit her teeth and slowly removed her dress. As the silk fell away, it revealed the smooth skin of her shoulders. A white bandage tightly bound her chest, but you could still see that astonishing curve, plump and full.

It was hard to imagine how they’d look once released.

She raised her head, snuck a glanced at him, and ground her teeth in hesitation. Since Nie Li still didn’t say anything else, she extended her hand to the white bandage on her chest.

“Hold on, that’s enough!” Nie Li immediately stopped her. He couldn’t help being drenched in sweat. This was good enough; he didn’t need any more to put the needles in. In fact, if she went any further, he wasn’t sure he’d be able to control the situation anymore.

Long Yuyin retracted her hands, but she was still nervous. Luckily, the bandage on her chest didn’t need to be removed. Otherwise, it’d be way too awkward.

Nie Li walked to her side and. Under the candlelight, her skin looked like smooth gemstone. She used a blue ribbon to tie her hair up into a bun, which added another kind of charm to her.

As Nie Li moved behind her, his gaze fell onto Long Yuyin's pearly white neck. He took a long, thin needle and slowly pierced the skin in the middle of her spine, a little off to the side.

"En." Long Yuyin couldn't help letting out a moan. Under normal circumstances, she shouldn't feel the pain from just this needle, especially with her Dragon Blood lineage. However, when Nie Li's needle pierced her, Long Yuyin felt a strong pain circulate through her entire body. It felt like tens of thousands of ants biting her body.

After the pain came a warm current that flowed from her spinal column, which also circulated through her body and ended at her limbs.

What shocking energy!

Long Yuyin couldn't quite wrap her head around the fact that such powerful energy was actually hidden within her bloodline.

Nie Li took the second needle and placed it in her spinal column.

Third needle, fourth needle, fifth needle...

Very quickly, there were dozens of needles poking out of Long Yuyin. Her skin was slightly blushed. The heavy sweat on her body made her seem as if she was boiling.

“I’ve already placed acupuncture needles in your important meridians. Your Blood Dragon lineage should be slowly awakening. Once it does, it’ll rush to all of your meridians. Concentrate on cultivating!” Nie Li said as he exhaled a mouthful of air. It was finally done.

Nie Li had used quite a bit of energy on Long Yuyin’s acupuncture. He looked at her, who was sitting cross-legged as she cultivated. Then he opened the door, walked out, and softly closed it behind him.

Suddenly a figure appeared beside Nie Li, which startled him. It was Xiao Yu.

“You frightened me. What combat ability did you use? There wasn’t any sound when you appeared?” Nie Li couldn’t help asking. He wasn’t really on guard for Xiao Yu’s aura; therefore, Xiao Yu was able to get so close without him noticing.

Xiao Yu’s face was black with an annoyed expression on his face.

Seeing how furious Xiao Yu was, Nie Li asked, “What’s going on? You couldn’t have been killed by someone else in the outside world again, right?”

Xiao Yu stared at Nie Li as he said in a solemn voice, “Nie Li, how could you be doing these things? Aren’t you letting Ning’er down?”

“What did I do? What’s the matter?” Nie Li was stunned for a moment, before he immediately realised what Xiao Yu was talking about. He smiled, “Is this about Long Yuyin? Hahaha, what are you talking about? How is that letting Ning’er down?”

“You know exactly what you’ve done!” Xiao Yu snorted as he turned around and stalked off.

“Hey, Xiao Yu, you’ve misunderstood!” Nie Li yelled facing Xiao Yu’s back.

However, Xiao Yu wasn’t willing to listen to Nie Li as he quickly returned to his own room and shut the door.

Nie Li was stunned. What was up with Xiao Yu? He didn’t even give him a chance to explain himself! Furthermore, this wasn’t really something that Xiao Yu should care about, right? Could it be that Xiao Yu was interested in Long Yuyin? If that was the case, then it’s reasonable for Xiao Yu to be angry. But how many times had Xiao Yu and Long Yuyin seen each other anyways? Did they even know each other?

That sissy couldn’t be interested in myself, right? Nie Li couldn’t help feeling a chill run down his spine. Could it be that Xiao Yu swung that way? Not interested in only women, but also in men?

Nie Li had once suspected that Xiao Yu was a woman. After all, that fellow was simply too beautiful. However, Nie Li had already confirmed that Xiao Yu wasn’t a woman. That left “sissy” as the only option.

After pondering over it for awhile, Nie Li shook his head and pushed those thoughts away. He must be overthinking it.

Roughly an hour later, a powerful aura surged from within Nie Li's room.

The Blood Dragon lineage within Long Yuyin's body had been unleashed. According to this aura, she should be at least 5-fate now; furthermore, her future cultivation would continue to soar in leaps and bounds.

Nie Li knew that Long Yuyin had finished opening her meridians, so he pushed opened the door and walked in.

"Ah!" Long Yuyin shrieked.

Nie Li was stunned as he stared into the room. All of Long Yuyin's clothes had been burnt to ashes. She'd covered herself from Nie Li's view, but she couldn't cover up the radiance of "spring"[1]. Nie Li immediately looked away and awkwardly walked out.

A brief moment later, Long Yuyin finished changing into a new set of clothes and walked out with her head lowered and a red face.

The atmosphere was a little weird.

Nie Li scratched his head and changed the topic. “How is it? Have your meridians all opened up?”

“En, they’re all open.” Long Yuyin’s face was faint red as she nodded. Nie Li’s method was powerful. It’d allowed her cultivation to soar by several stages. She felt like she was dreaming.

“That’s good now that they’re all unlocked.” Nie Li gave her a small smile.

Long Yuyin softly nodded in acknowledgement. She was filled with gratitude towards Nie Li. But aside from that, there was also something else in her heart. A weird emotion that she couldn’t figure out.

“When you get home, consolidate your cultivation a little. Your cultivation will definitely continue to soar by leaps and bounds!” Nie Li smiled as he continued, “Your cultivation is already so strong, I’m no longer suitable to be your Master!”

Long Yuyin raised her head as she looked at Nie Li and said in an urgent voice, “No matter what, you’ll always be my Master!”

Nie Li laughed, “I’m just joking. It’s getting late, so you should probably head back soon. If someone sees you at this time of night, who knows what they might think?”

“Okay,” Long Yuyin’s face boiled as she nodded. She took several steps forward before she turned back. “Master, I’ll be back again

soon!”

She sprung out the door and was very quick with her steps, as she feared that Nie Li would try to stop her.

Nie Li retracted his gaze and couldn’t help smiling bitterly. This was the first time she’d come here, and Xiao Yu had already misunderstood. If she showed up at night, again, who knows what might happen?

Long Yuyin left Nie Li’s place and started down the small path towards the Skysoul Institute.

A figure suddenly stood out and blocked Long Yuyin. It was Hu Yong. His face was black and his eyes were fixed on Long Yuyin.

“Long Yuyin, where did you go in the middle of the night?” His hands were clenched into fists and veins popped out from his arms. His expression also looked enraged.

“You followed me?” A chill flashed through Long Yuyin’s eyes. She walked to the side and coldly snorted, “It’s none of your business where I go! If you follow me again, don’t blame me for being impolite!”

“Long Yuyin, I’ve thoroughly seen through you. You’re a slut inside. You actually find other men in the middle of the night! You’re just shameless!” Hu Yong pointed a finger at Long Yuyin as he insulted her. He couldn’t endure it anymore.

“What did you say? Say that again?” Long Yuyin coldly stared at Hu Yong.

Hu Yong pointed at Long Yuyin as he threw more insults. “Long Yuyin, so what if I’ve insulted you? Don’t forget that you’re my fiancée! Since you’re unfaithful, I’ll kill that man of yours sooner or later!”

Long Yuyin’s expression turned ugly, but she wasn’t the kind who’d quarrel with the likes of Hu Yong. Her aura locked onto him as she approached with a face of anger.

Sensing Long Yuyin’s frightening murderous aura, Hu Yong couldn’t help swallowing a large mouthful of saliva. A few moments ago, he was blinded by anger; that’s why he dared to say such things. But now, he felt a trace of fear.

“You trash, how could you possibly be my match? You think that you’re something with your family supporting you. Is a weakling like you suited to be my fiancé?” Long Yuyin walked towards Hu Yong. Her right, slender leg suddenly lashed out, landing on his crotch.

Hu Yong’s mouth turned into an ‘O’ shape, but he couldn’t issue any sound. His face slowly turned ashen white. Both his hands trembled as he held onto his crotch. Both his legs trembled as he fell to the ground and assumed fetal position.

Cold sweat formed on him. Long Yuyin’s leg had landed nicely on

his crucial point, just like last time.

The pitiful Hu Yong had been crippled by Long Yuyin before. And it looked like he hadn't learned his lesson.

"Young Master, are you alright?"

"Young Master!"

Several followers cried out in concern as they appeared from the bushes nearby.

Long Yuyin took one more look at Hu Yong, who was surrounded by his underlings. Then she snorted and flew off.

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[1] The Chinese describe life by the four seasons. Spring is youth, summer is adulthood, autumn is old age, and winter is death.

Chapter 338: Taking

After Long Yuyin left, Nie Li immediately started cultivating.

Even Long Yuyin's cultivation had already reached 5-fate. If he didn't catch up soon, he'd be left behind in the dust.

Nie Li entered the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Deity's Lakes were floating all around inside the painting. Soon, they'd start producing an endless supply of spiritual stones.

Nie Li looked towards, Yu Yan who was cultivating in the distance. The golden flames on body were blazing more than ever, looking like a cloud of golden fire in the sky. Nie Li had no idea how far Yu Yan's cultivation had reached. Since she was still in the middle of cultivating, he didn't want to disrupt her.

As for Jindan, that little guy was already twice his original size. It kept up with its routine of eating and sleeping. This Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was like a utopia for it.

Nie Li settled down and began cultivating. But unlike before, he was absorbing pure spiritual stone essences, instead of spiritual stones.

The Heavenly Energy contained in spiritual stone essences was purer by several folds.

A single piece of spiritual stone essence was equivalent to a thousand spiritual stones. Ordinary cultivators couldn't enjoy such goods; but for a moneybag like Nie Li, it wasn't much.

After absorbing three spiritual stone essences, his cultivation returned to 3-fate. However, he continued to absorb even more spiritual stone essences.

For now, Nie Li's fate soul was still unstable, so he didn't think about heading to the outside world for the time being. Instead, he cultivated and continued to raise his strength in peace.

Time pass quickly. five days later, Nie Li had already used dozens of spiritual stone essences and his cultivation had finally stepped into 4-fate. He'd finished forming his fourth fate soul, and it was black in colour.

Red, blue, yellow and black. Then what would color of his fifth fate soul be?

Nie Li was a little bewildered.

However, he didn't stop cultivating once he reached 4-fate. Instead, he continued on.

Meanwhile, in the outside world, Gu Bei and Lu Piao led the Demon League and finally took down a Deity's Lake. This was their first Deity's Lake since the league's establishment. Although it was just an ordinary low grade Deity's Lake, it was a pretty good start

for them.

With that Deity's Lake as a base, they'd be able to recruit more experts than ever, especially since they weren't lacking in funds. After all, the terms that they provided were several times better than those of the other factions.

As they were cultivating by the Deity's Lake, a subordinate hurried in.

"Master Bei, there's a faction called the Ancient Jade League that's come to join us!"

"Ancient Jade League? Where are they from?" Lu Piao frowned as he asked Gu Bei. Ever since they came to the outside world, Lu Piao had become even more cautious.

"They're a small faction in the outside world with roughly sixty men who are all around the Heavenly Fate Realm." Gu Bei continued, "However, they don't have any associations with other factions!" After reaching the outside world, Gu Bei had conducted a few investigations on all the large and small forces out there. Gu Bei also had an amazing memory. As long as the faction had a name in the outside world, Gu Bei would know of them.

"Did you ask why they'd like to join us?" Gu Bei asked after pondering for a brief moment.

"They said that wandering the outside world is too tough for

them. They said that, they've come in contact with some of the major factions, but those major factions didn't give them any regard and weren't willing to take them. After hearing that Master Bei was establishing your own force, they decided to quickly pay a visit and ask!" that underling reported.

Under normal circumstances, those major factions wouldn't be willing to take them; their strengths were too ordinary. After all, it was quality rather than quantity that counted. Having more people would mean that they'd have to spend more spiritual stones to maintain the force. After those major factions weighed the factors, of course they weren't willing to accept those who were weak.

"Are we going to take them?" asked Lu Piao as he looked at Gu Bei. This was the first time an entire faction had decided to join them!

"Of course! Nie Li is a moneybags anyways, so we can afford it!" Gu Bei smiled as he continued, "Other factions have to worry about having too many burdens, so they aren't willing to take them. But that's not a problem for us, since Nie Li already told us to recruit as many people as possible!"

A short while later, the group that called themselves the Ancient Jade League appeared before Gu Bei and Lu Piao.

"Master Bei, my name is Heng Yan!" The leader of the Ancient Jade League cupped his hands towards Gu Bei. He was a youth in his twenties and didn't have any family background worth speaking of. However, he acted neither humble nor pushy as he stood before Gu Bei and Lu Piao.

“If you join our Demon League, you’ll have to follow our rules. Will you comply?” Gu Bei’s face turned serious as he looked at Heng Yan.

Heng Yan immediately bowed and said, “I understand.”

Joining the Demon League would require them to sign a contract. Once the contract was set, they wouldn’t dare to betray him, especially with Gu Bei’s family background. After all, Gu Bei was the first-in-line successor of the Gu Clan!

“Good! Then sign the contract!” Gu Bei lightly smiled.

Heng Yan looked at Gu Bei as he asked, “Master Bei, we control a low grade Deity’s Lake. Although it’s nearly dried up, there are still dozens of people guarding it right now. Do you want it?”

Gu Bei straightforwardly said, “Naturally! After joining our Demon League, we will send some men over to collect your Deity’s Lake. Since you’ve decided to join us, you’ll be treated the same as everyone else who’s in the Demon League.”

Hearing Gu Bei’s words, Heng Yan and his group had their eyes light up. According to the rumors, the Demon League’s monthly salary was equivalent to their former yearly income! How could they possibly be unwilling?

Very quickly, Heng Yan and his people disbanded the Ancient

Jade League. Once everyone present signed the contract, they became a part of the Demon League.

To Heng Yan, exchanging a nearly dried up Deity's Lake for the generous treatment of the Demon League, was a profited for them. As far as Nie Li was concerned, it was a profit for him as well. All he had to do in exchange for a nearly dried up Deity Root, was pay Heng Yan and his group a tiny allowance every month.

The news travelled quickly. The Ancient Jade League had disbanded and its members had joined the Demon League.

The other smaller factions were also deliberating. Guarding a Deity's Lake was bitter work. And in return, they received only a dozen or so spiritual stones per year. But if they chose to follow the Demon League, then they could get dozens of spiritual stones every month!

Some of the bosses of the smaller factions weren't willing to disperse their own factions. However, they saw their brothers' hearts shaking and understood that their factions couldn't hold out for much longer. They too, disbanded and joined the Demon League.

In just a single month, dozens of factions had disbanded and joined the Demon League. The league itself was swelling and growing at a ferocious pace. Aside from accepting large numbers of new members, the Demon League had also received and controlled dozens of Deity's Lakes. However, Nie Li had quickly removed the Deity's Roots from all those lakes.

After taking dozens of factions, the Demon League's size swelled to over three thousand experts. However, not everyone had a high cultivation. There were only a few dozen Heavenly Star Realm experts. However, their expansion was already extremely shocking, given the league was only a few months old.

The major factions of the outside world were extremely puzzled. How could the Demon League possibly afford the massive quantity of spiritual stones required daily to support? If any other force spent so much just to maintain so many people, then they'd have crumbled a long time ago!

However, what they didn't know was that not was Nie Li capable of supporting them all, the amount of spiritual stones in his possession was still madly increasing.

Chapter 339: Surrounded

The inside Nie Li's Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was dotted with Deity's Lakes. Every low grade Deity's Lake could produce close to ten thousand spiritual stones a month. The lone medium grade Deity's Lake produced an even more shocking quantity. In a single month, it could produce fifty to sixty thousand spiritual stones and hundreds of spiritual stone essences.

Just some scraps from these lakes was already more than sufficient to support the three thousand plus Demon League members.

Therefore, Nie Li had told Gu Bei to take in more underlings. The more, the better, since he could easily accommodate all of them.

Although the strength of Gu Bei's three thousand plus didn't amount to much, with the large amount of spiritual stones provided by Nie Li, their cultivations would rise much faster than those of ordinary Divine Feathers Sect disciples.

As far as other were concerned, the fact that Gu Bei's faction had already grown to such an extent in a single month was indeed quite frightening.

Several people were gathered together in a courtyard of the Skysoul Institute.

Among them were Gu Heng, Murong Yu, and a few dozen other bosses of their own factions.

Gu Heng swept an eye over the gathering and said, “By now, you all should know my aim, why I’ve gathered you all here today. The faction that Gu Bei has established has already recruited over three thousand members in such a short amount of time. If we don’t stop its expansion now, then one day, we might not even have the power to speak freely anymore.”

“Boss Gu Heng, we’ve calculated their spendings. As of right now, that kid has to pay hundreds of thousands of spiritual stones every month. It’ll probably be hard for him to expand any more! If he were to continue expanding, how many spiritual stones would he have to exhaust every month? Before long, they’ll probably have to disband, right?”

“That’s what I feel as well. Hundreds of thousands of spiritual stones every month isn’t a small amount! How is that kid, Gu Bei, able to keep it up?”

These factions all felt that if Gu Bei continued to play around like that, then there’d be a day when he could no longer continue on. When that time came, the Demon League would automatically be disbanded, even if they didn’t do anything.

Gu Heng coldly swept his gaze at everyone as he said with a solemn voice, “You guys are making a huge mistake in thinking like that. I’ve heard that not only is the Demon League not putting a halt to their recruitment, they’ll take anyone who’s above 2-fate.”

“How is that possible?” Several bosses furrowed their brows.

“I’ve investigated and found out that it’s true!” Murong Yu continued on with a solemn voice, “I’ve no idea where they’re getting so many spiritual stones from. But right now, their supply of spiritual stones doesn’t look like it’s depleting. That kid spent nearly four hundred thousand spiritual stones on the auction! I’m guessing that he’s obtained some ancient supreme’s treasure. That’s why he dares to be so extravagant!”

An ancient almighty’s treasure?

Hearing Murong Yu’s words, the eyes of the bosses all lit up.

It’s a pity. Even if Gu Bei and his group had obtained some ancient almighty’s treasure, it was absolutely impossible to expect them to bring it to the outside world. Therefore, trying to snatch it was basically impossible.

Murong Yu swept an eye over everyone’s expressions. The corner of his mouth raised into a smile, and said, “What if they really do have an endless supply of spiritual stones? With such high-quality treatment being offered from the Demon League, your subordinates would definitely be shaken as well. If that happens, would they still be as willing to work as hard as before? Can you guys offer the same treatment as the Demon League?”

Gu Heng spoke up. “What Murong Yu just said is correct. The Demon League is breaking regulations. If they keep this up, then along with Gu Bei’s extraordinary talent, they’ll be stealing the Gu

Clan's Patriarch seat one day. If that happens, then we're all finished!" Gu Heng said with a solemn voice as he looked at everyone, with a ferocious look flashing through his eyes. "Some of my thoughts received support from a certain person. The Demon League won't make it far; however, I'll need the help of everyone gathered here!"

"Boss Gu Heng, pray tell!" The bosses all cupped their hands.

Although they didn't know who Gu Heng was speaking of, the knew that that person definitely wasn't a simple individual. After all, Gu Heng was treating them with such esteem.

"If we join forces, the number of people that we'll be able to mobilise will be almost fifteen thousand. We can absolutely crush the Demon League with that. If we take the initiative before the Demon League has developed to a real threat, then we'll be able to thoroughly destroy them while they're still young!" Gu Heng's face was smeared with a sinister smile.

All the bosses had hesitation on their faces.

"Boss Gu Heng, right now, Gu Bei is the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan. We can understand your thoughts; however, we're not like you, who has no worries. We don't dare to offend the Gu Clan's successor!"

Everyone gathered here was capable of commanding a faction in the outside world; that proved that they were smart people. They understood that Gu Heng wanted them to lend their strengths to

deal with Gu Bei, so that Gu Bei couldn't compete for the Gu Clan's Patriarch seat anymore. However, Gu Heng was currently out of favor in the Gu Clan; the gathered faction bosses didn't want to get dragged into the whirlpool either.

A trace of chilling light flashed through Gu Heng's eyes. He understood that these people wouldn't do anything without profit, so he said in a solemn voice, "This matter isn't for my interest alone. If the Demon League continues to develop, none of you will have a good time in the future, either. Everyone present is one of us. As long as you aid me in removing the threat of the Demon League, I'll make a copy of the [Dharani] technique for you!"

At Gu Heng's words, the hearts of these bosses shook.

"Is Boss Gu Heng serious about this?"

"That's right." Gu Heng nodded, "Since I've said as much, not even four horses can drag it back!"

"Okay! I'll do it!"

"Me too!" the bosses agreed.

The [Dharani] cultivation technique was a secret of the Gu Clan. Rumors said that only the truly talented younger generations were capable of learning it. Once the [Dharani] technique was leaked, the Gu Clan would definitely dispose of him. These bosses never imagined that Gu Heng would actually be willing to use it as a

bargaining chip!

A chilling light flashed through Gu Heng's eyes again. In order to make these people move for him, he had to use his trump card. As for the [Dharani] technique, what a joke! How could he, Gu Heng, possibly give out the genuine one? When the time comes, he'd just give them a fake one, since they wouldn't be able to tell if it's genuine or not.

Asking Gu Heng to fork out money was simply impossible. This method didn't require him to hand over a single stone. At the same, he could accomplish his greatest goal.

"Boss Gu Heng, write a contract so we can have confidence in your words!" someone suggested.

"I can write a contract; however, I'll seal it with an inscription pattern array. When the time comes, bring the sealed contract to me and we'll unseal it together!" Gu Heng said after he thought a bit. Of course, he'd already made plans in his heart.

"Okay!" The bosses exchanged glances and nodded in agreement. As long as they held the contract, they could use it against Gu Heng. That way, they wouldn't have anything to worry about.

In reality, they also understood that the Demon League was a great threat. Otherwise, they wouldn't have gathered at Gu Heng's place. After Murong Yu discussed the countermeasures, they all feigned indifference so that they could wheedle some benefits out of Gu Heng.

As for the possibility that Gu Heng might double cross them, they had their own countermeasures. If Gu Heng burned the bridge after he crossed the river[1] they could band together to cause a disturbance for him. There were so many of them gathered here; if they used their numbers to do something, then Gu Heng's seat as a successor candidate would probably become unstable.

Gu Heng will deal with it when the time comes. For now, he had to find a way to suppress Gu Bei. He couldn't be bothered about anything else.

Quickly, Gu Heng started gathering experts from various factions and planning out how they'd deal with the Demon League. Fifteen thousand experts would be sufficient to wipe the Demon League's existence from the Skysoul Institute.

A group of experts left the Skysoul Institute and headed for the outside world.

On a floating Deity's Lake.

This Deity's Lake was also nearly dried up. However, Nie Li hadn't found a chance to remove its Deity Root yet. Therefore, it became the perfect gathering point for the Demon League. Thousands of men were stationed here. The others were out hunting for demon beasts.

Gu Bei and Lu Piao were presently training the newcomers who'd

just joined. Nothing could be accomplished without routines and standards. Only with strict and impartial discipline can there be fighting strength. As for how to be impartial, Li Xingyun had taught them a lot.

Suddenly, Heng Yan flew back with wounds covering his body. It was as though he'd experienced an intense battle.

"Master Bei, we were ambushed! Hundreds are dead!" Heng Yan gasped as a pained expression was displayed on his face. His wounds were still dripping with fresh blood.

"This is a spiritual medicine for healing wounds. Take it quick!" Gu Bei tossed him an elixir, then asked in a solemn voice, "Speak clearly about what just happened!"

Heng Yan swallowed the healing elixir, caught his breath, then reported, "We were ambushed by a group of experts. The other party had nothing but Heavenly Star Realm experts. We couldn't win against them. Only I managed to escape."

A group of Heavenly Star Realm experts?

Gu Bei frowned his brows for a brief moment. The only people they weren't on good terms with were people like Gu Heng and Murong Yu. And the one with the greatest motive to suppress the Demon League was definitely Gu Heng!

Gu Heng finally couldn't hold back anymore and had decided to

take action!

“Recall the remaining people! We must return to the Skysoul Institute!” Gu Bei said after pondering it over. With their current strength, trying to fight against Gu Heng would be too hard.

Just when Gu Bei was about to lead his army in evacuation, the sky at a distance began filling with black dots. A surge of powerful auras rolled over them.

Over ten thousand people had surrounded the Demon League. The one leading them was Gu Heng.

“Younger Cousin Gu Bei, it’s been a long time.” Gu Heng flew towards Gu Bei, then stopped once there was about a hundred meters of space between them. He looked at Gu Bei.

Gu Bei calmly returned the look as he said, “I trust that you’ve been well since we last met, Elder Cousin Gu Heng. You’ve brought so many people to visit me; however, this doesn’t seem like it’s just for a simple greeting, right?”

“I came over to discuss some matters with Younger Cousin Gu Bei.” Gu Heng’s eyes flashed with cold and proud look.

“What matters? I’d like to hear the details!” Gu Bei swept any eye over the surrounding area. The number of people that Gu Heng had brought was too great. It wouldn’t be easy to leave. Today, the entire Demon League probably wouldn’t be able to leave.

Gu Heng's eyes slightly narrowed as he looked at Gu Bei. "If Younger Cousin Gu Bei is willing to withdraw from the competition for the Patriarch's seat and disband the Demon League, then I'll let our past enmity be bygones. I'll allow Young Cousin Gu Bei to control the Gu Clan with me in the future. What do you say?"

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[1] Abandoning one's benefactor upon achieving one's goal.

Chapter 340: Ancestral Sword Intent

Control the Gu Clan together?

Gu Bei coldly laughed in his heart. With Gu Heng's character, ghosts would have to be real for him to be willing to share control of the Gu Clan with someone else. People like Gu Heng, who couldn't tolerate the slightest grain sand in his eyes, had always seen Gu Bei and his sister as a thorn by his side. Otherwise, Gu Heng wouldn't have gathered so many people to destroy the Demon League.

Gu Bei looked at Gu Heng and laughed. "I think disbanding the Demon League should be possible. I'll go back to think about it and give Elder Cousin Gu Heng an answer three days. How about it?"

Naturally, Gu Bei wasn't stupid. 'If you want to pretend to be humble, then I'll play with you.'

A penetrating chill came from Gu Heng's eyes. A reply in three days? He'd already gathered so many people to surround the Demon League. Was he really going to return and wait for three days? What kind of joke was that?

"Younger Cousin Gu Bei could've chosen any name for your force, but you came up with "Demon League". With such a name, it's easy for others to think about the Demon God's Sect!" Gu Heng lightly smiled as he waved his hand. All the experts under him started towards Gu Bei and Lu Piao.

Gu Heng wanted to destroy the Demon League. Since they weren't willing to disband by themselves, then he'd gang up on them until they disbanded. If anyone from the Demon League stepped into the outside world, they'd only meet death!

"Elder Cousin Gu Heng is joking. It's just a casual name. How could it be connected to the Demon God's Sect?" Gu Bei casually replied as he exchanged glances with Lu Piao, who was preparing their members to lead a charge out in a different direction.

"I wish to prevent Younger Cousin Gu Bei from straying to the dark side. Therefore, as the Elder Brother, I'll educate you well!" Gu Heng said. With a cold smile and a wave of his hand, he signalled everyone under him to charge at the Demon League.

There were over ten thousand people under Gu Heng's control, whereas there were only a few thousand on the Demon League's side. Furthermore, Gu Heng's underlings were obviously much stronger than the Demon League's.

"Kill them!"

An intense battle broke out in an instant and became a one sided massacre for the members of the Demon League.

The difference in strength was simply too great!

"Master Bei, Master Lu, we'll escort the two of you to safety!" Heng Yan coldly snarled as he charged out, leading a group of

Heavenly Star Realm experts to guard Gu Bei and Lu Piao.

Gu Heng's palm energy pushed back and killed several of the Demon League's Heavenly Fate Realm experts.

"Trying to leave? It's not that easy!" Gu Heng coldly snorted as he turned into a streak of light that chased after Gu Bei.

Gu Heng was a Heavenly Star Realm expert and had already reached the pinnacle. He was much stronger than anyone in the Demon League. And when he used his palm to attack, the surrounding Heavenly Energy would gathered together and turn into a huge palm force directed at Gu Bei.

Silver lightning poured down like rain from that huge palm.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The silver lightning landed on two Heavenly Star Realm experts, easily destroying them.

From a short distance away, Lu Piao urgently barked, "Gu Bei, careful!"

Gu Heng coldly smiled. Gu Bei was trying to leave in front of him? Wishful thinking. Gu Bei wasn't even on the same level as himself!

The palm headed towards Gu Bei and countless bolts of silver lightning enveloped him.

With the sky full of silver lightning, and that huge palm coming towards him, Gu Bei felt as though his entire body was about to be shredded.

He was going to be killed by Gu Heng? He felt extremely unresigned to this!

Just as he was about to be killed by Gu Heng, Nie Li's "sword" word suddenly flashed across Gu Bei's mind.

Gu Bei was an undoubted genius in terms of his insight towards sword intent. Nie Li's "sword" word had given him endless enlightenment.

At that moment, Gu Bei felt as though he'd entered into a profound state.

Like a great river, a boundless torrent of Heavenly Energy flowed into Gu Bei's body. Endless visions of stars appeared to him in the space between heaven and earth. In the center of that starry landscape, there suddenly appeared an ancient sword. The blade was one meter long, three inches wide.

So this was the endless profound intent concealed in that "sword"!

Gu Bei focused on his right hand. That ancient sword seemed to have its own intelligence as it flew like a spiritual snake and shot towards Gu Heng's energy palm.

Boom!

A huge explosion sounded as the ancient sword penetrated the palm and continued towards Gu Heng's head.

Gu Heng sensed the razor sharp sword intent shooting towards him, and felt that it could penetrate through everything. Just as the ancient sword was about to hit his head, Gu Heng quickly dodged it.

Woosh!

That ancient sword scraped past Gu Heng's cheek, leaving behind a trace of blood on his face. Fresh blood splattered on the ground.

After the ancient sword streaked past Gu Heng's face, it disappeared.

Gu Bei spat out a mouthful of blood. Forming that sword intent had exhausted all of the Heavenly Energy within his body. It was a pity that his comprehension towards that sword intent still wasn't sufficient; otherwise, Gu Heng would already be dead!

Although his Heavenly Energy was exhausted, he couldn't repress the excited look on his face.

This was the first time he'd come in contact with the Ancestral Sword intent!

Even if he died, only his cultivation would fall by a stage. His comprehension of Ancestral Sword intent would remain and open up endless possibilities towards the future.

"Hahaha, Gu Heng, you never imagined this, did you? You tried to suppress me, and instead, you've actually allow me to gain insight towards the Ancestral Sword intent! As long as I have that, even if my cultivation forever remains in the Heavenly Fate Realm, my strength will one day surpass yours! Do you really think that you can keep me suppressed?" Gu Bei proudly glared at Gu Heng. So what if he died today?

Gu Heng finally snapped out of the shock from that frightening sword intent. However, his heart was lingering in fear. If he'd reacted a second later, he would've been sliced open by Gu Bei's sword intent. He never expected Gu Bei, who was only at the Heavenly Fate Realm, an ant-like existence to him, to have nearly killed him!

Deep denial appeared in his eyes.

How was Gu Bei able to comprehend the Ancestral Sword intent? Why was Gu Bei the one who could comprehend it?

That was a realm that was only heard of in legends!

Gu Bei would continue to cultivate the Ancestral Sword intent. Once it reached a certain level, even if his cultivation remained in Heavenly Fate Realm, he'd still be able to defeat people who are ranked higher than himself.

This Ancestral Sword intent wasn't something that just anyone could cultivate. Only geniuses with deep insight towards the sword Dao could accomplish it!

Once the higher-ups of the Gu Clan knew that Gu Bei managed to cultivate the Ancestral Sword intent, there would no longer be a place for Gu Heng in the Gu Clan!

"What Ancestral Sword intent? What you did was nothing but a child's joke that you tried to pass off as the Ancestral Sword intent. Hahaha! Hilarious!" Gu Heng absolutely wouldn't admit that Gu Bei had actually cultivated the Ancestral Sword intent. "You're still far too weak to contend against me!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The experts of the Demon League were mercilessly killed, one after another.

Only about two hundred people were left from the thousands who were originally present. Those remaining couldn't hold up anymore, either.

“I’ll see how much Heavenly Energy can you still use!” Gu Heng condensed another palm of energy and made a grab for Gu Bei. “Die!”

Gu Heng was cautious with his attack. He had his guard up, since he’d nearly gotten killed by Gu Bei’s ancestral sword intent. A surge of powerful palm energy blasted towards Gu Bei.

When Gu Bei saw that the palm energy was about to land onto him, he knew he couldn’t block it. He could only bitterly smile.

Suddenly, an energy wave came and destroyed Gu Heng’s palm energy, sending him flying out with a jolt.

Gu Heng scowled and looked out, to where he saw a white clothed youth standing in the sky.

“It’s you?” Gu Heng’s eyes slightly narrowed.

That youth was Li Xingyun!

Li Xingyun was standing in the sky as his white clothes fluttered in the wind. He, who possessed handsome features, casually stood before Gu Heng. One could feel a powerful and towering pressure from him. Multiple figures flew over from the distant horizon, like meteors in the sky. They swelled to about two or three thousand people.

The entire Heavenly Path League had arrived!

Chapter 341: Countermeasure

Gu Heng coldly stared at Li Xingyun and said, “Li Xingyun, are you going to stick your neck out for the Demon League?”

Although Gu Heng’s strength couldn’t be compared to Li Xingyun’s, Gu Heng’s mobilized army was still much stronger than Li Xingyun’s Heavenly Path League. There were only two to three thousand people from the Heavenly Path League, whereas there was ten thousand on Gu Heng’s side!

Gu Heng snorted as he said with murderous intent, “If you insist on sticking up for them, I don’t mind destroying you too!”

Li Xingyun brightly laughed. “I, Li Xingyun, only worship one creed: loyalty. I, Li Xingyun, can endure fire and water for my brothers. Some of my brothers are inside the Demon League. Those who want to go against them will also go against my Heavenly Path League!”

Gu Heng sneered, “Li Xingyun, since you want to throw your entire Heavenly Path League into this as well, then don’t blame me!”

At that moment, the dozens of bosses under Gu Heng began to hesitate.

It was fine for them to deal with the Demon League, but they felt unsettled within their hearts at the thought of dealing with the Heavenly Path League as well.

Who was Li Xingyun? Although there were only about three thousand people in the Heavenly Path League, Li Xingyun had many brothers who were bigshots. Once they started a war with the Heavenly Path League, and once it escalated, who knew what scales the war would reach?

However, there's no turning back once you've fired the arrows. Even if the small bosses had their own qualms, they still had to take action! If they were to retreat like this, they'd be left with no reputation once the news spread out. Furthermore, the brothers under them would also think that they were afraid of the Heavenly Path League.

"Since your Heavenly Path League insists on sticking up for the Demon League, then don't blame me, Gu Heng, for not leaving you with any face!" A ferocious look flashed through Gu Heng's eyes as he coldly barked, "I don't care if they're from the Demon League or the Heavenly Path League! Kill them without regard! Go!"

Gu Heng's men started intense attacks towards the Heavenly Path League.

A great war exploded.

Three thousand people against ten thousand. It was the same disadvantage as before.

What the Heavenly Path League lacked in numbers, they made up with quality; many of their members were Heavenly Axis and

Heavenly Star Realm experts. They weren't as easy to deal with. Both armies charged. The seam of contact turned into a huge meat-grinding machine as experts from both sides fell, one after another. Both sides suffered quite a bit of loss.

Palm energies and sword auras exploded in the sky as the battle turned more and more intense. Experts from both sides had their visions dyed red from the massacre.

Li Xingyun took the lead and charged to the front, killing dozens of experts who were the same rank as himself. Several Heavenly Axis Realm experts did their best to guard him, killing as they went.

A short distance away, a group of Heavenly Axis Realm and Heavenly Star Realm experts were also escorting Gu Bei and Lu Piao in a charged out.

Although the Heavenly Path League was brave and fierce, in the end, they were still outnumbered. The death count continued to accumulate.

"Boss Xingyun, we're still not their proper match!" One of the Heavenly Axis Realm experts killed a Heavenly Star Realm expert with a palm of energy, then looked at Li Xingyun.

As the intense siege wore on, their allies started to feel more and more pressure. They watched as their brothers continued to fall. Of course, they'd also make their enemy pay a painful price.

Li Xingyun frowned his brows for a brief moment. Indeed, Gu Heng simply had too many people on his side. They'd gathered a total of twenty forces and had come in a hurry. It was impossible to confront them with just the Heavenly Path League's strength.

Li Xingyun looked at Gu Heng, who was observing the battle from afar. He coldly snorted, "Since Gu Heng wanted to start a war, then we'll play with him 'til the end. We'll leave for now and look for him next time! Everyone, follow me tightly. We're charging out!"

In every war that the Heavenly Path League had participated in, Li Xingyun always stood heroically on the frontlines. When his men heard Li Xingyun say that they were going to charge out from the side, everyone followed.

"Block them!" Gu Heng furiously roared. Since Li Xingyun had showed up on this battlefield, why should they let him leave?

Thousands of people surrounded Li Xingyun and his men, trying to cut them down.

"Kill them!"

Although Li Xingyun and his group were outnumbered, their morale was high. Under Li Xingyun's lead, they charged out of the siege and flew away.

Gu Heng and his group chased after them and killed another five

to six hundred people before Li Xingyun managed to escape.

Once the Heavenly Path League and Demon League fled too far, Gu Heng became extremely enraged. However, even though Li Xingyun managed to escape, both the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues still suffered great losses. This was just the beginning. In the future, Gu Heng and his allies would make sure to thoroughly erase the Heavenly Path League and the Demon League from the outside world!

In the Skysoul Institute, Xiao Yu's courtyard.

A group of people had gathered there.

Nie Li had just finished cultivating. However, since his fate soul was still unstable, he didn't head for the outside world. Therefore, he only heard about what'd happened after Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and Li Xingyun returned.

"What are our losses?" Nie Li looked at the three of them as he asked. He knew that both the Demon League and the Heavenly Path League had suffered greatly.

"I've summarised the information. Because our Demon League was ambushed, only a few hundred survived, out of the original three thousand men." Lu Piao bitterly smiled, glanced and Li Xingyun, and continued, "The Heavenly Path League also suffered quite a few losses. They have close to two thousand deaths!"

Gu Bei apologised, “Actually, Brother Xingyun didn’t have to come and cause the Heavenly Path League such a great loss for our sake!”

“What are you saying? If the Heavenly Path League knows that our brothers have met trouble in the outside world, how could we hole ourselves up? Although my Heavenly Path League has suffered some losses, Gu Heng’s side has suffered as well. Based on my estimations, we killed at least two thousand of his men!” Li Xingyun said proudly. Although Gu Heng’s side had the advantage of numbers, the Heavenly Path League members had better combat abilities.

Li Xingyun looked at the situation mildly. After all, this wasn’t the Heavenly Path League’s first day out in the real world. They’d experienced countless battles before; to them, today’s skirmish was relatively small-scale.

“Gu Heng’s Blood Moon League has gathered a dozen factions to start a war with you guys. How do you plan to deal with them?” Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li as he asked, “If you’re going to start a war with them, I can contact some brothers of mine to deal with the Blood Moon League! We can easily gather eight or nine thousand people!”

Gu Bei and Lu Piao looked at Nie Li as they awaited his decision.

Nie Li pondered for a moment, looked at Li Xingyun, then said, “I’ll deal with Gu Heng’s Blood Moon League. There’s no need to gather other factions. It doesn’t seem right to bring more people into our problem. However, I’ll still need Brother Xingyun’s help. I

wonder if Brother Xingyun is willing?”

“How could I not be willing? As long as Brother Nie Li says the word!” Li Xingyun proudly said as he continued, “You really don’t need me to gather other forces?”

“Not for the time being.” Nie Li lightly smiled.

“You have other plans?” Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li as he curiously asked. With just the Demon and the Heavenly Path Leagues, they were still lacking in manpower.

“Has Brother Xingyun seen how hooligans fight before? An entire group surrounds a single person. How does guy in the middle counterattack?” Nie Li smiled meaningfully.

“He throws everything else aside, grabs the leader and bashes him to death!” Lu Piao immediately said. Upon finishing his words, his eyes lit up. “Yes! Why should we bother with those factions of his? Since they don’t really have grudges with us anyways, we can just bash those guys from the Blood Moon League.”

Li Xingyun was a smart person, so he immediately understand Nie Li’s meaning. The corner of his mouth curled up as he smiled. “That’s a really good method. After we take care of the Blood Moon League, the other factions will probably fear us. Furthermore, Brother Nie Li can also take their Deity Roots. We’ll just take care of all of the Blood Moon League’s Deity’s Lakes! We’ll leave them without a place to even cry in peace!”

Gu Bei added, “Taking their Deity Roots won’t be enough. It’s best if we can bribe some people who are on the inside to closely watch over Gu Heng, and kill him whenever there’s a chance. We can make him so paranoid that he’d fear walking out of his own front door!”

The four birds of a feather exchanged glances and evil smiles.

Chapter 342: Hierarch Skycloud

After Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, and the rest made their preparations, they started to take action.

Things like fate souls are extremely profound. Having a fate soul in the Soul Hall was equivalent to having a false body. Once the body was destroyed, a new one would form from the stored fate soul. Upon reforming, the person would only have eighty to ninety percent of their original strength left. That was also why their cultivations decreased.

Without the fate soul, the human race probably would've already been annihilated by the dangerous Draconic Ruins Realm!

Only with fate souls could the human race expand in the outside world.

Because resources, spiritual stones, demon spirits, and ancient treasures were scarce in the outside world, there was constant competition. Only an individual who has established their own force in the outside world and dominating other factions could become a Patriarch of a powerful family, such as the Dragonseal Family, the Gu Clan, or the Ashen Flames Family.

That was also why the various successors of each family always competed against one another in the outside world.

No one would approve of a weak Patriarch!

If the Demon League was being hunted by the Blood Moon League, the family wouldn't provide any aid; on the contrary, they'd watch from the sidelines. If Gu Bei couldn't snatch his place back, then it'd be another point in deciding whether Gu Bei had the qualification to become Patriarch.

In a world where the weak are preyed upon by the strong, only the strong could continue living!

The Blood Moon League had gathered dozens of factions to suppress the Demon League and flaunt their strength. If the Demon League wanted to continue existing and gain a foothold, their only option was to attack the Blood Moon League head-on and prove their own strength!

Over five hundred elites from the Demon League and the Heavenly Path League combined set out under Li Xingyun and Gu Bei's lead. Their targets were the Deity's Lakes that the Blood Moon League controlled!

As for Nie Li, he'd remain in the Skysoul Institute and continue cultivating.

A short while after they left, a guest visited Nie Li. It was Venerable Redsoul.

"Does the Venerable have any matters to be looking for me?" Nie Li said respectfully.

“Hierarch Skycloud wants to see you.” Venerable Redsoul lightly smiled as he continued, “Are you willing to make a trip with me?”

“Of course.” Nie Li nodded. From his previous life, he already knew what kind of person Hierarch Skycloud was. Nie Li had some positive impressions of him. After all, Hierarch Skycloud was a rather honorable individual in the Divine Feathers Sect.

Nie Li followed Venerable Redsoul along a small path.

Skycloud Hall.

An elder with a dignified expression quietly floated in front of the hall. His clothes fluttered in the wind from his surging majestic energy. The power of the stars endlessly revolved as it surrounded him. The entirety of the Skycloud Hall was within his control.

This elder was Venerable Redsoul’s master, and one of the five major figures of the Divine Feathers Sect: Hierarch Skycloud!

Aside from Hierarch Skycloud were five youths. They stood around and possessing powerful auras that penetrated the skies. These five youths who stood respectively on either side were probably Hierarch Skycloud’s disciples.

When Nie Li and Venerable Redsoul arrived at the Skycloud Hall and looked in front of them, they saw that Hierarch Skycloud had also directed his gaze towards them.

After seeing Hierarch Skycloud, Nie Li's heart shook. The aura on Hierarch Skycloud stood out from the masses. He thought about it and realised that it was somewhat similar to Ying Yueru's. Could it be that the Hierarch Skycloud also practised the [Heaven's Divination] technique?

Nie Li only thought about that inwardly in his heart and didn't dare ask Hierarch Skycloud about it. After all, knowledge about the [Heaven's Divination] technique was extremely classified.

Hierarch Skycloud lightly smiled. "You must be Nie Li?'

"Yes, Lord Hierarch." Nie Li lightly bowed his body, appearing extremely respectful. After all, the other party was one of the five major figures.

The five disciples of the Hierarch Skycloud also directed their eyes onto Nie Li.

They'd obviously known about Nie Li prior to this meeting, since they were just standing to the side, examining Nie Li with various expressions.

Hierarch Skycloud looked at Nie Li and kindly said, "I've seen your calligraphy. The intent concealed within those words was so profound that I even I was astonished. You are indeed exceptional, to be able to write such words at your level of cultivation. I heard that you've taken Ming from the Tiny World as your master."

“Indeed.” Nie Li nodded respectfully. He’d indeed taken the Master of the Nether Realm as his master. Of course, what they didn’t know was that he also had another Master: Ying Yueru.

“Speaking of Ming, we have some relation. He’s the disciple of a friend. I wish to take you as my thirty-ninth disciple. I wonder if you’re willing? As for Ming, I’m certain that he won’t refuse!” Hierarch Skycloud revealed a benevolent smile.

Nie Li never imagined that Hierarch Skycloud would actually raise such a request. Even for Nie Li, this was a little unexpected.

To become the disciple of the Hierarch Skycloud, was absolutely beneficial thing for Nie Li. If he could gain Hierarch Skycloud’s support, then he’d be a step closer towards becoming the Sect Master of the Divine Feathers Sect.

A golden-robed youth stood out from the side, coldly glared at Nie Li and said, “Master, I don’t think that this is appropriate!”

Hierarch Skycloud frowned his brows for a brief moment as he asked, “What’s inappropriate?”

“Before each of us became Master’s disciple, we’re rulers among our age group. Each of us had reached the Heavenly Axis Realm, at the very least. Right now, this Nie Li is only in the Heavenly Fate Realm. Not only that, but before he came here, he was Redsoul’s student. If you take him as your disciple, won’t that disturb the seniority rankings?” said the golden-robed youth, as he tried to

stop Hierarch Skycloud.

Venerable Redsoul immediately cupped his hands and bitterly smiled, “Lord Master, although Nie Li is my student in name, the truth is that, there isn’t anything I can possibly teach him! He’s always been cultivating on his own!”

“Even so, we still can’t just erase the teacher-student relations!” The gold robed youth said with resolution and decisiveness.

Hierarch Skycloud waved his hand and smiled. “We don’t need to be bothered over such worldly views. As for one’s realm of cultivation, that’s secondary. In terms of comprehension towards Dao intent, Nie Li’s understanding is probably much higher than many Heavenly Axis Realm experts’!”

At Hierarch Skycloud’s words, the five disciples exchanged glances. It seemed that Hierarch Skycloud was determined to have Nie Li as his disciple. The other four disciples didn’t have much of an opinion on the matter; only the gold robed youth appeared unhappy.

Nie Li secretly transmitted his voice to Venerable Redsoul and asked, “Teacher, who is he?”

“He is Venerable Flameless, my master’s eldest disciple. When Master is busy cultivating, he’s left in charge of the Skycloud Hall. It looks like he doesn’t like you,” Venerable Redsoul transmitted his voice back to Nie Li as he helplessly smiled. He was very frank.

Nie Li raised his head, cupped his hands, and said towards Hierarch Skycloud, “Many thanks for Hierarch Skycloud’s favor. I’m very willing to become Hierarch Skycloud’s disciple. However, I’m used to freedom; I won’t be willing to obey the commands of others. If I become the disciple of Hierarch Skycloud, I hope to have freedom in the Skycloud Hall.”

“Impudence!” Venerable Flameless furiously glared at Nie Li as he barked, “The fact that Lord Master is willing to take you as his disciple is already the greatest honour for you. Instead of immediately thanking his grace and, you actually spoke of conditions?”

Nie Li frowned his brows for a brief moment at Venerable Flameless’s words. He didn’t have the slightest hint of a good impression from Venerable Flameless. The reason Nie Li had raised such a request was because he was afraid that Venerable Flameless would crowd him out. Although becoming Hierarch Skycloud’s disciple was good for his future developments, it’d be meaningless if he couldn’t remain his freedom for his future plans!

If he couldn’t have control over his own freedom, then Nie Li would rather not become Hierarch Skycloud’s disciple!

Chapter 343: Taking In A Disciple

Hierarch Skycloud had been paying attention to Nie Li's expressions and he was slightly surprised by them. Any other Skysoul Institute disciple would've jumped for joy if they'd known that Hierarch Skycloud was taking them as his disciple. However, Nie Li's expression remained calm and tranquil.

Hierarch Skycloud was admiring Nie Li even more for his ability to remain calm. This boy was just like his calligraphy. In his calligraphy's Dao intent, Nie Li had reached a transcendent state.

Venerable Redsoul transmitted his voice over to Nie Li, "Nie Li, don't let your emotions affect your decision. This is definitely a great opportunity for you to become the disciple of my master. Don't give it up just because of Venerable Flameless. Venerable Flameless's father once saved Master's life, and he's also Master's eldest disciple. Therefore, Master takes very good care of him. That's why Venerable Flameless occasionally lets it get to his head and lets it narrow his judgement. But don't let it get to you. Once you become Master's disciple, you won't have to worry about anything that he'd do to you!"

Nie Li transmitted his voice back to Venerable Redsoul. "Venerable, I know what I'm doing."

Asking Nie Li to compromise was impossible. If it came to it, Nie Li would just give up being Hierarch Skycloud's disciple.

Venerable Flameless was also someone who weighed Hierarch

Skycloud's words while observing his expression. Seeing as the Hierarch Skycloud wasn't speaking, a chilling light flashed through his eyes and he coldly smiled. "Just what kind of place do you think this Skycloud Hall is? Do you think it's a place where you can come and go as you wish? Hilarious! A Heavenly Fate Realm thinks of himself as some grand figure?"

Nie Li wasn't angered, even after Venerable Flameless's words. Instead, he responded in a neither servile nor overbearing tone. "Venerable, I respect Hierarch Skycloud very much and am very eager to become his disciple. I am only presenting my own requests and seeking Hierarch Skycloud's opinion. Whether he agrees or not, the decision is his alone. Aren't your opinions a little unnecessary?"

"You..." The Venerable Flameless was extremely enraged. If this was the outside world and an ant from the Heavenly Fate Realm, like Nie Li, dared to speak to him like that, he would've already killed them long ago.

The other four Venerables, aside from Venerable Flameless, couldn't help taking another glance at Nie Li. He was acting neither servile nor overbearing when he dared to rebuke Venerable Flameless. He probably wasn't an ordinary Heavenly Fate Realm expert.

The other four Venerables were also guarded against Nie Li. However, they weren't people who'd take the initiative to provoke others. Therefore, they didn't interrupt as they observed Nie Li.

Hierarch Skycloud smiled and said, "What Nie Li said is correct.

The process of taking in a disciple has always been done under mutual consent. Even for me, I can only take in a disciple if he is willing. Others have no reason to voice their opinions."

"But, Master..." Venerable Flameless was unable to accept this in his heart.

Nie Li was being so untactful, yet Hierarch Skycloud was actually bearing with it?

"There's no need for more words!" the Hierarch Skycloud slightly frowned, appearing displeased.

Venerable Flameless ceased speaking when he saw Hierarch Skycloud's expression. He knew that his Master was already a little angry with him, so he could only respectfully stand off to the side.

Hierarch Skycloud looked at Nie Li and smiled. It was time to give Nie Li a little test. "Nie Li. Among the words you gave me was a 'none'. What's your opinion on it?"

"The meaning of that word is: In doing nothing, a path shall appear. Allowing things to happen naturally. In doing nothing, everything can be done. In doing nothing, you are doing something," replied Nie Li.

"In doing nothing, a path shall appear?" Hierarch Skycloud was obviously stunned. He thought that his own comprehension of tranquil inaction was already considered quite profound. He never

imagined that Nie Li's 'in doing nothing, a path shall appear' would be even more profound than his own understandings. He couldn't help muttering, "in doing nothing, you are doing something..." A brief moment later, he actually sighed, "It truly is profound, to the point that even I admit defeat!"

Hearing Hierarch Skycloud's words, everyone there was stunned. Venerable Redsoul also couldn't help being at a loss for words.

Hierarch Skycloud actually admitted defeat?

After all, who was Hierarch Skycloud?

He was a Martial Ancestor Realm expert, and one of the major five of the Divine Feathers Sect!

In the eyes of Venerable Flameless and Venerable Redsoul, Hierarch Skycloud was a superior existence. However, his understandings on Dao intent were actually inferior to Nie Li's? This completely toppled their views of the world!

That boy, Nie Li, had probably obtained some secret manual and was using it to bluff others! Venerable Flameless couldn't help thinking that in his heart. Of course he wouldn't believe that an ant-like existence such as Nie Li could actually have such profound comprehension of Dao intent. If Nie Li's comprehension in Dao intent truly was that deep, his cultivation should've leaped by soars and bounds long ago. How could he possibly still remain at the Heavenly Fate Realm?

What Venerable Flameless didn't know was that Nie Li's cultivation on Dao truly had reached that height. Originally, his cultivation should've leaped by soars and bounds, and he might have already reached Heavenly Star Realm. But because of that vine in his body, Nie Li's cultivation wasn't able to make any major breakthroughs.

After the four other Venerables exchanged glances, they looked at Nie Li with peculiar expressions on their faces. No matter what, even their Master had admitted defeat; therefore, they couldn't help re-examining this youth before them. They'd have to at least put Nie Li on the same level as themselves.

"Hierarch Skycloud must be joking. It's just something that I've comprehended by coincidence. Compared to the Hierarch Skycloud, my understandings are still too inferior," Nie Li immediately said. After all, he couldn't mention that he'd been reborn.

Hierarch Skycloud lightly smiled. "You're too modest. Even if you did comprehended it from some ancient books, the fact that you could write your insight into your calligraphy is already something exceptional. Although there's nothing I can teach you in terms of Dao intent, I can still provide many guidances to you in terms of cultivation. If you're willing to become my disciple, you may come and go in the Skycloud Hall as you wish. You will not be under anyone's control!"

"Then many thanks to Lord Master!" Nie Li immediately bowed. For Hierarch Skycloud to take him as his disciple, the Nether Master probably wouldn't say anything about it. He might even be

extremely happy about it.

How many people had tried to have a relation with Hierarch Skycloud, but could only shrink back due to the wide difference in identity?

Having Hierarch Skycloud as his Master would definitely be extremely helpful in the future, so that he could on stand firmly in the Divine Feathers Sect!

“Good, good, good!” Hierarch Skycloud laughed. Of all the disciples he’d accepted in the past, he admired Nie Li the most.

Venerable Redsoul was also slightly shocked. He never thought that his Master would actually agree to Nie Li’s terms. This was the first and only exception that the Skycloud Hall had ever seen! Hierarch Skycloud was normally extremely strict with controlling his disciples, yet he was being especially lenient with Nie Li.

The remaining four Venerables were also a little surprised. It seemed that Nie Li would be the most special within the Skycloud Hall. Furthermore, since Hierarch Skycloud regarded Nie Li very highly, they had to get along well with this Junior Brother of theirs.

A rage of jealousy flashed through Venerable Flameless’s eyes. Nie Li’s appearance before him made him feel greatly threatened. He’d always been the eldest disciple of Hierarch Skycloud, and the one most highly regarded. But presently, Hierarch Skycloud had actually made an exception with Nie Li. This showed his

exceedingly high regard for him.

"The rest of you can leave. I'll stay here and have a good talk with Nie Li about Dao intent!" Hierarch Skycloud brightly laughed.

Venerable Redsoul and the other four received their instructions of Hierarch Skycloud, bowed, and backed out the door. Venerable Flameless gave Nie Li one last furious glare, then backed down as well.

Nie Li remained in the Skycloud Hall and conversed with Hierarch Skycloud for several hours, discussing Dao intent.

The eyes of Hierarch Skycloud grew brighter and brighter. Everything that Nie Li said was actually something that he could benefit from! He'd truly picked up a precious jade! With Nie Li's talent, he'd definitely be able to unleash a dazzling light before long. There was also a possibility that he'd become a major backbone for the future Divine Feathers Sect!

Since the Divine Feathers Sect was approaching a crisis, Hierarch Skycloud was even more attentive with Nie Li.

Chapter 344: Threatened

Outside of the Skycloud Hall, in a certain courtyard.

Venerable Flameless was drinking with dejection in his heart and indignation on his face.

A youth with handsome features walked over and laughed. “Brother Flameless seems to have encountered some unhappy matters?”

This person was the first-in-line successor of the Dragonseal Family, Long Tianming.

“Brother Long, since you’re here, come have drink with me!” Venerable Flameless looked at Long Tianming and waved his hand.

Long Tianming sat down, raised a glass of wine, and said, “I wonder what trouble Brother Flameless may have encountered?”

Venerable Flameless said dejectedly, “Sigh. Don’t even talk to me about. I’ve followed that old man and cultivated for thirty long years. In these thirty years, I’ve always been loyal and devoted to him. However, I’ve always sensed that he’s been guarded against me and won’t pass me the most crucial chant for the [Skycloud] cultivation technique. Whenever I mentioned to him that I want to cultivate that last chant, he’d always say that the time is unripe.”

“Hierarch Skycloud is impartial. He spares no effort for the

Divine Feathers Sect. He sets an example for our generation. Could it be that Brother Flameless is just overthinking the matter?" Long Tianming said while remaining calm and collected.

"Impartial? Haha, I've spared no effort for him, so why isn't he impartial to me? Does he fear that he'll get replaced once his disciple learns everything? He didn't consider that if my father didn't save his life, would he even have lived to see this day?" Venerable Flameless sneered.

"If that's all you're concerned about, then Brother Flameless shouldn't worry over it too much. Amongst his disciples, Brother Venerable in undoubtedly the one he regards the most. If Hierarch Skycloud intends on choosing a successor for the [Skycloud] cultivation technique, then it'll probably be you!" said Long Tianming.

Venerable Flameless snorted and said resentfully, "Previously, I thought the same. But now, the old man has recruited another disciple called Nie Li. The old man seems to dote on the boy a lot, like he's looking at a treasure!"

A peculiar light flashed through Long Tianming's eyes when he heard Venerable Flameless's words. He said, "Hierarch Skycloud recruited a new disciple named Nie Li?"

"Yeah. You know him too?"

"I've heard of him before. This Nie Li came from the Tiny World. You could say that he's the most outstanding amongst the

newcomers.” Long Tianming’s brows slightly twitched. Nie Li’s methods truly weren’t simple. He was able to become Hierarch Skycloud’s disciple in such a short amount of time. Furthermore, Long Yuyin had been in close contact with Nie Li recently. She seemed to heed Nie Li’s words and since started gathering her own forces to fight for the Dragonseal Family’s Patriarch seat.

“Hmph, hmph! A brat who’s only at the Heavenly Fate Realm could only resort to some strange methods to gain favor of the old man! What capabilities does he have?” Venerable Flameless said in disdain.

“If Venerable Flameless doesn’t put him in any regard, then it’s a huge mistake. From my perspective, that person isn’t so simple. If he’s not dealt with soon, he’ll probably become a calamity for our future. Who knows? He might even deceive Hierarch Skycloud to impart the [Skycloud] cultivation technique to him in the future!” Long Tianming said with his brows frowning.

“So, what does Brother Long think we should do?” asked Venerable Flameless, as he looked at Long Tianming. He never expected that even Long Tianming would pay so much attention towards Nie Li.

“Why don’t we do this...” Long Tianming made a long speech in Venerable Flameless’s ears.

Venerable Flameless’s brows slowly loosened up.

Nie Li exited the Skycloud Hall in a pretty good mood. Becoming

Hierarch Skycloud's disciple was definitely be a great boost towards his future plans. One of the Divine Feathers Sect's conditions to become Sect Master was to gain the support of at least one of the five major figures. Otherwise, the candidate wouldn't qualify for the position.

Since he'd just recently become Hierarch Skycloud's disciple, Nie Li still couldn't gain huge support from Hierarch Skycloud. However, he believed that he could definitely gain it in the future, a bit at a time.

Shortly after Nie Li returned to Xiao Yu's courtyard, Li Xingyun, Lu Piao, and Gu Bei also returned with excitement plastered over their faces.

Nie Li looked at the three of them and lightly smiled. "How did it go?"

"We ambushed two of the Blood Moon League's gathering points and killed at least a thousand of them. We've only suffered about sixty casualties. Unfortunately, those whom we managed to kill weren't very strong, there wasn't much Heavenly Axis Realm experts. However, it's still a damaging blow to the Blood Moon League!" Lu Piao said with excitement.

"These results are still pretty good. We've gained some intel and now have a clear picture on the Blood Moon League's situation. Let's wait until your fate soul has stabilised, then we'll find a chance to take down their Deity's Lakes and make Gu Heng so poor that he can't even boil water!" Li Xingyun smiled.

“I’ve received some other news. One of Gu Heng’s trusted aides has been embezzling spiritual stones from the Blood Moon League through some unknown method. However, Gu Heng trusts him very much and the people of the Blood Moon League don’t dare speak about it. Perhaps this might be our breakthrough. This is a person who values money heavily. If we lure him with sufficient benefits and threaten him a little, he might be willing to betray Gu Heng!” Gu Bei lightly smiled and said, “Shall we go and have a little chat with this person?”

“Of course, that’s for certain!” Nie Li lightly smiled in return.

Divine Feathers Sect, Mingshan Stronghold.

This was the Divine Feathers Sect’s center for trade. The majority of disciples chose to make their transactions here, instead of at the Skysoul Institute’s market; this place was simply bigger. Furthermore, there were many restaurants, brothels, auction houses, and various other businesses gathered in this area.

Many beauties and merchants from various cities and small realms were gathered here.

Dozens of streets bustled with people.

In a brothel, a group of people were drinking and being merry to the pleasure of life. One robust man embraced a girls in each arm and laughed. “If you serve me well today, I’ll reward everyone with one spiritual stone!” This robust man was a Deacon who held

authority among Gu Heng's underlings. His name was He Gui.

Upon hearing He Gui's words, the eyes of the two beauties lit up.

A **[1] walked towards He Gui's side and whispered, "Deacon He, there are several lords who want to meet you!"

"What lords? They're disturbing my current interests. I'm not meeting anyone!" He Gui said, appearing a little dull.

"These lords are saying that they want to make a deal of a hundred thousand spiritual stones with you," the ** continued.

A deal of a hundred thousand spiritual stones? He Gui's brows twitched. What a huge tone! Because his heart was moved, he stood up and said, "Okay then, I'll go meet them!"

Under the **'s lead, He Gui walked along the long corridor and entered a chamber.

"You guys are..." He Gui raised his head and saw Nie Li, Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and Li Xingyun. His eyes flashed with a trace of fear. He immediately tried to escape, but the door was already shut tight.

"Deacon He, It's been a long time!" Gu Bei lightly smiled.

"Young Master Gu Bei, why are you looking for me?" He Gui's voice trembled a little as he looked at Gu Bei. He sensed that there

were at least five Heavenly Axis Realm experts guarding them behind the scenes. Escape was impossible.

"Deacon He, we just need some help from you!" Gu Bei lightly smiled.

"What do you want?" He Gui asked nervously.

Gu Bei sat on the chair, sipped a mouthful of tea, and calmly said, "In the future, no matter where Gu Heng goes, you must let us know of his location!"

He Gui immediately said, "Asking me to betray Young Master Gu Heng is impossible!"

"He Gui, a wise man would submit to these circumstances. There's nothing in it for you to follow Gu Heng. Being a Deacon only gets you a few hundred spiritual stones in your pocket. We're not forcing you, but if you're willing to cooperate, then we'll give you two thousand spiritual stones every time you report his location to us. If you're unwilling to cooperate... I, Gu Bei, might not be able to do anything to Gu Heng, but do you really think that I won't be able to take care of the likes of you? Not to mention that your hands aren't clean. If Gu Heng knew about what you've done, you should know your outcome!" Gu Bei laughed as he looked at He Gui, "This all depends on whether you cooperate with us!"

Gu Bei said it easily, but He Gui could sense the obvious threat within his words. Sweat filled his forehead. At the end of the day, Gu Bei was still the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan. If he

decided to dealing with He Gui, then he can't really resist.

Furthermore, Gu Bei's words were true; He Gui's hands weren't clean. If he was exposed, then he definitely wouldn't be able to remain as Gu Heng's subordinate.

Gu Bei signaled the other three with his eyes. "Since you're not willing, then forget about it! Nie Li, Brother Xingyun, let's leave!"

"Young Master Gu Bei, wait!" He Gui immediately shouted to stop Gu Bei.

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[1] ** is indeed from the raws. Since this is a brothel, it's probably a pimp or servant.

Chapter 345: Li Yufeng

Hearing He Gui's words, Gu Bei sat back down and appeared as if he wasn't in a hurry.

He Gui clenched his teeth and finally made the decision. "I can cooperate with Young Master Gu Bei; however, this matter has to be a secret!"

"Naturally. If you cooperate with us, then you're one of us. We'll definitely conceal it well for your sake. Furthermore, this arrangement will definitely be better for you than following Gu Heng! I definitely won't be stingy to those who are useful to us!" Gu Bei smiled.

He Gui's reaction was entirely within his expectations. However, they still had to be on guard, in case He Gui decided to double-cross them.

He Gui raised his head and said after pondering it over, "Young Master Gu Bei, I have a request. I wonder if Young Master Gu Bei can agree to it?"

"What request?"

"Among the trusted aides of Young Master Gu Heng, there's another named Chai Yue. That person has never gotten along well with me. I want Young Master Gu Bei to help me pull him down!" He Gui's eyes flashed with a trace of viciousness.

“No problem!” Gu Bei nodded on the spot. Chai Yue was a trusted aide of Gu Heng who was said to be absolutely loyal and devoted. In dealing with Gu Heng, the first thing they’d do was clip off both his wings, of course! Gu Bei considered it briefly, then said, “When you return, spread a rumor that Chai Yue is secretly contacting us.”

“A rumor alone probably won’t be enough to make Young Master Gu Heng suspect Chai Yue!” He Gui said after thinking it over.

Gu Bei smiled, “The next part depends on your performance. If you can report Gu Heng’s location to us just once and let us kill him, Gu Heng will probably start suspecting Chai Yue. Then, we’ll add more fuel to the fire and make it hard for Gu Heng not to suspect Chai Yue!”

“Young Master Gu Bei is wise!” He Gui praised.

Gu Bei looked at He Gui and lightly said, “Alright. Everything after this depends on your sincerity. I want you to write a few letters stating that you’ve been secretly writing to us. If you dare to play any tricks during this cooperation, these letters will definitely fall into Gu Heng’s hands!”

This meant that He Gui would be handing over his own weakness. If he didn’t cooperate when the time came, Gu Bei would have an easy method to deal with him. “I hope that you won’t play any tricks. Otherwise… you should be aware of the outcome.”

He Gui understood it clearly. If he didn't follow Gu Bei's requests today, then he definitely wouldn't have an easy future. He went silent for a moment before he finally sat down, lifted a brush, and started writing. He wrote a total of six letters, according to Gu Bei's request, all stating his loyalty to Gu Bei.

"Not bad, not bad!" Gu Bei nodded and patted He Gui on the shoulder. With a flick of his right hand, he tossed an interspatial ring to He Gui, which contained two thousand spiritual stones. "This is your reward. As long as you keep helping us in the future, you'll definitely be well-treated!"

He Gui accepted the interspatial ring and swept through its contents. His brows couldn't help twitching. There really were two thousand spiritual stones in the interspatial ring. When he followed Gu Heng, he had to risk his life every month just to earn two or three hundred spiritual stones. However, Gu Bei had casually given him two thousand spiritual stones.

Indeed, there were many more prospects in following Gu Bei!

"Many thanks to Young Master Gu Bei!" He Gui said, appearing deeply grateful.

A brief moment later, He Gui left.

"Nie Li, what do you think?" Gu Bei looked at Nie Li as he asked, "Is He Gui reliable?"

“This person highly values money and we’ve already given him such a huge sum. Not to mention we have two of his weaknesses in our pocket. There’s nothing to fear. He’ll listen obediently. He probably have already thought through it as well that there would only be suffering in going against us!” said Nie Li.

“There are two people who serve directly under Gu Heng. He Gui is a petty man, but that Chai Yue is very talented!” Li Xingyun couldn’t help sighing, “It’d be such a pity if Gu Heng disposed to him!”

Nie Li looked towards Li Xingyun as he asked, “Has Brother Xingyun had contacts with Chai Yue before?”

“We’ve had a few contacts before. I once invited him to my Heavenly Path League but was refused!” Li Xingyun sighed in great pity.

“If that’s the case, then Brother Xingyun should stay in touch with him. If there’s a day where he no longer has a place as Gu Heng’s subordinate, then he’ll definitely think of Brother Xingyun! After all, no other factions are willing to accept a traitor!” said Nie Li.

“Alright.” Li Xingyun nodded. As long as it’s a talent, he definitely won’t miss it.

“Since we’re already in the Mingshan Stronghold, why don’t we buy some things before going back!” Nie Li said after pondering it

over.

“Sure!” the three of them nodded.

The group headed towards the Celestial Treasure Pavilion, an artifact trading company in the Mingshan Stronghold. This was also the largest artifact trading company in the Mingshan Stronghold; even some higher-ups would shop here. In the Draconic Ruins Realm, there existed powerful forces other than the various major sects. For example, there was the Gods Craft Pavilion, which was in charge of forging artifacts and selling them to the major sects. There were also a few powerful trading companies that were on par with the major sects.

Inside the Celestial Treasure Pavilion.

The four of them entered a huge hall and were immediately greeted by an elderly man wearing a long robe. He walked up to them, smiled kindly, and said, “Four Young Masters, welcome to our Celestial Treasure Pavilion! May I ask, what do you require?”

Lu Piao swept his gaze over the walls and said, “Boss, do you have any artifacts used to kill and protect?”

The elderly man couldn’t help smiling, “The majority of our items are used for protection and killing. May I ask what grade you four Young Masters are looking for?”

Nie Li said, “Bring the best out and let’s have a look!”

At Nie Li's words, the elderly man's brows slightly twitched, appearing to be extremely shocked. He took several more glances at the four, then immediately smiled. "Please follow me!"

Although the four of them were dressed quite simply, they were probably Young Masters of some major forces. Otherwise, they wouldn't have asked for the best upon walking in the door.

Under the senior's lead, they entered the deepest area.

In the deepest vault of the Celestial Treasure Pavilion was a secret room, where hundreds of high-grade artifacts of all sorts were on display.

Nie Li could sense that there were many powerful experts concealed in this room. Each of them was at least of Dao of Dragon Realm.

The four of them entered.

"Why is there someone else in here as well?" An annoyed voice sounded from inside.

"Honored Young Master, we're very sorry about that. However, any customer of the Celestial Treasure Pavilion who wishes to purchase an artifact of Grade 5 or above would come here!" A lady's voice patiently explained.

Li Xingyun's gaze fell on the other party and his brows furrowed.

The person inside had also raised his head as he swept his gaze at the four of them. When his eyes met Li Xingyun's, he revealed a slightly cold expression.

Nie Li noticed Li Xingyun's expression, so he transmitted his voice and asked, "Who is he?"

Li Xingyun settled down his mood and replied softly. "Li Yufeng!"

Upon hearing Li Xingyun's words, the three of them understood. Indeed, "enemies walk on a narrow path". To think that they'd encounter Li Xingyun's archenemy in a place like this. This Li Yufeng was the one who stole Li Xingyun's Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit! Li Xingyun recalled that incident and remembered that Li Yufeng had also wanted to devour the Heavenly Path League as well.

"I never expected Younger Cousin Xingyun to be here as well. Since you're here, come, let us sit together!" Li Yufeng laughed. "I never imagined that Younger Cousin Xingyun would also have the money to buy the Celestial Treasure Pavilion's artifacts!"

With anyone else, perhaps Li Xingyun would've still exchanged a greeting. Li Xingyun couldn't even be bothered to that much with Li Yufeng. However, he didn't appear angry. Instead, he calmly sat down beside Li Yufeng and treated him as if he was air.

Nie Li and the other two noticed what was going on. They sat next to Li Xingyun and ignored Li Yufeng as well.

Even though Li Xingyun had replied to him unhappily, Li Yufeng wasn't bothered by it. But the fact that the four of them were actually so arrogant as to treat him as air, enraged Li Yufeng. The corner of his mouth slightly twitched. He no longer bothered himself with those four.

Chapter 346: Slashing The Price!

“My name is Cai Die. May I ask what the four Young Masters are looking to buy?” A sweet and cute girl sat down before Nie Li and the other three. Her voice softened the bones of those who heard it.

“The Celestial Treasure Pavilion really knows how to do business. They sent such a beauty over! It’ll probably be impossible for us to not spend money!” Gu Bei laughed.

“Young Master is flattering me. How could Cai Die’s appearance possibly warrant such high praise?” the girl said a little bashfully.

Gu Bei once again, showed his colours as a hedonist. He looked a little lustful, which made Cai Die’s face boil.

“Enough. Let’s talk about serious matters.” Nie Li sighed as he patted Gu Bei’s shoulder.

Nie Li looked at Cai Die and asked, “Miss Cai Die, I wish to purchase several artifacts of Grade 6 and above. What sort of goods do you have that would fit that description?”

“Artifacts of Grade 6 and above?” Cai Die was slightly stunned. A single Grade 6 artifact was worth tens of thousand of spiritual stones! They only had a few dozen of them in the entire Celestial Treasure Pavilion. As for those that are ranked above Grade 6, they had even fewer. And the first thing that Nie Li had said, when he opened his mouth, was that he wanted to purchase several?

A set of Grade 6 artifact armour was so tough that even a Heavenly Axis Realm expert would have a hard time breaking through it. As for artifacts of higher grades, you could only find them in the legendary Gods Craft Pavilion. It'd be impossible to find them so close to the Divine Feathers Sect.

Li Yufeng sat to the side, acting a little absent-minded.

The girl who sat before him called to him. "Young Master, do you still want this artifact?"

"This artifact is a little expensive. Bring out a different one!" Li Yufeng shook his head and appeared a little embarrassed. The Grade 6 artifact before him cost over fifty thousand spiritual stones. So pricy! If he purchased it, he wouldn't have very many spiritual stones left over.

"Oh." That girl appeared a little disappointed as she continued, "If Young Master still wants to see the other artifacts, then Wu Die will bring them out for you!"

Li Yufeng looked up at the walls, which were filled with artifacts. The lowest-graded among them was a Grade 5. His gaze fell on one of the Grade 5 artifacts as he said, "Miss Wu Die, bring me that piece!"

Nie Li's side of the table wasn't bothered by Li Yufeng whatsoever. They simply continued chatting amongst themselves.

“Things like artifacts are easily stolen if you get killed. However, if you have a Grade 6 artifact, then even a Heavenly Axis Realm expert won’t have an easy time killing you. As for the Dao of Dragon Realm experts, they generally won’t appear this close to the Divine Feathers Sect. They’d definitely head out deeper in the outside world!” said Gu Bei.

Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li as he smiled, “Let’s hear Nie Li’s opinion.”

Nie Li said, “Since we’re planning to buy something, then of course we’ll buy a set for everyone. Not just for myself!”

Everyone was stunned as they looked at Nie Li. A set of Grade 6 artifacts was worth tens of thousands of spiritual stones. And Nie Li planned to buy several? He was going to buy a set for each of them?

Nie Li swept an eye over the nearby wall, observing the artifacts on display. Then, he pointed to one in the distance and said, “Miss Cai Die, please bring that artifact to me!”

That was a Grade 6 artifact — Meteorite Sword.

“Young Master truly has good taste. This is a Grade 6 artifact — Meteorite Sword. It’s definitely the best among our Grade 6 artifacts. Its sharpness can even cut through ordinary Grade 6 armour!” Cai Die smiled. She gracefully removed the Meteorite Sword from the wall and carried it to the table.

“It’s a good sword.” Gu Bei appraised the chilling sharpness of the sword and his eyes lit up. Since he practised sword intent, he was naturally fond of swords.

“How many spiritual stones for this sword?” Nie Li asked Cai Die.

Cai Die pursed her lips and smiled. “This Meteorite Sword costs seventy-six thousand spiritual stones!”

Seventy-six thousand spiritual stones? Their hearts shook. This sword was barbarically expensive.

At Cai Die’s words, Nie Li smiled. “Mis Cai Die, would you sell it for thirty-six thousand spiritual stones? If you’re willing, we’ll take it!”

Cai Die was momentarily stunned by Nie Li’s words. This Meteorite Sword’s retail price was seventy-six thousand spiritual stones; however, it’s base price was roughly thirty-five thousand spiritual stones. It was the Celestial Treasure Pavilion’s bottom-line for this sword.

A normally extravagant child who could afford the Meteorite sword would start slashing at the price with a pale face. However, they wouldn’t slash it so ruthlessly like Nie Li had. He was too formidable and slashed it down to half price in one go! That was their lowest possible selling price. Cai Die was still unable to snap out of it.

“Young Master, I’m afraid that our Celestial Treasure Pavilion cannot accept this price.” Cai Die pretended to be in a difficult position.

“This is my only offer. If you ask for any more spiritual stones, then I don’t want it anymore.” Nie Li laughed as he looked at Cai Die.

Cai Die bitterly smiled. “Cough Cough Alright then. This Meteorite Sword has been sold to the Young Master for thirty-six thousand spiritual stones!” She didn’t know how to evaluate Nie Li anymore. If Nie Li had offered her thirty-four thousand spiritual stones, she definitely would’ve bargained with him, or refused to sell it at all. However, he’d offered thirty-six thousand, which was within the Celestial Treasure Pavilion’s price range. Therefore, she couldn’t push away such a customer.

Almost everyone, from Gu Bei to Li Xingyun, was dumbfounded. They didn’t know that you were allowed to bargain in the Celestial Treasure Pavilion. And Nie Li had cut the price in half. But what they were even more astonished over was the fact that Cai Die had actually agreed to that price.

Meanwhile, Lu Piao wasn’t surprised in the least. Wasn’t it normal to cut the price by half?

“Alright then. I’ll take this Meteorite Sword for thirty-six thousand spiritual stones!” Nie Li smiled and tossed the sword to Gu Bei. “It’s yours!”

“Thanks!” Gu Bei was extremely excited. There was finally a suitable sword for him.

Li Yufeng was also stunned at what’d just happened. So you were allowed bargain in the Celestial Treasure Pavilion?

“Young Master Li, this is a Grade 5 artifact — Frost Sting. The price is twelve thousand spiritual stones. What do you think?” Wu Die asked at Li Yufeng’s side.

“I’ll offer six thousand for this Frost Sting!” Li Yufeng opened his mouth without thinking. He was copying Nie Li’s bargaining style. The Celestial Treasure Pavilion was making way too much profit from these artifacts; therefore, slashing the price in half shouldn’t be a problem for them!

Wu Die showed a dazed smile at Li Yufeng’s words and bitterly smiled, “Young Master Li, I’m afraid we cannot accept that price.”

“I’m only offering six thousand spiritual stones. Any more and I don’t want it!” Li Yufeng firmly said.

Wu Die restrained her expression as she started to put the Frost Sting away, and politely said, “Apologies, Young Master Li. The Frost Sting’s lowest possible price is twelve thousand spiritual stones.”

At Wu Die’s words, Li Yufeng’s face turned black. Someone like

Nie Li could slash the price in half and that girl had readily agreed to it. So why had Wu Die put the item away when he slashed the price?

Li Yufeng was extremely enraged in his heart, but he wasn't in a position where he could flare up.

Wu Die couldn't help secretly muttering to herself. This item only costs twelve thousand spiritual stones. As the first-in-line successor to the Ashen Flames Family, Li Yufeng actually had the nerve to ask for six thousand. As for Frost Sting, they definitely wouldn't sell it for anything less than ten thousand spiritual stones.

Chapter 347: Purchase

Li Yufeng continued picking out other artifacts.

Nie Li kept looking around, sweeping his eyes over all kinds of artifacts. Finally, his eyes landed on a Grade 6 artifact — Silvery Moon Blade.

“Let’s get a suitable weapon for Brother Xingyun too!” Nie Li said with a smile towards Cai Die. “Miss Cai Die, please take that item down for me.”

“This is a Grade 6 Artifact — Silvery Moon Blade. It’s price is around fifty thousand spiritual stones!” Cai Die brought the Silvery Moon Blade down from its stand and smiled. That frightening bargain aside, Nie Li was rather straightforward with his purchases. Unlike many who’d spend a long while touching it and thinking.

Nie Li calmly smiled. “Thirty thousand spiritual stones. Whether it sells or not depends on a word from Miss Cai Die.”

Cai Die looked at Nie Li as though she’d just seen a ghost. This Silvery Moon Blade’s bottom line was also roughly thirty thousand. No more, no less! Since the original price was fifty thousand spiritual stones, she thought that Nie Li was also slash the price in half again. If that happened, then she’d definitely reject it. She never imagined that Nie Li could actually call out the bottom line.

A refusal? Were they going to reject business? If they made this deal, it'd sit nicely at the lowest possible price. Although they wouldn't earn much, they'd still earn something.

The more spiritual stones that the Celestial Treasure Pavilion had, the more artifacts they'd be able to acquire from the Gods Craft Pavilion.

Cai Die pondered it a little, bitterly smiled, and said in a helpless tone, "Young Master Nie Li really does have good eyes. So intelligent. Thirty thousand spiritual stones is a deal!"

Nie Li lightly smiled. Such an artifact would cost about twenty-seven thousand spiritual stones straight from the Gods Craft Pavilion. Deducting travel expenses and production costs, the Celestial Treasure Pavilion could still earn from thirty thousand. If he yelled for a lower price, the Celestial Treasure Pavilion definitely wouldn't accept, since they wouldn't make a profit from that.

Both Li Xingyun and Gu Bei were speechless. According to Cai Die's expression, they more or less sensed that Nie Li was calling the absolute lowest price. From now on, they'd have to bring Nie Li when they went out shopping. He could really save them some money.

"Miss Cai Die, what about that set of Grade 6 Artifact — Darkcloud Battle Armour?" Nie Li asked as he looked at Cai Die.

"Young Master, please make your offer. If the price is acceptable,

then I'll sell it to Young Master." Cai Die thought for a while and decided that it'd be better if she didn't tell him the retail price. If she kept doing that, then others would know how huge of a profit the Celestial Treasure Pavilion was making. She also wanted to see if Nie Li really was a master at appraising artifacts.

"Armguard, chestplate, gauntlets, and belt all together. One hundred thirty thousand spiritual stones." Nie li said after a brief thought.

Cai Die speechlessly stared at Nie Li. A moment later, she nodded and said, "One hundred thirty thousand spiritual stones it is!" What else could she say?!

Even with so many parts of the armour, Nie Li actually made an offer that was only five thousand away from their bottom line. Just what kind of monster is he?! She'd certainly run into quite an expert!

However, Nie Li was still pretty straightforward with his purchases. Hundreds of thousands of spiritual stones exchanged hands without batting an eye.

Cai Die continued to ask, "Does Young Master still need anything else?"

Nie Li pointed here and there. "That set of battle armour. One hundred twenty thousand spiritual stones! That set, one hundred twenty-five thousand spiritual stones! That set, one hundred thirty-five thousand spiritual stones!"

“So many? Young Master wants them all?” Cai Die was stunned. She’d just realised that Nie Li’s total bill had reached an extremely frightening degree.

“Yeah.” Nie Li nodded, “Go ahead and wrap them up for me. I’ll keep browsing slowly!”

Cai Die appeared excited. “Okay.”

If she served some wealthy Young Master, she could obtain at least tens or perhaps a few hundred spiritual stones for a single sale. From this transaction with Nie Li, she could earn thousands. How could she not be excited?

Wu Die, who was sitting with Li Yufeng, felt rather dejected when she saw how excited Cai Die was. She’d been recommending items to Li Yufeng for half a day now, and she still hadn’t sold a single item. Meanwhile, Cai Die had already sold so many in just a short while — even more than she had managed to sell in a few years.

Why didn’t she have the fortune to encounter such a moneybag?

Wu Die looked at Li Yufeng and felt even more downcast. This Li Yufeng was too picky and kept slashing the price like crazy. Did he even want to buy?

Li Yufeng was also extremely embarrassed. He’d picked several

items, but when he tried to slash the price the way Nie Li had done it, they were all rejected by Wu Die. Every single item was so expensive that he had to give it thorough consideration.

However, a short distance away, Nie Li was still buying this and that. Li Yufeng was disheartened to the extreme.

Even someone like a Grand Elder of the Divine Feathers Sect wouldn't have as much money as Nie Li, right?

What Li Yufeng didn't know was that those six hundred thousand spiritual stones meant nothing to Nie Li. He still had millions of spiritual stones on his person; furthermore, the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting was constantly producing more.

Cai Die turned around and realised that Nie Li had just bought sixty to seventy percent of all of their Grade 6 artifacts.

This was a genuine moneybag! He spent six hundred thousand spiritual stones in one shopping spree!

Li Yufeng observed Nie Li and tried to guess just who this Nie Li was, and what kind of position he had in the Heavenly Path League. What relationship did he have with Li Xingyun?

If such a person remained by Li Xingyun's side, then Li Yufeng definitely cannot rest or eat in peace!

Li Yufeng was too embarrassed to stay there any longer, so he stood up.

“Is Young Master Li going to leave?” Wu Die looked at Li Yufeng. This guy still hadn’t bought anything! Although she was downhearted, she was still very polite with her words. “It seems that our stock this time couldn’t catch Young Master Li’s eye. I’ll definitely send someone to notify you when the next set of stocks arrive!”

Li Yufeng felt his face burning. How could these artifacts not catch his eye? The truth was obvious — he couldn’t afford it!

“Very well. I’ll go ahead and take my leave!” Li Yufeng cupped his hands towards Wu Die and coldly swept his gaze at the other four before retracting his gaze.

He left.

“Li Yufeng is a narrow-minded person. You guys have to be careful in the future!” Li Xingyun couldn’t help warning his friends as he watched Li Yufeng’s silhouette disappear. His mind flashed back to past events and he tightly clenched his fist.

“Okay.” Nie Li nodded. He clearly understand the conflict between Li Xingyun and Li Yufeng.

Nie Li had bought so many items that, by now, everyone had a good set of battle armour. Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and Li Xingyun also

received more suitable weapons. As for Nie Li, he didn't need to buy any weapons; he already had the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword.

The Thunder God's Meteorite Sword would keep growing stronger along with Nie Li's own strength. Presently, the power of the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword definitely wasn't beneath that of a Grade 7 artifact. Therefore, Nie Li didn't need to purchase any offensive combat artifacts.

The group left the Celestial Treasure Pavilion with a generous harvest in their arms.

"With this set of battle armour, there's nothing to fear, even if we encountered Heavenly Axis Realm experts in the outside world!" Lu Piao said excitedly. He realised that once his Inferno Meteor Battle Armor was attacked, it'd automatically form a powerful barrier around him.

Even if he couldn't win against a Heavenly Axis Realm expert, running away was still easy!

The armour could easily be worn under casual clothes. You wouldn't notice it at all.

Although they wore their regular clothes on the outside, all of them couldn't help feeling more confident in themselves. After all, each of them had an entire set of Grade 6 artifact armour! So of course they'd feel more confident when they wore it! They couldn't help puffing out their chests.

Chapter 348: Challenge

East District

The East District's quota was full. The lineup had already been decided.

Nie Li, Gu Bei, Lu Piao, Long Yuyin, and another youth called Xue Yu. A total of five people.

Originally, Jin Yan was confident that he'd make the selection for the East District too. However, the youth named Xue Yu had suddenly appeared from nowhere and surpassed him in cultivation. Jin Yan had been unexpectedly replaced. He was in a rage; however, the matter was already settled. There was nothing he could do.

"Nie Li, I heard that someone called Xue Yu is also entering the East District with us. So, why is it that we have no idea who he is?" Lu Piao asked in confusion. He hadn't even known that there was such a person in their class.

Even Nie Li only knew that Xue Yu was a quiet individual who never spoke with anyone else. He wasn't terribly powerful either. However, he'd emerged from nowhere, surpassed Jin Yan, and earned the qualifications to enter the East District with the rest of them.

"He isn't an ordinary person," Nie Li said after a brief silence. "Get Li Xingyun to investigate him. In the meantime, try not to incur any grudge with him."

“Okay.” Lu Piao nodded.

In addition to the five of them, there were others who’d managed to enter the East District from the previous class and the class before that. Xiao Yu was also among them.

East District’s Martial Field

This was an extremely wide field protected by layered barriers.

Five to six hundred students were gathered on the Martial Field. They were all students of the East District.

A group of teachers were seated towards the front of the field, observing the sixty or so newcomers while discussing in soft voices. Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were among them.

“We have a total of sixty newcomers who’ve entered the East District. A few of them are actually quite decent.”

“I heard that there are five geniuses from the newest class year! Gu Bei and Long Yuyin are among them. That Nie Li is included as well!”

Huang Yu sat in the middle, swept an eye over all the students, and smiled. “There are quite a few 5-grade Heaven Spiritual Roots in the newcomers’ class. Furthermore, both Gu Bei of the Gu Clan

and Long Yuyin of the Dragonseal Family have integrated with Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirits. That's indeed outstanding!"

If they had Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirits, then they'd have a huge chance to enter the Central District.

Nanmen Tianhai tapped the table and the corner of his mouth slightly curled. "According to the East District's rules, incoming students are required to challenge their seniors to remind themselves that there's always someone stronger. Let the competition begin."

When Nie Li and his group reached the Martial Field, they were informed that every new class of students was required to challenge their senior class. Such was the rule of the East District.

You could call it a show of strength. This event was intended to force the newcomers to put away their pride and focus on learning and cultivating once they entered the East District.

Nie Li swept an eye over the other students of the East District. There were quite a few familiar faces. Li Xingyun was there. So was Murong Yu.

Murong Yu's cold and prideful gaze fell onto Nie Li and his group and coldly snorted. He nevered expect to meet Nie Li and his group again so quickly. Enemies on a narrow road indeed.

Gu Bei gave Nie Li a brief introduction on the East District. “There are approximately six hundred students in the East District. The East District ranks its disciples. We’re part of the newest class. The first genius from the class before ours is Murong Yu, ranked one hundred thirty-two. The genius from the class before his is Li Xingyun, ranked seventy-eight. Gu Heng is from the class before that, and he’s already entered the Central District. Only a few dozen people are qualified to enter the Central District. The rest stay in the East District, until they reach the Heavenly Star Realm and become inner disciples of the Divine Feathers Sect. After that, they’re dispatched on missions to various locations. Of course, a lot of people also receive various other offers.”

Long Yuyin, who was next to him added on. She wore a neat and tight-fitting set of clothes as fighting spirit surged from her. “Those who are invited to join the Central District are all formidable geniuses. There’s a requirement if you want to become the Patriarch of a family or even the Sect Master, you must enter the Central District! The students of the Central District are personally taught by the five strongest Martial Ancestor Realm experts of the Divine Feathers Sect!”

Nie Li nodded. He’d already known this from his previous life.

The only way to enter the Central District was the keep challenging the top ten, until they got chosen!

However, those ranked in the top ten were experts who were older. Even Li Xingyun was only seventy-eighth. Of course, Li Xingyun’s rank was back when he had that Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level demon spirit. Now that he had a God Level

one, his ranking would probably move even higher. However, Li Xingyun didn't plan to reveal his demon spirit just yet.

The current students of the East District looked upon the newcomers with smiles filled with bad intentions. Back when they themselves entered the East District, they'd been taught a lesson so miserable that they couldn't even bear to recollect it. Now, it was their turn to teach the new students.

Nanmen Tianhai's voice echoed through the Martial Field. "The seniors of the East District have gathered. You newcomers may pick who to challenge. Everyone has five chances to challenge! There are no restrictions to the duels, except for killing!"

Each person could challenge up to five times. The new students exchanged glances. Of course they'd challenge the weak ones. Although they didn't know their seniors' ranks, they could roughly sense their auras to determine their strength.

After a few moments, the first challenge was made.

Nie Li, Gu Bei, and Lu Piao exchanged glances.

"Nie Li, who should we leave Murong Yu to?" Gu Bei and Lu Piao both looked eager.

"Let me do it. I still haven't paid him back for the Ghastly Ruins!" Nie Li glared at Murong Yu in the distance and narrowed his eyes.

Murong Yu noticed that Nie Li was looking at him, and he couldn't help sneering. He didn't actually believe that Ni Li would dare to challenge him. Murong Yu's cultivation was already 6-fate. He didn't know what Nie Li's cultivation was, but he figured that there'd still be a wide gap between them.

Nie Li pointed at Murong Yu as he said calmly, "I want to challenge him!"

The students nearby all looked at Nie Li in shock. This kid wanted to challenge Murong Yu? That was unbelievable! Murong Yu was the genius of the previous year and could easily move into the East District's top two hundred! There was no way a normal student could challenge him. They'd definitely lose.

As newcomers, it'd be enough for them to challenge the tails of the East District rankings. But Nie Li wanted to start by challenging Murong Yu. Wasn't he overestimating himself a little too much?

Murong Yu was in disbelief at Nie Li's words. To think that Nie Li would actually dare challenge him. This kid was asking for a beating! Murong Yu laughed and said, "Since Junior Brother Nie Li is having such thoughts, then I'll give you some guidance!"

On the contrary, his eyes flashed with ferocious rays of light. He still regretted letting Nie Li run last time. He'd been thinking of teaching Nie Li another lesson, but he'd never had a chance to do so. But since Nie Li was serving himself up to Murong Yu's doorstep, then of course he wouldn't hold back!

Chapter 349: Saint Blood Draconic Falcon

Nie Li leapt onto a fighting stage. Murong Yu also flew up.

Everyone's attention was now focused on that battle stage.

Without a doubt, Nie Li and Murong Yu's battle was attracting the most attention.

One was a genius from the previous year; one was from the current. Furthermore, there seemed to be an old score to settle between them.

However, from the perspective of the crowd, this challenge was simply Nie Li overestimating his own abilities. After all, their cultivations weren't separated by just a little; Murong Yu was years ahead of Nie Li.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai exchanged glances.

"Nie Li actually took the initiative to challenge Murong Yu. He's simply too daring," said Huang Yu.

"It's unavoidable for youngsters to be proud and arrogant," Nanmen Tianhai sighed as he shook his head.

They weren't optimistic about Nie Li's chances. After all, the difference between those two was the same as how Murong Yu was

unable to defeat Li Xingyun.

Murong Yu looked at Nie Li and said in a sinister tone, “Now you’ve actually gone and challenged me. In others’ eyes, you’re a genius. But in my eyes, you’re nothing. Last time, I was too careless and let you escape. But this time, I’ll crush your head into the ground and mercilessly trample you. I’ll teach you how to respect your Senior Brother!”

A powerful aura burst from Murong Yu’s body in an explosion of air.

Murong Yu was already 6-fate, whereas Nie Li is only 4-fate. However, it was still impossible for Murong Yu to suppress Nie Li in terms of aura alone.

Even though Nie Li was only a 4-fate, his strength had far surpassed that level.

Nie Li didn’t explode his aura like Murong Yu had. Instead, he calmly looked at his opponent. No matter how Murong Yu tried to enrage him, or attack his confidence, Nie Li didn’t see Murong Yu with very much regard.

That was because he and Murong Yu weren’t on the same level!

Nie Li looked at Murong Yu as he calmly said, “Cut the crap. Can we start?”

Murong Yu tried to anger Nie Li, but he never expected Nie Li to ignore his words. His jab had landed on empty air.

“Hmph, egotistic!” With a twitch of his right hand, Murong Yu shot an energy towards Nie Li.

Woosh!

The energy turned into a streak of light.

The moment it was about to hit Nie Li, his body faded away.

A miss!

Murong Yu’s pupils narrowed as he coldly snorted, “That move again!?” He looked around, searching for traces of Nie Li.

Nie Li abruptly appeared as a chilling ray of light and slashed at Murong Yu’s neck.

“Hmph, too slow!” Murong Yu concentrated on his fists and sent a surge of unparalleled energy towards Nie Li’s chest.

That fist was filled with explosive energy and caused friction sparks with the air.

Woosh!

Nie Li saw Murong Yu's attack, but didn't pause in the slightest. Instead, he continued his slash towards Murong Yu's neck.

Nie Li was trying to use himself as a sacrifice and take Murong Yu down with him? How could Murong Yu possibly let things go as Nie Li wished? He dodged sideways and smashed his fist towards Nie Li's chest with that unparalleled energy.

If Nie Li were to suffer this blow, he'd definitely die!

The spectators held their breaths. There was no way Nie Li could dodge that attack. Indeed, Nie Li's strength was still far below Murong Yu's.

A boom sounded as Murong Yu's fist landed on Nie Li's chest. However, Murong Yu felt a rebound of energy and instantly sensed that something was off.

Something's not right!

The frightening rebound almost broke Murong Yu's hand.

But before Murong Yu could react, Nie Li returned to his human form, grabbed Murong Yu's arm, and with the help of that rebound, tossed Murong Yu upwards. Murong Yu smashed onto the ground like a sandbag.

Boom!

Before the pain in Murong Yu's arm had dulled, he was smashed into the ground, leaving him dizzy.

Just what was going on?

Nie Li had only used 3-fate strength, but he still mobilised such power? Furthermore, Murong Yu's fist hadn't hurt Nie Li; instead it actually made Murong Yu suffer such a powerful rebound!

Murong Yu still couldn't figure out what was going. Again, Nie Li flung him up into the sky and smashed him ruthlessly onto the ground like a sandbag.

Boom!

Murong Yu felt likes his internal organs were about to explode.

Murong Yu still couldn't react before Nie Li flung him into the sky and unleashed a series of dazzling moves. Murong Yu was sent smashing onto the ground, yet again.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Attacks continuously landed on Murong Yu.

Nie Li didn't use all his strength as he dealt with Murong Yu. From his opinion, there was no need to!

The spectators felt that the sight was unreal. What was going on? Why was Murong Yu the one getting beaten up?

By right, Murong Yu's strength should be far above Nie Li's! But why didn't Murong Yu have the slightest chance to counterattack under Nie Li's barrage? Why didn't Murong Yu's attacks do anything to Nie Li?

Huang Yu looked at Nanmen Tianhai as he asked, "Is that Nie Li considered to be cheating?"

"I don't think so. After all, we didn't put any restrictions on what methods they're allowed use!" Nanmen Tianhai bitterly smiled.

"That's merciless bullying!"

Murong Yu suffered another series of bashes. When he tried to counterattack, he suffered even greater rebounds. He couldn't hurt Nie Li in the slightest! He let out a low, angry roar as his skin turned a peculiar scarlet colour.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Surges of majestic energy burst forth from Murong Yu.

A huge scarlet red wing appeared from his back as he turned into a huge, formidable-looking falcon.

“Good Heavens! It’s actually a Saint Blood Draconic Falcon!”

“Indeed, it’s the Saint Blood Draconic Falcon! A Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level growth rate demon spirit!”

The Saint Blood Draconic Falcon is one of the pinnacle varieties of the Draconic Falcon species. It’s said to be the royalty among the Draconic Falcons. Furthermore, a Saint Blood Draconic Falcon with an Extraordinary Level growth rate is an absolute rarity. No one knew where Murong Yu got it from.

“Earlier on, Murong Yu wasn’t willing to merge with his demon spirit. So he was concealing his strength!”

“That Saint Blood Draconic Falcon doesn’t have a God Level growth rate, but it’s still enough to dominate an entire region! It’s the most powerful existence beneath a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit!”

“Nie Li actually forced Murong Yu to the point that he had to merge with his demon spirit!”

Murong Yu’s eyes were scarlet red as he floated high up into the sky. His massive scarlet wings flapped slowly. With each flap a burst of frightening energy was unleashed.

“I didn’t want to merge with my demon spirit, but you’ve forced me to! Now, I’ll give you a thorough death!” Surges of powerful aura burst from Murong Yu. Fiery clouds formed around him, burning as though they were trying to destroy everything.

The blazing energy surged like a tidal wave towards Nie Li.

The spectators sensed the flow of energy rolling off of the martial stage. Their faces changed. They never thought that Murong Yu had reached such a level. It looked like his ranking was definitely going to shift ahead even more.

Pressured by that powerful energy, Nie Li took several steps back and raised his head towards Murong Yu. This guy finally couldn’t hold back anymore and had exerted all his strength!

Chapter 350: Grade 6 Artifact Armour

So Murong Yu had integrated with a Saint Blood Draconic Falcon!

Forcing Murong Yu to integrate with his demon spirit, Nie Li already had full grasp of Murong Yu's strength!

Murong Yu's 6-fate cultivation, plus his Saint Blood Draconic Falcon, was actually quite a force. Even if Nie Li was confident that he'd win, he knew that it'd be after a bitter struggle. Maybe Nie Li would even have to reveal his own Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit.

However, now was still not the time!

Why would Nie Li need to engage in a harsh battle anyways? Before he challenged Murong Yu, he'd already made all the preparations.

The corner of Nie Li's mouth curled into a trace of a smile. Murong Yu was miserable to encounter him. With a wave of his right hand, Nie Li brought out the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword. Bolts of thick lightning gathered on it, giving it a spectacular appearance. The sword's lightning energy collided with Murong Yu's intense energy in a series of explosions.

The two energies weren't inferior to one another as they collided on the battlefield. The spectators were utterly shocked.

Nie Li was able to match the Saint Blood Draconic Falcon with a weapon?

That would meant that Nie Li's weapon was probably a Grade 7 or 8 artifact!

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai bitterly smiled as they exchanged looks. There weren't any restrictions on artifacts in this battle, since artifacts were also considered part of a person's strength. However, in most cases, the artifacts wield by the senior disciples of the East District were much better than those wielded by the newcomers.

However, Nie Li had become an exception.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai had no idea what level Nie Li's battle armour artifact was, but they were certain that it was at least Grade 4. That's why Murong Yu's energy fist couldn't penetrate it.

On top of that, Nie Li brought out another one. An offensive artifact that should be Grade 7, or maybe even Grade 8!

Murong Yu had no idea what kind of artifact Nie Li was wielding. Just what kind of powerful artifact could match his energy? However, with a weapon alone, it should be impossible to win against Murong Yu! A chilly trace flashed through Murong Yu's eyes. He issued a long whistle, lifted his sharp claws, and clawed at Nie Li.

The razor sharp claws swept through the air with boundless energy. The dispersed shockwaves caused the barrier to tremble violently.

Murong Yu's raging attack contained boundless fire energy, like a storm raining down from the horizon.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Some of the stray flames landed on the ground and instantly caused spiderweb cracks.

Murong Yu's powerful display of strength utterly shocked the spectators. They never expected him to be so powerful.

"Nie Li is definitely done for!"

The spectators discussed in soft voice.

They never thought that Nie Li would actually be able to force Murong Yu to go all out. They didn't think that Nie Li, as a newcomer, could still confront Murong Yu under that kind of situation.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A few flame pillars landed on Nie Li and burned several holes in

his clothes, revealing the faint silvery glow of his battle armour.

Just as Nie Li was going to be devoured by those frightening flames, a surge of formless energy spread out from Nie Li's body and formed a protective barrier.

The blazing flames continued to explode, but they were repelled by the protective barrier, unable to even scratch Nie Li.

Bang!

The Saint Blood Draconic Falcon's claws landed on the protective barrier. A powerful rebound caused it to stagger.

'That's impossible!' Murong Yu roared inwardly. Now that he'd merged with the Saint Blood Draconic Falcon, even a 7-fate expert shouldn't be able to endure his attack. But when he attacked Nie Li, it hadn't even caused the slightest bit of damage!

The moment Murong Yu's attack landed on the barrier, the corner of Nie Li's mouth curled into a light smile. He waved the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword, gathering lightning onto it.

With a wave of the sword, a pillar of lightning descended.

Boom! That pillar of lightning landed on the Saint Blood Draconic Falcon.

Murong Yu instantly felt the powerful current circulate through him, spreading sensations of numbness and intense pain throughout his body.

Although that lightning pillar couldn't kill him, it still caused him heavy injuries.

"I'll kill you!" Even though Murong Yu had suffered heavy injuries, he brandished his sharp claws like a madman and slashed at Nie Li.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Murong Yu rained blows down on Nie Li.

However, he still couldn't break through Nie Li's defense; Nie Li was completely ignoring Murong Yu's attacks. He brandished the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword again and shot another pillar of lightning at Murong Yu.

"Urghhh! Arghh! Uwaggh!"

Every time a lightning pillar struck Murong Yu, he issued a miserable shriek. Based off of how hoarse his screams were, everyone knew that Murong Yu was definitely suffering an unimaginable pain.

The spectators were all confused. Fire spurts and lightning sparks flew everywhere on the battle stage, so they couldn't see the

situation clearly. The battle looked extremely intense. But why was Murong Yu always the one screaming?

Could it be that Murong Yu was being dominated?

But that shouldn't be possible! Murong Yu was a 6-fate expert and he'd integrated with a Saint Blood Draconic Falcon!

Bue even so, he couldn't win against Nie Li? Then how strong was Nie Li?

However, the facts had been placed before them.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai dumbfoundedly watched the dense storm of lightning pillars attack Murong Yu.

This...

This was a little too shameless!

Who would've thought that Nie Li's battle armour wasn't a Grade 4 artifact, but actually a Grade 6 instead? Not only that, it was an entire set!

It'd already be impressive if an ordinary person got their hands on a Grade 4 artifact battle armour, but this Nie Li kid had actually gotten himself an entire set of Grade 6 ones!

Even a Heavenly Axis Realm expert might not be able to penetrate a Grade 6 artifact battle armour!

And Murong Yu was just a 6-fate!

Because Grade 6 artifact battle armours were so rare, most people had never seen one before. The same went for Murong Yu; he had no idea what was going on, so he continued his attacks on Nie Li. He had no idea that his attacks were having no effect.

Aside from Nie Li's Grade 6 artifact battle armour, his Thunder God's Meteorite Sword was something special too. The lightning pillars that it generated were extremely powerful.

Not to mention that Nie Li was only at 4-fate. Even if he were only a 1-fate, he could totally play Murong Yu to death, just with his luxurious equipment.

However, the most sinister thing was that Nie Li intended to thoroughly defeat Murong Yu. He continuously sent lightning pillars through Murong Yu, making him scream as he suffered terribly.

That was too evil!

Huang Yu felt his scalp tingling. He'd heard that some time ago, Murong Yu had trampled over Nie Li. This should be Nie Li's revenge against Murong Yu.

“This is too…shameless!” Nanmen Tianhai was speechless. In the past, no one had encountered such a situation before. A newcomer wearing a set of Grade 6 Artifact bashing his senior of the East District.

There wasn’t any precedence for this; therefore, there weren’t any rules regarding this matter.

After this incident, they’d probably need to rewrite the rules and ban high grade artifacts from the field!

Murong Yu’s miserable screams were endless. As the spectators heard it, they could more or less tell what was happening inside the clouds of fire and lightning. Gu Bei and Lu Piao were secretly laughing as they imagined the miserable state that Murong Yu must be in right now.

Even Li Xingyun couldn’t help laughing. Nie Li had played Murong Yu miserably!

Chapter 351: New Assessment

While Nie Li and Murong Yu were fighting, two people were quietly seated in another corner of the field, enjoying tea as they watched the fight.

One of them was Long Tianming. The other one wore a silvery long robe and bore a graceful manner that was even higher than Long Tianming's.

"I never thought that Brother Beiyan would be interested in these newcomers." Long Tianming looked at the youth next to him and lightly smiled. His words carried thorns; his relation with the other party was obviously not harmonious.

"I only came to watch. But the fact that even Long Tianming yourself would care about this makes me wonder which is the formidable genius." Situ Beiyan was calmly seated. "It seems that this youth is interesting indeed."

"The only reason he won against Murong Yu was because of his full-body artifact," Long Tianming said with a smile. "So he's also gained Brother Beiyan's appreciation?"

"This boy came from the Tiny World without any background worth speaking of. Yet, he managed to get himself a set of Grade 6 artifact battle armour before he entered the East District and also became Hierarch Skycloud's disciple. Isn't that enough?" Situ Beiyan smiled and continued, "I also heard that he's established a force with Gu Bei, and that it grew to a few thousand members

within a few days. It looks like the outside world is bustling with activity!”

Long Tianming looked at Situ Beiyan in confusion. Situ Beiyan should be on alert if someone was rising up. However, he was sitting there and just enjoying the show. Therefore, Long Tianming didn’t know what Situ Beiyan was planning.

But regardless of what Situ Beiyan thought, Long Tianming wasn’t going to allow the Demon League to rise. Long Yuyin had just established her Profound Note League [1] which was probably instigated by Nie Li. Although Long Tianming didn’t know what Nie Li’s motives were, he could sense that Nie Li’s goal wasn’t a simple one. Whatever it was, it was threatening him! At the very least, Long Tianming wasn’t going to let Long Yuyin threaten his position as the future Patriarch of the Dragonseal Family!

Back then, Nie Li had gifted him three words. However, Long Tianming still didn’t see the profound intent in them, and was starting to think that he’d been tricked; however, he couldn’t verify it. Therefore, he didn’t have a very good impression of Nie Li.

Right now, there were only three people qualified to fight for the Sect Master’s position: Situ Beiyan, Long Tianming, and Li Yufeng. However, recently, there had been a few others who’d popped out from nowhere and thrown things into disarray. Especially Gu Bei, who’d just become the first-in-line successor to the Gu Clan. Now, Long Yuyin had also emerged and Li Xingyun didn’t look very resigned either. All three of them were related to Nie Li!

Since Situ Beiyan was also here to observe Nie Li, it proved that he wasn't as indifferent as he claimed. Well, at least he was paying some attention to the rising Nie Li!

About half an hour later, the battle between Nie Li and Murong Yu finally ended. The flames and lightning also died down.

Nie Li appeared in the field, already wearing a new and tidy set of clothes. Murong Yu was a short distance away, laying on the ground like a dead dog without a scrap of cloth on his body. He was covered in wounds and looked unconscious.

The spectators blankly stared at the scene.

"Heavens! What happened?"

"Murong Yu lost?"

"He'd already merged with his Saint Blood Draconic Falcon, so why is he still in such a miserable state?"

They all looked at Nie Li with reverence in their eyes. Murong Yu was an expert ranked within the top two hundred of the East District. He was the most talented expert from their previous year. But he was actually beaten so miserably by Nie Li? Didn't that mean that Nie Li would be ranked within the top two hundred upon entering the East District?

Seeing the naked Murong Yu on the ground, many of the East

District's girls blushed red and immediately looked away.

Xiao Yu couldn't help feeling his face boil. He looked at Nie Li. That guy was definitely doing this on purpose!

Even the usually cold Long Yuyin's face was red.

Once Murong Yu regained consciousness and realised what was going on, he probably wouldn't have the decency to look anyone in the eye anymore. That humiliation was definitely worse than death.

"Back then, you stole my soul scales in the Ghastly Ruins. Today, I've gotten back at you in the martial field. We're considered even," Nie Li lightly said as he glanced at Murong Yu, who was still laying on the ground.

When the nearby students of the East District heard what Nie Li had said, they felt the urge to vomit blood. It was normal to have your soul scales stolen. But Nie Li had stolen Murong Yu's clothes!

Nie Li leapt down from the stage and walked towards Gu Bei and the rest.

Gu Bei and Lu Piao winked at Nie Li. This move from Nie Li really had the right flavour!

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai couldn't help smiling bitterly. They had to set new rules now. Otherwise, wouldn't Nie Li end up

challenging the entire East District? After all, Nie Li owned an entire set of Grade 6 artifacts!

As Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were discussing amongst themselves, Venerable Flameless walked to their side and spoke in low voice, “Elders, Hierarch Skycloud has called me to pass on a few words. He wants you to send several people to test Nie Li!”

Upon hearing Venerable Flameless’s words, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were shocked within their hearts.

Who was the Hierarch Skycloud, you ask? He was one of the five major existences in the Divine Feathers Sect! People of Nanmen Tianhai and Huang Yu’s level didn’t even have the qualifications to meet Hierarch Skycloud!

Venerable Flameless was the eldest disciple of Hierarch Skycloud; therefore, his words couldn’t be doubted. Furthermore, how would they dare question Hierarch Skycloud’s words?

“Rest assured, Venerable Flameless. We’ll make arrangements for it!” Huang Yu immediately replied.

“Very well.” Venerable Flameless lightly replied as he sat down in the seat behind them. A chilly light flashed through his eyes as he swept them over Nie Li, who was sitting with Gu Bei. He coldly smiled.

The competition continued.

Nanmen Tianhai stood up and his voice echoed throughout the entire stage. “Take Murong Yu away. A new rule has been made for this competition. No one is allowed to use any artifact above Grade 3!”

At Nanmen Tianhai’s words, the students of the East District were slightly stunned. There wasn’t such a rule before. Could it be because of Murong Yu’s case? As they thought about the Thunder God’s Meteorite Sword in Nie Li’s hands, they realised that Nie Li had used artifacts to win against Murong Yu! Even Elder Nanmen Tianhai couldn’t put up with it any longer and, therefore, forbid the use of artifacts above Grade 3!

No wonder Nie Li was able to win against Murong Yu! Only then did the students of the East District understand what was going on. Based on strength alone, Nie Li probably wasn’t Murong Yu’s proper opponent!

When Nie Li heard this, he looked towards Nanmen Tianhai and Huang Yu. One familiar figure in that direction made him narrow his eyes.

He never expected Venerable Flameless, who he’d confrontated in the Skycloud Hall, had also arrived!

“So we can’t use artifacts anymore. I planned to bully those people from the East District like Nie Li was doing!” Lu Piao said a little regretfully. He never thought that they’d forbid the use of artifacts so quickly. How boring!

Li Xingyun couldn't help rolling his eyes. If Nie Li, Gu Bei, and Lu Piao were to wear their Grade 6 Artifacts in battle against the students of the East District, then it'd be weird if Nanmen Tianhai and Huang Yu didn't do anything. Li Xingyun remembered when he first arrived in the East District; back then, he'd also gotten beaten by his seniors. He couldn't bear remembering that experience. However, Nie Li and the other two didn't show up to get bashed; they were there to bash others!

This was simply untolerable?!

Nanmen Tianhai coughed and calmly said, "By right, Nie Li should replace Murong Yu in rank, now that he's defeated Murong Yu. However, after discussing it with Elder Huang Yu, we've decided that Nie Li should undergo another test. He may only replace Murong Yu's position if he passes that test!"

It seemed that Elder Nanmen Tianhai couldn't stand it either; therefore, he'd given Nie Li a difficult problem. Everyone wondered what kind of test it'd be?

The students of the East District couldn't help raising their expectations. Earlier on, Nie Li had beaten Murong Yu up so badly, and left the students of the East District like themselves with no pride. It looked like Nie Li was going to pay the price now!

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[1] Profound Note League = Xuan Yin Meng. "Yin" as in Long Yu"yin", but also means "music note".

Chapter 352: Frost Dragon Beast

"Now, we'll choose Nie Li's next opponents to test his true strength!" Nanmen Tianhai solemnly said. "In this competition, artifacts above Grade 3 are not allowed!"

Nie Li frowned upon hearing Nanmen Tianhai's words.

Lu Piao and Gu Bei exchanged glances.

"There wasn't such a rule before!"

"Is someone trying to make things difficult for Nie Li?" Gu Bei raised his guard.

Nie Li had a rough idea of what was going on. Venerable Flameless probably did something. However, he couldn't back off at a time like this. If he did, then people would say that he'd only relied on artifacts to win, and didn't have any genuine strength.

Although this competition within the East District wasn't terribly significant, there were probably many higher-ups who were paying close attention to it. If they fixed a negative impression of him today, then it'd only hurt him once he started competing for the Sect Master's position.

Since someone else was going to choose his opponent for him, then it looked like Nie Li wasn't going to have his own freedom to act anymore.

Nie Li looked at Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai and asked, “How many opponents will the two Elders arrange for me?” If they sent an endless river of opponents, then Nie Li would just get annoyed to death!

Nanmen Tianhai paused for a moment, as if he was waiting for someone else’s reply. Then he said, “Just two opponents.”

Nie Li nodded. “Understood.”

Since they were only sending two, that meant that those two had extreme confidence in their own strengths. However, the opponent should still underestimate Nie Li’s strength to a certain degree!

The students of the East District focused their attention in Nie Li’s direction. They had no idea who Elder Nanmen Tianhai was going to send to deal with Nie Li. They couldn’t help the expectations that were rising in their hearts.

If Nie Li couldn’t use artifacts, then he’d definitely get a merciless beating. Right?

Every newcomer to the East District should be taught a ruthless lesson. Otherwise, they won’t know how to show respect!

A well-built youth in his twenties leapt onto the stage.

“It’s Ye Chong! His ranking is even above Murong Yu’s. To think that they’d send such a high level opponent in one go! This is definitely going to be a miserable experience for Nie Li!”

“Even Murong Yu wasn’t Nie Li’s proper opponent. So of course the two elders aren’t going to send anyone weaker!” One of the East District student sneered, “There’s a price to pay for winning by relying on artifacts!”

These seniors of the East District definitely couldn’t stand there after watching one of their own get beaten by a newcomer.

Since that was the situation, then Nie Li probably wouldn’t be able to get out of this!

Nie Li put away his artifacts, changed into a new set of clothes, and leapt onto the stage. He exchanged looks with Ye Chong.

Venerable Flameless transmitted his voice to Ye Chong and said, “Ye Chong, there’s no need to hold back. Go ahead and kill him. I’ll take responsibility!”

Venerable Flameless didn’t know if Nie Li had a fate soul in the Soul Hall. If Nie Li didn’t, then he was definitely doomed! Flamess could use Ye Chong to remove Nie Li from the picture entirely. As for what came afterwards, as far as Venerable Flameless was concerned, Ye Chong could be easily sacrificed.

Ye Chong’s heart shook upon hearing Venerable Flameless’s

words. He never thought that Venerable Flameless would actually want to kill Nie Li. The punishment for killing someone inside the Skysoul Institute was extremely severe. Perpetrators would be locked inside the ice house. However, Ye Chong couldn't disobey Venerable Flameless's instructions. He lightly cups his hands towards Nie Li and said, "Excuse me!"

An imposing manner exploded from Ye Chong. His aura rose rapidly.

Nie Li felt pressured as he looked at Ye Chong. Ye Chong's eyes glazed over with bloodlust. Nie Li's heart shivered as he understood what was going on. Ye Chong was trying to kill him on the martial field! Nie Li didn't have any grudges with him, so why was he trying to kill Nie Li?

If you killed someone inside the Skysoul Institute grounds, the punishment would be extremely severe. Even if it was just an accident during a competition. However, Ye Chong had still decided to do it. It looked like Venerable Flameless had issued death commands to Ye Chong!

Because Nie Li's fate soul was still unstable, he hadn't placed it in the Soul Hall! He couldn't help raising his guard; Venerable Flameless definitely wasn't going to let go until he achieved his goal!

Even if Ye Chong lost, Venerable Flameless could still send someone else up!

Ideas quickly flashed through Nie Li's mind as he thought of how to deal with the situation. This was the first time he'd felt that his life was threatened, since coming to the Skysoul Institute. Indeed, attacks from hidden enemies are harder to defend against!

Boundless Heavenly Energy spiraled around Ye Chong, blowing like a tidal wave towards Nie Li. He took a step forward, as if he didn't want to give Nie Li any time to react. He let out a low growl as icicles grew out from his body, turning him into a huge beast

Rumble Rumble Rumble!

The Heavenly energy on the field surged strongly, as a bone piercing chill tried to freeze everything over. The flow of air instantly solidified, as if he'd just waded into a muddy pond.

Countless fragments of ice gathered with a speed visible to the eye, reflecting blue lights as they spun through the air. The ice gathered on the frontal limbs of the beast, spreading sharp chilling aura.

"It's the Frost Dragon Beast!" At the sight of it, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were shocked. This Frost Dragon Beast also had an Extraordinary Level growth rate!

They couldn't help glancing over at Venerable Flameless. If this really was just a test, then there wasn't a need to send someone so strong from the get-go. Although Nie Li had won against Murong Yu, Venerable Flameless should've been able to tell that Nie Li had won by relying on artifacts!

That Frost Dragon Beast took a step forward. A freezing energy quickly spread throughout the entire field. Nie Li felt as though even the Heavenly Energy within him had been frozen, as he found it difficult to take even a single step.

This was a suffocating ice aura!

“Die!” Ferociousness flashed through the Frost Dragon Beast’s eyes as it waved its huge fist towards Nie Li.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Huge icicles rain down like a storm, engulfing Nie Li with an indescribably frightening energy.

Bang!

The ground ruptured and cracks spread out. The Frost Dragon Beast’s huge fists had landed, shattering the ground into pieces.

The spectators couldn’t help taking a step back and fearfully inhaling a mouthful of cold air as they sensed the frightening energy fluctuation.

Ye Chong was simply too frightening. That attack seemed even stronger than Murong Yu’s. Could Nie Li block it without his artifacts? Everyone focused their attention on Nie Li.

Ye Chong really was stronger than Murong Yu. It looks like Venerable Flameless wasn't planning on giving Nie Li a single chance!

The moment the Frost Dragon Beast's huge fist was about to land on Nie Li's body, he suddenly merged with the Shadow Devil, turned into a streak of light, and disappeared.

Boom!

The Frost Dragon Beast's fist landed and the frightening energy swept out with a thick layer of ice to instantly cover the ground. However, the attack missed.

Nie Li sensed the Frost Dragon Beast's powerful strength, and understood that if he didn't dodge, then the consequences would definitely be very severe! He quickly flew around to the back of the Frost Dragon Beast, instantly emerged with his Fanged Panda, and spat out a black and white sphere of light.

The sphere of light danced as it hurtled towards the Frost Dragon Beast.

Chapter 353: The Third Demon Spirit

Boom!

The black and white sphere of light instantly exploded upon collision. A powerful surge of energy were unleashed as it hit the Frost Dragon Beast that nearly sent it flying.

Although Nie Li was still a 4-fate, his Yin-Yang Blast could unleash power that was several times greater.

The Frost Dragon Beast furiously roared and brandished icicles towards Nie Li, who'd merged with the Fanged Panda.

Woosh!

Nie Li once again, disappeared by merging with the Shadow Devil.

The switch was smooth and natural.

Although the Frost Dragon Beast's combat ability was greater and far surpassed Nie Li's, it still couldn't put a scratch on him, for the time being.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Icicles and Yin-Yang Blasts clashed and a frightening shock wave

rolled out.

The students of the East District dumbfoundedly stared at the battle between Nie Li and the Frost Dragon Beast.

Before the battle began, they were in extreme doubt of Nie Li's strength. They felt that once the real fight started, Nie Li would definitely lose within three moves! However, the truth far surpassed their expectations. Although Nie Li didn't display as much strength as Ye Chong, he responded calmly under the barrage of attacks and didn't seem to be disadvantaged in the least.

"This kid is actually integrated with two demon spirits at the same time?!"

Both Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were astonished. They'd never seen anyone capable of such a feat before!

Everyone originally believed that Nie Li had only relied on artifacts to win against the 6-fate Murong Yu. But now, they realised that Nie Li had actually been concealing his strength. If those two Elders hadn't forced Nie Li to put away his artifacts, then he probably wouldn't have had to expose his strength to them.

Nie Li's talent excited them greatly.

They wondered whether Nie Li's ability to integrate with two demon spirits was due to an abnormal physique.

The battle escalated to its climax.

Two ice dragons circled in the sky, targeting Nie Li. The air instantly froze whenever one of them passed by.

The Frost Dragon Beast tried various powerful moves to catch Nie Li in an icy deathtrap.

The pressure on Nie Li bore down harder and harder. After all, this Frost Dragon Beast had an Extraordinary Level growth rate. Furthermore, Ye Chong himself was a 6-fate. Therefore, Nie Li's Yin-Yang Blast only managed to scratch the Frost Dragon Beast; it couldn't cause any real damage.

Venerable Flameless was focused on Nie Li with an expression on his face that was as cold as ice. No wonder Hierarch Skycloud regarded Nie Li with such importance. So Nie Li really did have shocking talent. Back then, when Venerable Flameless himself was at Nie Li's age, he'd barely just stepped into the Heavenly Fate Realm!

However, the current Nie Li could steadily confront a 6-fate expert!

Furthermore, Nie Li had integrated with two different demon spirits at the same time!

The more talent Nie Li possessed, the higher Hierarch Skycloud

would regard him; therefore, Venerable Flameless had all the more reason to kill him! Venerable Flameless could sense that Nie Li would steal everything that belonged to him!

“Ye Chong, kill him quickly. You have fifteen minutes. Otherwise, you’re on your own!” Venerable Flameless furiously transmitted his voice over to Ye Chong.

Ye Chong felt depress within his heart. He’d already merged with his Frost Dragon Beast, but Nie Li was still as slippery as a mudskipper. It didn’t matter how he attacked, he still couldn’t catch Nie Li.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several ice dragons circled the sky, continuously launching attacks. Icicles rained down in a storm, but they were still unable to capture Nie Li’s location. Suddenly, an idea formed in Ye Chong’s mind. With a roar, the ice suddenly formed a huge square room, enveloping the entire field.

Ice walls rapidly formed one after another.

Just as Nie Li released his void-form, an ice dragon drilled out from the wall and attacked him.

A huge explosion sounded as that ice dragon hit Nie Li and sent him flying out. Nie Li tasted sweetness in his throat and coughed up some fresh blood.

He tumbled a few times in the air before he landed on the ice. His chest heaved up and down. If he hadn't guarded his weak point, that attack probably would've taken his life. If Nie Li continued to fight with just the Shadow Devil and Fanged Panda, then he'd never win against Ye Chong and his Frost Dragon Beast!

Nie Li looked at the Frost Dragon Beast before him. It looked like he had to show his true abilities now!

Ye Chong, still in his Frost Dragon Beast form, coldly stared down at Nie Li. Although Venerable Flameless had ordered him to kill Nie Li, there was still conflict and hesitation inside his heart. After all, he was going to kill someone inside the Skysoul Institute, so he'd definitely suffer a severe punishment!

However, Ye Chong didn't dare to disobey Venerable Flameless. Those consequences were even heavier than what he'd suffer by killing Nie Li.

His parents and his wife were in Venerable Flameless's hands!

"Die!" A blazing killing intent burst forth from Ye Chong. Icicles grew out from the surrounding walls and shot themselves at Nie Li.

At the sight of this, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were shocked.

“Not good!”

They never expected that Ye Chong would want to kill Nie Li!

Ye Chong’s Profound Frost Icicles was a killing move. Since Nie Li was only a 4-fate , and had suffered injuries on top of that, dodging looked impossible.

Nei Li was a genius who they’d found with great difficulty. How could they let him die in a place like this?

However, there wasn’t any time for them to save him. Ye Chong’s actions had come without warning.

Although Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and the rest were aware that Nie Li still had many cards up his sleeve, even they couldn’t help feeling their hearts tense up. The other party had no other motive but to kill Nie Li! Futhermore, Nie Li still hadn’t placed his fate soul in the Soul Hall. If he died here, there to be too much grief! Their eyes all turned red. If Nie Li was killed here, they’d definitely make some someone pay the price, disregarding all consequences.

The students of the East District also felt that this was rather unexpected. After all, the point of this competition was just to spar. Although the newcomers would always receive awful beatings, no one was ever killed onstage.

What was wrong with Ye Chong? Did he have any deep grudges with Nie Li?

Just as the icicles were about to pierce Nie Li's body, he roared furiously and merged with his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. His body instantly swelled and grew pitch-black scales.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The icicles collided with the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's scales and exploded into ice fragments.

Nie Li had estimated the Profound Frost Icicles' penetration power with extreme accuracy. Although the icicles had caused him a little damage, they were still insufficient to penetrate his scales.

The titanic Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon shattered the surrounding ice walls as it emitted a faint luster from its pitch-black scales. Its huge wings were filled with a surging energy that caused the spectators' hearts to beat wildly. Those bronze eyes coldly looked down on the Frost Dragon Beast.

It's actually the...

Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon!

Not to mention that it was one with a God Level growth rate!

Oh Heavens!

All of them, from Huang Yu, to Nanmen Tianhai, to Venerable Flameless, were all shocked. In the distance, Long Tianming abruptly stood up.

Chapter 354: The Center Of Attention

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon is considered an emperor-level existence among Dragon Bloodline demon beasts.

Not to mention that this one had a God Level growth rate!

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's scales were black, with dark red energy surging violently throughout its body.

That Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit alone was already enough to get Nie Li listed as one of the most important members of the Divine Feathers Sect's younger generations.

This Bloodwing Saint Jiao Dragon was three times larger than the Frost Dragon Beast. Its majestic energy bore down on the Frost Dragon Beast so heavily that it was unable to breathe.

Even though Nie Li was only a 4-fate, his Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit allowed him to disregard two to three levels!

Venerable Flameless tightly clenched his fist at the scene. Nie Li had integrated with a third demon spirit; furthermore, it was one with a Dragon Bloodline God Level growth rate! It seems that he'd been underestimating Nie Li; he never expected Nie Li to have so many cards up his sleeve!

Now he understood why Hierarch Skycloud regarded Nie Li so heavily. This boy had so much potential! When he grew up, he'd

probably become the most powerful existence within the entirety of the Divine Feathers Sect.

One thousand years ago, before the Divine Feathers Sect began its decline, an extraordinary genius ancestor rose up like a comet and brought the Divine Feathers Sect to the most dazzling pinnacle among the hundreds of major sects. Even after the great destruction, the Divine Feathers Sect still managed to exist.

In the past few hundred years, the Divine Feathers Sect had begun to decline . A few of the sect's major figures sought the chance to reverse the decline; they desired it's so badly that they were even willing to nurture a few geniuses. Nie Li had only entered the Divine Feathers Sect a short time ago, but he'd already risen with such frightening speed. It was easier for others who had connections.

Hierarch Skycloud would definitely nurture Nie Li, regardless of anything else. Who knew? He might even pass the [Skycloud] cultivation technique onto him!

The [Skycloud] cultivation technique was different from other techniques because it was always passed down to a single person! If Nie Li ended up learning the [Skycloud] technique, Venerable Flameless would feel extremely wronged. After all he was the one who'd followed Hierarch Skycloud for so many years!

A trace of ruthlessness flashed through Venerable Flameless's eyes. No matter what, he had to ruthlessly suppress Nie Li before he rose up!

Simultaneously, Long Tianming was also having similar thoughts. He'd already done so many things to climb closer to his goal, step by step. But Nie Li had suddenly emerged and caused sudden changes that it made him feel uneasy.

He definitely wouldn't allow anyone to destroy his plans!

Luckily, Venerable Flameless had sent people to test Nie Li's strength. Otherwise, Long Tianming would've been in the dark, unaware of Nie Li's potential and not still placed him with any regard. When the time came, when Nie Li truly threatened him, then it'd already be too late. He had to remove Nie Li immediately!

It was a good thing that Venerable Flameless appeared first, instead of Long Tianming himself. Otherwise, he would've had to personally suppress Nie Li. In the past, Long Tianming believed that Situ Beiyan was his greatest threat; now, he realised that his greatest threat was Nie Li!

Situ Beiyan also looked into the distance at Nie Li with a deep expression as he lightly muttered to himself. He never expected the situation to turn out like this.

Long Tianming sipped a mouthful of tea, looked at Situ Beiyan, and said, "Situ Beiyan, I believe that perhaps we can put aside our conflict, for now. You should've also realised his potential. If he grows up, he'll definitely threaten your position as the Sect Master's successor!"

At Long Tianming's words, Situ Beiyan shook his head and said, "Long Tianming, I understand what you're trying to say, but you've judged me wrongly. The reason I'm fighting against you isn't because I want the Sect Master's position. I want to see, between you and me, which of us is more suitable for that position. If there's a newcomer, I definitely won't suppress him. Who knows, he might become like that ancestor and lead the Divine Feathers Sect towards glory! So why should I suppress him?"

Long Tianming sneered, "Situ Beiyan, you must be joking. Are you that impartial? If Hierarch Skycloud says it, I'd definitely believe it. But coming from you, do you really think that I'd believe it?"

Situ Beiyan shrugged. "Forget it then! Anyways, I won't lay a hand on this matter!"

Long Tianming was inwardly angered. Situ Beiyan was obviously planning to watch from the sideline. He probably wanted to benefit from others' disputes! However, Long Tianming was also rather helpless in this situation. Even if Situ Beiyan didn't do anything, was Long Tianming just going to allow Nie Li grow up into his greatest threat?

Presently, Nie Li, who was merged with his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, was moving closer to the Frost Dragon Beast, step by step.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The ice walls instantly shattered when he came in contact with

them.

Ye Chong felt a suffocating pressure as he beheld the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon that was approaching him. However, there was a kind of relief within his heart. It wasn't that he was disobeying Venerable Flameless's orders; it was that he couldn't accomplish them at all!

Ye Chong also understood that Venerable Flameless was trying to deal with Nie Li. Luckily, he hadn't become Venerable Flameless's scapegoat. Otherwise, as punishment for killing a talented genius of the Divine Feathers Sect, he'd probably have to spend his next life in a cage as well.

However, he still had to pretend to make a final struggle!

The Frost Dragon Beast roared as it brandished its front limbs. Countless ice dragons soared towards Nie Li, who was transformed into the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The ice dragons attacked the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, each shattering upon impact.

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's physical strength was simply too powerful; it was so strong that the Frost Dragon Beast's offensive ability was totally unable to break through its defenses!

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon let out a low roar, clawed with his front limbs, smashing it at the Frost Dragon Beast in the chest. The Frost Dragon Beast suffered heavy injuries and was sent flying, until he collided into the barrier at the edge of the field.

The Frost Dragon Beast wailed as he landed on the ground and couldn't get back up. The body rapidly shrank and returned to his human form.

One strike from Nie Li caused Ye Chong to suffer such heavy injuries.

A God Level growth rate Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was seriously powerful.

The spectating students of the East District all revealed deep fear in their eyes. You really couldn't provoke this newcomer. He'd just entered the East District, but he'd already defeated Murong Yu and Ye Chong. If he continued to grow, wouldn't it be worse?

Nie Li rapidly returned to his human form. Although he'd merged with the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon to suppress Ye Chong, he'd also suffered heavy injuries, and his Heavenly Energy was also critically depleted. He held his chest and breathed in mouthfuls of air.

Huang Yu stood up, lightly smiled, and said, "Nie Li has won this battle. Since he defeated Ye Chong without using any artifacts, both Elder Nanmen Tianhai and I have recognized his strength. It seems that he's suffered some injuries from this battle, so he may

return and rest for now!”

Nanmen Tianhai had stood up as well. “Yes! Nie Li’s test ends here!”

None of the East District’s students spoke a word upon hearing the announcement. Nie Li’s strength had already been clearly displayed before them. What else could they say?

“Wait!” A voice suddenly sounded as Venerable Flameless stood up. “Two elders, isn’t this ending a little sloppy?”

Chapter 355: Suppressing With Power

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were stunned at Venerable Flameless's words as they stared at him.

At first, both elders thought that Venerable Flameless was just trying to test Nie Li's strength. They never thought that Ye Chong would actually want to kill Nie Li. It was a little too much. However, neither of them were in a position to expose the matter. Although they were Elders of the Divine Feathers Sect, Venerable Flameless was still Hierarch Skycloud's disciple. In terms of position, Venerable Flameless ranked higher than the two of them.

No matter what, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai couldn't just stand by and witness Nie Li being killed before their eyes!

Venerable Flameless coldly snorted and said in a loud voice, "Ye Chong acted by himself and was too heavy with his attacks during the battle. Someone, drag him down and lock him up. He'll be handled by the Enforcement Hall!"

Several people jumped up onto the stage like wolves and tigers. They detained Ye Chong and took him away.

Huang Yu immediately tried to stop Venerable Flameless. "Venerable Flameless, this situation doesn't seem too good. Although Ye Chong was a little heavy with his attacks, he didn't injure Nie Li very much!" Huang Yu vaguely guessed Venerable Flameless's intentions; this man was trying to destroy the bridge after he'd crossed the river. Venerable Flameless's methods were

indeed ruthless!

"Ye Chong disobeyed orders and took his own initiatives. Luckily, Nie Li wasn't hurt too badly. If that'd happened, his offence would be simply unforgivable!" Venerable Flameless coldly snorted in raged.

"Since we've already come this far, let this test come to an end!" Nanmen Tianhai said. Even if they had to sacrifice Ye Chong, they absolutely couldn't sacrifice Nie Li!

"How is this acceptable?" Venerable Flameless overruled him on the spot. "Earlier on, the two Elders already said that you'd arrange two tests for Nie Li. How could you go back on your word?"

Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and the rest all heard their conversation and understood what was going on. So this Venerable Flameless was trying to harm Nie Li!

They had no idea how Nie Li had offended Venerable Flameless!

Li Xingyun stood out and said in a loud voice, "Venerable Flameless, according to the rules, newcomer disciples can pick their own opponents. There has never been a case like this, where their opponents were arranged for them! Even if it's allowed, isn't arranging an opponent like Ye Chong at the get-go a little too much?"

Venerable Flameless coldly snorted at Li Xingyun's words. "Ignorant kid. I'm talking to Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai, the two Elders. How is there any room for you to interrupt?'

Venerable Flameless was being overbearing as Li Xingyun said indignantly, "Is Venerable Flameless going to suppress others with power?"

"As a member of the East District, you're disrespecting your elders? How dare you say that I'm suppressing others with power?! I wonder what your teachers are teaching you?" Venerable Flameless's cold and severe expression swept over the few teachers of the East District. Those teachers all shifted their eyes away.

Venerable Flameless was Hierarch Skycloud's disciple. How could they dare to say anything?

Li Xingyun felt indignant within his heart. There was no way he could say anything more. He racked his brains for a way to save Nie Li.

By now, all the students of the East District understood what was going on. So everything had been arranged by Venerable Flameless. Every one of them was extremely intelligent; therefore, they could tell that Venerable Flameless was definitely trying to suppress Nie Li! It seemed that Nie Li have somehow offended Venerable Flameless!

Since Ye Chong had been dragged away, they could tell that Venerable Flameless wasn't trying to teach Nie Li a lesson; he was

trying to kill Nie Li and push all the blame onto Ye Chong! They all sighed in their hearts. Venerable Flameless was simply too ruthless.

Luckily, Nie Li possessed the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. Otherwise, he would've died in grievance on the stage!

Some of the East District's students weren't too bothered about it, since it was none of their business, while some students felt indignant; after all, with Venerable Flameless's identity, suppressing a newcomer genius was too inappropriate.

However, with Venerable Flameless's identity and status, the others couldn't say anything. Even if they did, it'd be useless.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were both a little enraged. Venerable Flameless was suppressing others with his power, but even as Elders, there was nothing they could do. Venerable Flameless had already claimed that he wasn't the one who ordered Ye Chong to kill Nie Li; therefore, there was nothing they could do. However, they absolutely wouldn't allow Nie Li to suffer another round. If they allowed that to happen, Venerable Flameless would definitely arrange an opponent that Nie Li would be unable to win against.

Nie Li looked at Venerable Flameless, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai, who were arguing with one another. Venerable Flameless's intentions were very obvious. Nie Li felt rather touched that the two elders, Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai, were speaking up on his behalf. He glanced at Venerable Flameless. Since he'd already displayed his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon,

Venerable Flameless was probably even more desperate to get rid of him!

However, even if Hierarch Skycloud didn't know of the situation right now, he'd still learn about it sooner or later. When that time came, it'd be even harder for Venerable Flameless to obtain Hierarch Skycloud's trust!

Nie Li knew everything about Venerable Flameless from Venerable Redsoul. Venerable Flameless's father had once saved Hierarch Skycloud's life. Perhaps Hierarch Skycloud probably would not do anything to Venerable Flameless; however, what Venerable Flameless sought would probably move even further from his grasp.

As for the [Skycloud] cultivation technique, Nie Li wasn't interested in it in the slightest. Although the [Skycloud] cultivation technique was indeed powerful, it was still inferior to his [Heavenly God] cultivation technique!

Although Nie Li knew that he'd have even more enemies in the future and that one of his trump cards, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, was already revealed, his only options was to battle!

He couldn't back down now!

He wanted to charge into the Central District and become one of the Sect Master's successor candidates. Only then would he have more time. Therefore, he had to charge forward!

The next battle was probably unavoidable. Nie Li immediately consumed several elixirs, readjusted his cultivation, and recovered his injuries. After experiencing that huge battle, his cultivation seemed to have improved and was approaching 5-fate. The fifth fate soul was also slowly being formed.

If he could reach 5-fate, then he'd have an even better chance of winning!

Nie Li madly mobilised the Heavenly Energy within his body and as the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting continued revolving within his soul realm. An endless river of Heavenly Energy flowed out from it. It only took a brief moment to fill up Nie Li's soul realm. He felt the wounds on his body recover and his strength had also increased.

However, trying to break through to 5-fate was still too difficult.

Venerable Flameless glanced at Nie Li, who was focusing on healing while seated, and snorted. He looked at Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai, and said, " Nie Li is my Junior Brother. As his Senior Brother, it's absolutely normal for me to try and understand his strength. I've already chosen an opponent for him. There's no need for more words!"

"Venerable Flameless, aren't you being a little too much?" Huang Yu said with his brows furrowed.

"Too much? This is part of our Skycloud Hall's internal matters. Isn't it beyond the control of the two elders?" Venerable Flameless

coldly snorted.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai couldn't be certain if Nie Li's test really was arranged by Hierarch Skycloud. However, they could guarantee that Hierarch Skycloud definitely wouldn't lay a hand on Nie Li! They had to stop Venerable Flameless!

Nanmen Tianhai solemnly said, "Venerable Flameless, if you insist on doing so, why don't we go speak with Hierarch Skycloud?"

Venerable Flameless coldly swept an eye over Haung Yu and Nanmen Tianhai. These two old farts really were pissing him off quite a bit. He contemptuously snorted, "These two elders don't need to speak any further in my matters!" He glanced at a East District student and said, "Guo Huai, go up and test Nie Li's strength. Remember to be lenient!"

Chapter 356: I Quit

Although Venerable Flameless had told him to be lenient, how could Guo Huai not understand Venerable Flameless's real meaning behind those words?

"Yes!" Guo Huai respectfully replied. He looked at Nie Li, who was standing afar. A trace of ruthlessness flashed across his eyes.

Compared to Ye Chong, Guo Huai was clearly trusted more by Venerable Flameless. Guo Huai was directly under his command. Even if he asked Guo Huai to go kill himself, Guo Huai definitely wouldn't furrow his brows!

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were shocked when they heard Venerable Flameless's words. Guo Huai had already reached 9-fate. Even if Nie Li had a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit, he was still only a 4-fate. How could he possibly defeat a 9-fate? Not to mention that Guo Huai had been meticulously nurtured by Venerable Flameless. Therefore, he was stronger than an ordinary 9-fate.

"Absolutely not!" Huang Yu immediately sounded out. He couldn't figure out why Venerable Flameless was so desperate to deal with Nie Li, but he was doing it without any sense of restraint.

Huang Yu didn't know that Venerable Flameless had already sensed Nie Li's shocking potential. He was afraid that Hierarch Skycloud would soon place heavy regards on Nie Li and focus his attention to nurturing the boy. Since the fact that he'd already

ordered Ye Chong to kill Nie Li was already exposed, he'd rather go all out. If he missed this chance, he wouldn't have another opportunity!

That's why Venerable Flameless was being so hard on this and was ignoring both Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai's arguments against him.

Venerable Flameless released a powerful aura that pressured Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai. After all, Venerable Flameless was a Dao of Dragon Realm expert.

Both Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai were enraged at Venerable Flameless's overbearing and unreasonable behaviour. However, they couldn't stop him either; the difference in their strengths was too huge.

Nie Li overheard the dispute between Venerable Flameless, Huang Yu, and Nanmen Tianhai. He nimbly jumped off the stage, put on his Grade 6 Artifacts, and twisted his mouth in disdain. "I refuse this battle! I quit!"

At Nie Li's words, all the students of the East District were stunned. A few of them couldn't help laughing out loud.

In fact, everyone's attention had been focused on Venerable Flameless, Huang Yu, and Nanmen Tianhai. They all understood that the two elders couldn't win against the Venerable Flameless and they believed that Nie Li was doomed. However, they never expected Nie Li to say such shameless words.

That's right! If he knew that this battle was just a deathmatch, then why couldn't he reject it?

This match wasn't fair to begin; even if Nie Li rejected it, what could they do to Nie Li? Both Elder Huang Yu and Elder Nanmen Tianhai definitely wouldn't punish Nie Li.

"Venerable Flameless, since the student himself doesn't want to participate in it, then we should just let this matter go!" Huang Yu said.

Venerable Flameless's expression turned dull. This Nie Li was even harder to deal with than he'd expected. In the first battle, Venerable Flameless had wanted to use Ye Chong to deal with Nie Li; that wouldn't have caused too big of a wave. However, he never expected Nie Li to have integrated with a God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon!

In the entire Divine Feathers Sect, how many people had integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit? If Venerable Flameless had known of this earlier, he would've sent Guo Huai up for the first match!

But now that he wanted to send Guo Huai up for the second match, he never expected Nie Li to quit!

"But I'm also willing to go up and fight him!" Nie Li pointed at Guo Huai as he continued, "But I want to wear my artifacts! Why shouldn't I be allowed to use my own artifacts? What kind of

stupid rule is that?”

Hearing Nie Li’s words, students of the East District exchanged glances. They’d all heard through whispers and private discussions that Nie Li’s armour was a set of Grade 6 artifacts!

If he went on stage with his artifacts, there’d be no fight at all!

Even if Nie Li stood there and allowed Guo Huai to hit him, Gu Huai still wouldn’t be able to penetrate a set of Grade 6 artifact armour! Even a Heavenly Axis Realm expert might not be able to break through that armour, forget about a Heavenly Fate Realm!

“If I’m not allowed to wear my artifacts, then I quit. At most, I’ll just give up going to the East District and return to the West!” Nie Li shrugged. He was like a dead pig — stubborn and unafraid of the boiling water.

Lu Piao, Gu Bei, and the others all laughed when they heard Nie Li’s words. That’s right! Since Venerable Flameless was shamelessly trying to suppress Nie Li with his power, then why couldn’t Nie Li play shameless as well?

Venerable Flameless was extremely enraged; however, there was nothing he could do to Nie Li. What could he do? Forcefully drag Nie Li onto the stage?

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai exchanged glances and smiled. That Nie Li kid was quite quick-witted. If they could manage to

send Venerable Flameless away today, then the two of them would definitely wouldn't punish Nie Li for his refusal. After all, Venerable Flameless had gone a little too far.

From a distance away, Situ Beiyan laughed. "I like that kid's personality. Long Tianming, that boy might not have any power, but I'm afraid that it won't be easy for you to suppress him!"

Long Tianming glanced at Nie Li with a deep expression as he coldly laughed. "Not necessarily. That kid has a sharp, but petty mind! A true expert would never play such methods!"

"Expert?" Situ Beiyan lightly smiled, "How could you call Nie Li any sort of expert? He arrived at the Skysoul Institute only a year ago, and is only at the Heavenly Fate Realm, but he could still render you in such a state. Long Tianming, somehow, I feel that you won't be able to win against him!"

Long Tianming coldly looked at Situ Beiyan, who was clearly rejoicing at his misfortune. But it was as he'd said — that Nie Li was full of surprises.

Venerable Flameless glanced back at Nie Li in contempt and said, "You're showing such fear in a match between newcomers? How can a coward like you be fit to become Hierarch Skycloud's disciple?"

"So what? Hierarch Skycloud wanted to accept me as a disciple. It's none of Venerable Flameless's business! Furthermore, I want Venerable Flameless to know that I'm only a 4-fate; yet, you

arranged a 9-fate for me. Who's the scoundrel now? You should be in the Dao of Dragon Realm right now, so why don't I arrange a Martial Ancestor Realm opponent for you? If you can beat them, then you're capable!" Nie Li sneered.

The students of the East District couldn't help laughing at Nie Li's words.

The laughter was peeling away at Venerable Flameless's face. As Hierarch Skycloud's disciple, he usually lived like a prince. Who among his own generation wouldn't dare to give him any face? Who dared to speak such words to him? But today, Nie Li's words had left him without much face.

"If you like playing around, then go play with yourself. I'm not staying!" Nie Li walked towards Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and the rest with light steps.

"How can the East District be a place where you can come and go as freely as you want?" Venerable Flameless's eyes narrowed as a ferocious light flashed through his eyes. He pointed at Nie Li and spoke in a loud voice, "Recently, I've found out that Nie Li is a spy from the Demon God's Sect. You might be able to hide it from Hierarch Skycloud, but don't even dream about hiding it from me! I'll definitely expose you sooner or later!"

Everyone was slightly stunned at Venerable Flameless's words.

He was simply extremely vicious. At the same time, he'd thoroughly dragged Nie Li into the heart of the struggle.

“That’s why I’m aiming at Nie Li! I’ve realised his intentions, so I’m trying to get rid of the spy. My actions may have been a little overboard, but my loyalty towards the Divine Feathers Sect is known by the Heavens and the Earth!” Venerable Flameless proudly puffed his chest and said with self-righteousness.

When Gu Bei, Lu Piao, Li Xingyun, and the rest all heard Venerable Flameless’s words, rage was displayed on their faces. Venerable Flameless was obviously making stuff up! This was just venomous slandering!

Chapter 357: The Big Five

This raised everyone's expectations a little. They never thought that Venerable Flameless would accuse Nie Li of being a spy from the Demon God's Sect.

Was the Venerable Flameless speaking the truth, or was he just making it up?

All of the East District's students were watching the situation unfold, but the majority of them didn't believe it. Unless Venerable Flameless provided sufficient proof, it was more likely to just be slander. Anyone could tell that the relationship between Venerable Flameless and Nie Li wasn't very good.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai both couldn't help frowning. They already understood what kind of person Venerable Flameless was. It was more likely that he'd flown into a rage out of humiliation, because his plot against Nie Li had failed!

Li Xingyun pointed at Venerable Flameless and yelled, "Actually, Venerable Flameless is the real spy! He discovered how talented Nie Li was and felt threatened, so he tried to kill to him to remove a threat for the Demon God's Sect!"

"That's right, I can testify to that!" Lu Piao stood out.

"I can also testify to that!" Gu Bei stood out as well.

“Me too!” Long Yuyin and Xiao Yu also stood out.

Voices popped up everywhere, enraging Venerable Flameless. He pointed at Li Xingyun and the group as he barked, “You’re just slandering me. What proof do you have?”

Hearing Venerable Flameless’s words, Li Xingyun laughed three times and said, “Then what proof does Venerable Flameless have to accuse Nie Li of being a spy? I, Li Xingyun, can guarantee with all my pride that Nie Li is not a spy!”

“So can I!” Gu Bei solemnly said.

“Myself as well!” Long Yuyin said without any hesitation.

“You…” Venerable Flameless was enraged within his heart. He never thought that there’d be so many people standing by Nie Li’s side. Furthermore, Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, and Long Yuyin all had rather special identities. If Nie Li was a spy, then didn’t that mean that Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, and Long Yuyin from the three major families were harbouring a spy?

Venerable Flameless said in a solemn voice, “The three of you, don’t be deceived by him! Don’t you think it’s fishy that someone from the Tiny World, without any background, could make direct descendents of the three major families speak for him?”

Nie Li pointed at Venerable Flameless as he coldly smiled. “Then how can Venerable Flameless be certain that I’m a spy? In these

hundreds of years, have any spies from the Demon God's Sect ever managed to sneak into the Divine Feathers Sect? Even Hierarch Skycloud believes in me and took me in as his disciple. Yet, Venerable Flameless firmly believes that a disciple of Hierarch Skycloud, your own Junior Brother, is a spy of the Demon God's Sect. I wonder what your intentions are behind this? Could you be fighting over favouritism?"

Upon hearing Nie Li's words, those who weren't sure of the truth more or less believed him. The possibility that Venerable Flameless was trying to fight Nie Li for favouritism was indeed higher.

"Competing over favouritism? Hahaha!" Venerable Flameless laughed. "A coward like you, who doesn't dare to step onto the stage, is qualified to compete with me?"

"I won't fall for your words! I'll say it again. If you dare to challenge a Martial Ancestor Realm expert, then I'll also dare to challenge him!" Nie Li calmly said as he pointed at Guo Huai, who was standing not far away. Nie Li didn't know what his chances were against Guo Huai, but he knew that it wasn't zero. Nie Li had merged with his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon earlier, but he'd only used a portion of its strength; he still hadn't unleashed its full potential.

However, there was no need for Nie Li to risk his life!

Venerable Flameless was a Dao of Dragon Realm expert. To think that he'd actually use such despicable method to deal with Nie Li. Nie Li had to be cautious in the future, and make sure not to give Venerable Flameless any more chances!

By now, the five major figures had already noticed the situation occurring on the marital field, as well as everything that'd happened up to that point.

The five powerful figures conversed amongst themselves.

"Skycloud, this Nie Li is already your disciple?"

"Indeed." Hierarch Skycloud's voice raised in spirals.

"Hierarch Skycloud certainly moves quickly. In these hundred years, such a talent is an absolute rarity." The voice was empty and distant, with a twinge of regret.

"Could it be that Lord Sect Master's heart are been moved? Just focus and teach your grandson Situ Beiyan!" a flirtatious voice sounded.

"Situ Beiyan's talent isn't bad, but he could barely break through to the Martial Ancestor Realm and dominate a single region. It's too hard for him to become Sect Master of the Divine Feathers Sect!" the voice sighed.

"I never thought that Lord Sect Master would think so highly of Nie Li. Why don't we have Nie Li learn under the Sect Master!" Hierarch Skycloud lightly smiled.

“A gentleman would never steal someone else’s favourite. If there’s a member of the younger generation who possesses extraordinary talent and can stand independently, then they must be well nurtured. We must observe this Nie Li!” the voice calmly replied. “In one hundred years, the Divine Feathers Sect will be left to these younger generations to manage; therefore, we must be prudent in our selection!”

“Venerable Flameless and Nie Li seem to have some conflicts. Hierarch Skycloud isn’t going to meditate it?” that flirtatious voice chuckled.

“It’s nothing but a meaningless dispute amongst younger generations. Let them be!” Hierarch Skycloud said lightly.

Aside from those three voices, there were two more auras observing Nie Li. A fifteen or sixteen year-old youth had actually integrated with a God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and crushed a 6-fate genius with his 4-fate strength. This is indeed hard to come by.

Just as Nie Li was about to leave the field, a voice like thin silk transmitted itself to him.

“Nie Li!”

Nie Li’s heart shook when he heard the voice, and he straightened his posture. “Hierarch Skycloud!’

“Do your best and fight with Guo Huai. You don’t have to hold back. Don’t worry, I’ll protect your fate soul from dispersing. Several lords wish to see your strength and talent!” said the Hierarch Skycloud.

“Yes!” Nie Li replied as his heart quivered. The “several lords” that Hierarch Skycloud spoke of should be the other members of the big five. Since Hierarch Skycloud had already told him to go for it, a blaze of fighting spirit flashed through Nie Li’s eyes. Since the big five wanted to see, then he’d have to put up a good performance for them!

After all, if he wanted to become the Sect Master of the Divine Feathers Sect, then he’d have to obtain the big five’s acknowledgement.

Nie Li didn’t know who the big five were, but if he could obtain the support of another member of them, then it’d definitely be of great help to him in the future.

No one else, from the ordinary students, to the teachers, to Venerable Flameless and the two elders themselves, were aware of the conversation happening between the big five.

Venerable Flameless looked at Nie Li’s silhouette as he felt dejected. But suddenly, Nie Li turned back.

Nie Li faced Venerable Flameless as he said, “I’ll agree to the second match. I won’t use any artifacts, either!”

Upon hearing Nie Li's words, everyone was stunned and looked at him dumbfoundedly. Nie Li's brain must be fried. He disagreed to it just a moment ago, so why did he suddenly agree to it?

A 4-fate fighting a 9-fate. Furthermore, the other party was obviously trying to kill him.

Was Nie Li tired of living? He was obviously walking to his own death!

Chapter 358: Probe

“Master Nie Li, please don’t be rash!” Long Yuyin’s brows were tightly knit as the concern on her face expressed itself in speech. This was the first time she’d ever displayed concern for someone.

Xiao Yu glanced at Long Yuyin. He couldn’t help snorting and turning his head away. Nie Li was still claiming that he wasn’t committing adultery with Long Yuyin? As if he’d buy that! However, he didn’t want Nie Li to risk his life either. Although he was worrying in his heart, he didn’t say anything.

Lu Piao and Gu Bei both spoke up after Long Yuyin. “Nie Li, you don’t need to fight with him at all! You’re only a 4-fate and he’s already 9-fate!”

“I have my own plans!” Nie Li lightly smiled in reply.

When everyone saw how calm Nie Li was acting, whether if it’s Lu Piao, Gu Bei, or Li Xingyun, they were all a little puzzled. Was Nie Li really that confident in this?

Venerable Flameless slightly narrowed his eyes. So Nie Li had actually agreed to this. Was he just being egotistic or did he really have the means to back it up? Nie Li’s one-eighty had happened too fast. Venerable Flameless vaguely sensed an abnormality.

Venerable Flameless looked up at the sky with a thoughtful expression. Then, his face turned sullen and he coldly snorted, “Guo Huai, go up and teach him a good lesson!”

“Yes!” Guo Huai’s voice was respectful as he jumped onto the stage.

Nie Li put away his artifacts and jumped onto the stage as well. This time, he was facing a strong opponent like Guo Huai. Nie Li inhaled a deep breath and began mobilising his fate soul. A blazing fighting spirit flashed through his eyes. He didn’t know what his chances of winning were, but he was definitely going to give his best out there.

Guo Huai coldly looked down on Nie Li. An overwhelming aura surged from him.

“I’ll admit that I unestimated you earlier. With your strength at 4-fate, you actually won against Ye Chong. However, you will definitely lose against me!” Guo Huai proudly stared down Nie Li as a surge of powerful aura emanated from him.

“How will we know if we don’t fight?” The corner of Nie Li’s mouth twitched as a chilly light revealed itself in his eyes.

Guo Huai’s brows slightly twitched. He never thought that Nie Li would be so arrogant before him!

“Such arrogant confidence. I hope you won’t lose too quickly!” Guo Huai coldy snorted.

The students of the East District couldn’t shift their eyes from

the two people on the stage. Nie Li knew that Guo Huai Didn't have any good intentions, but he still willingly challenged him. This aroused the interest within their hearts. Nie Li was only a 4-fate. Did he really have any chances of winning against a 9-fate?

Long Yuyin, Gu Bei, Xiao Yu, and the other spectators all anxiously watched the stage. They were worried for Nie Li's safety. After all, he was just at 4-fate.

Nie Li constantly shifted the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting around in his soul realm and felt the Heavenly Energy nourish him. That vine began to rapidly grow as a surge of powerful aura burst forth from Nie Li's body.

"Hmph!" Guo Huai sensed the boundless energy that was coming from Nie Li, and a trace of astonishment flashed through his eyes, followed by a cold snort. The Heavenly Energy around Guo Huai gradually formed into a heavy sword, one meter long.

Ohmnnnn! Ohmnnnn! Ohmnnnn!

The heavy sword trembled as countless wind blades formed around it and left deep marks on the ground.

Both of their auras rose rapidly as an invisible wind raged on the stage. The nearby students couldn't help taking a step back as their faces turned pale.

Who would've thought that both their strengths had already

reached such frightening heights?

“Let’s see how capable you are!” Guo Huai took a heavy step that left an afterimage, brandished his sword, and slashed towards Nie Li. His sonic winds filled the skies.

Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!

As everyone looked on, Guo Huai pounced towards Nie Li like a bloodthirsty beast.

The compacted gale raged like a waterfall. Whenever one of the sonic blades passed by, it left a long and deep crack on the solid rock of the battle stage.

Even without merging with their demon spirits, they were actually already so strong!

Nie Li sensed the frightening energy heading towards himself, so he immediately merged with his Shadow Devil and disappeared. His sickle-like front limbs turned into chilling rays of light as they slashed towards Guo Huai.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The speed of this battle wasn’t something that could be followed by the naked eye. In just a single moment, they’d already clashed dozens of times.

Energies constantly exploded onstage.

Although Nie Li could make use of Shadow Devil's frightening speed to match Guo Huai, he still felt a powerful pressure. Within the Heavenly Fate Realm, the difference between each fate soul was extremely large. Not to mention that there was a five fate souls' worth of difference between them.

Overcoming such a handicap certainly wasn't easy.

"Die!" The meter long sword in Guo Huai's hands was aimed at Nie Li's neck with rapid speed, as he tried to kill Nie Li in one strike.

Void-form!

Nie Li's body had already disappeared, which made Guo Huai miss. After the attack landed on empty air, Nie Li's silhouette reappeared.

The moment Nie Li reappeared, Guo Huai revealed a strange smile and kicked towards Nie Li's chest. As they exchanged blows, Guo Huai had gradually discovered the Shadow Devil's weakness: it was the instant he reappeared!

Nie Li saw that Guo Huai's leg was almost upon him, so he furiously roared as his body expanded with rapid speed.

In that hair's breadth of a moment, Nie Li had chosen to merge with the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

With a boom, Guo Huai's leg landed on the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and was rebounded. The corner of his mouth curled into a light smile. Indeed, Nie Li had chosen to merge with the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon under the pressure! Everything had gone as Guo Huai had expected!

Nie Li's body rapidly expanded to seven or eight meters in height. His scales were dark scarlet in colour and his massive wings blocked out the sunlight. Nie Li used his claws and attacked Guo Huai.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nie Li's front limbs kept smashing into empty ground as Guo Huai kept dodging as he tried to determine Nie Li's strength. He was inwardly shocked. The God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was indeed powerful. The corner of Guo Huai's mouth curled into a cold smile as he continued probing out Nie Li's strength. Based on what he'd learned so far, Nie Li absolutely wouldn't be able to win against him!

Nie Li snarled like an enraged tyrannosaurus as he turned the stage into a honeycomb. Although it looked like he was wildly attacking Guo Huai, in reality, his heart was extremely calm. With his vast battle experience, how could he not see what Guo Huai was doing?

If Guo Huai was trying to probe his strength, then Nie Li would put on an act for him!

Nie Li mobilised the power of his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and sensed the Dragon Bloodline within.

He could've forced the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon to mutate, but didn't want to, because he still hadn't to fully grasped its strength. Nie Li felt that this demon spirit held endless potential that had yet to be fully unleashed.

As Nie Li controlled the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, he felt his soul realm surge rapidly. He was only a step away from 5-fate.

If he could form his fifth fate soul, then his strength would receive a huge increase!

Guo Huai blasted Heavenly Energy at Nie Li's body as he kept sensing the strength of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. He believed that he'd already grasped Nie Li's strength, so he revealed a cold and proud smile on his face. "You have no chances of winning against me! Now, you can die in peace!"

Chapter 359: Back Spikes

Guo Huai rapidly retreated to create a distance between himself and Nie Li. Then, with a furious roar, his body rapidly expanded and turned into that of a gigantic Nethermoon Draconic Beast.

Although the Nethermoon Draconic Beast was shorter than the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, its aura far surpassed Nie Li's Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's. A layer of bone grew around its body, forming an armour of solid bone. The bone emitted a black luster, and a surge of majestic energy rushed out like a flood.

This was a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary demon spirit, and a 9-fate one at that!

Boom!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast stomped the ground. An explosion sounded as the ground caved in and formed a huge crater. Then, it charged the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon with unrivaled momentum.

Nie Li noticed the powerful rushing energy from the Nethermoon Draconic Beast, so he slightly bent down into a defensive posture.

Boom!

A heavy boom sounded like lightning, as majestic energy burst

forth.

With a loud noise accompanied by lightning rolls, another huge crater appeared on the solid stage and sent shards of rock flying in all directions. A huge crack expanded from where the two gigantic beasts were standing, and stretched dozens of meters in length. The nearby students immediately fled from it.

The stage that was once raised, had now been thoroughly flattened.

What frightening energy!

The spectators all showed expressions of shock.

After being hit by the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's impact, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was forced backwards, and almost flew out.

Nie Li's strength was still too inferior to the 9-fate strength of Guo Huai.

Guo Huai's Nethermoon Draconic Beast suppressed Nie Li's Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. He could tell that Nie Li wasn't his match in terms of strength. The corner of Guo Huai's mouth slightly smiled. Just as he had expected, Nie Li wasn't his proper opponent!

Nethermoon Strike!

Guo Huai, in his Nethermoon Draconic Beast form, suddenly brandished his palm towards the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's neck.

When the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's palm was about to land onto him, Nie Li furiously roared and his body emitted a golden light. Sharp spikes grew out from his back with frightening speed and his body expanded a little.

As the Heavenly Energy around them surged, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon underwent a mutation and became substantially strengthened.

Fwoosh!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast's palm landed on one of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's neck spikes. The spike ran through his palm and fresh blood splattered.

Awooooo!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast howled miserably, until his voice went hoarse.

Everyone was stunned by the sudden change. They'd never seen a Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon with spikes on its back before.

Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai both abruptly stood up in utter astonishment.

So Nie Li's God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was actually a mutated one!

A Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit was already extremely rare — one in ten million. Since the bloodlines of such demon spirits were already at such frightening heights, the probability of finding a mutated one was even lower!

The value of this demon spirit was simply unimaginable!

To think that such a valuable demon spirit had been obtained by Nie Li. Even Huang Yu and Nanmen Tianhai couldn't help feeling envious. There were very few who wouldn't be moved by such a demon spirit! With that mutated Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, Nie Li was poised to become one of the most important geniuses of the Divine Feathers Sect!

Venerable Flameless was clenching his fists so hard, that a popping sound can be heard. He never imagined that Nie Li's God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon would actually turn out to be a mutated one. How was Nie Li able to obtain such a precious Dragon Bloodline demon spirit? He felt heavy-hearted. It was unfortunate that integrated demon spirits couldn't be shifted to another owner; otherwise, he'd definitely try to snatch Nie Li's.

Why was Nie Li the one who'd integrated with that God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, and not him? No wonder the old

man valued Nie Li so much! However, Venerable Flameless still wasn't resigned.

All of the students were envious and jealous when they saw Nie Li's Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and its golden luster.

"Oh Heavens! That Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon is simply priceless!"

"Before that demon spirit, all ours can simply be destroyed!"

Many people couldn't help sighing at the unfairness of fate. In the Divine Feathers Sect, there were extremely few people who could integrate with a Dragon Bloodline God Level. All of them were undoubtedly children blessed by the heavens, future pillars of the Divine Feathers Sect. Ordinary people, like the spectators themselves, could only look up to them for their entire life.

At that moment, even the big five, who were observing the battle, couldn't help the ripple that passed through them.

A solemn voice sounded, "It's actually a mutated one. In our few hundred years, we've never even seen a mutated Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit before. Spread the word, Nie Li will become the most important guardian of the Divine Feathers Sect. Hierarch Skycloud, I'll leave Nie Li's teaching to you!"

"Yes." Hierarch Skycloud replied as his gaze fell on Nie Li. Nie Li had indeed given him some unexpected turns.

Lu Piao, Gu Bei, and the rest were rejoicing at Guo Huai's misfortune. He was in miserable pain, since he'd slammed his hand onto the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's spikes. They felt his pain just from imagining it.

"I was right! Nie Li would never do anything that he's not certain of!" Lu Piao laughed.

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast took several steps back. Guo Huai forcefully endured the pain as his heart trembled. He never thought that Nie Li was concealing so much strength. Nie Li's Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon actually completed its first mutation. A mutated God Level Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon! No wonder Venerable Flameless was determined to get rid of him.

Guo Huai's life had once been saved by Venerable Flameless. He was aware that the consequences of killing Nie Li would definitely be heavy, but he still threw an enraged punch at the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast's huge fist gradually got closer. When it was about to land on Nie Li, Nie Li slightly tilted his body.

Fwoosh!

Once again, the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's fist landed on a spike on the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's back. These spikes were so sharp that they penetrated the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's fist.

Guo Huai's face twisted from the pain. He tried to bash Nie Li's brain with his other palm, but Nie Li saw the move coming, and turned his head a little

Fwoosh!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast's left palm slammed onto another back spike, this one right behind the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's head.

Awooooooooooo!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast painfully howled. The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon had too many spikes growing out of its back! It couldn't be touched!

The first time that the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's palm slammed onto a back spile, everyone thought that it was just a coincidence. However, after the second and third time, they understood that Nie Li was actually consciously using the back spikes to defend against the Nethermoon Draconic Beast. What shocked the spectators was how precise Nie Li was with his defense, as though he already knew where the Nethermoon Draconic Beast was going to attack!

Both of the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's hands had suffered heavy injuries. Fresh blood poured. At such a miserable scene, the spectators could only imagine how much pain Guo Huai was in. How pitiful!

Roar!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast wrathfully snarled and took several steps back. The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's back spikes were so sharp that even Guo Huai had started to fear them within his heart. Heavenly Energy surged around him in a chaotic and violent storm.

Large wind blades formed around the Nethermoon Draconic Beast.

"Die!" Guo Huai snarled. He'd been thoroughly enraged by Nie Li.

Chapter 360: 5-Fate

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast is a kind of Dragon Bloodline beast that lives in wind caves. These creatures are born with the power to grasp the wind. The wind blades that they form can smash artifacts of the same level.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

The wind blades flew towards Nie Li, like the invisible curves of the full moon.

A dazzling gold light flickered off of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's body as his aura continued to increase. A blazing heatwave spread throughout the area, coming from the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. He spat out a blazing dragon breath that collided with the wind blades.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The dragon breath collided with several wind blades.

The intense battle continued. Powerful energy wreaked havoc on the stage, threatening to destroy the surrounding barrier.

The battle left the students dumbfounded. They weren't in shock of Guo Huai's strength; rather they were shocked that Nie Li could hold up for so long against a 9-fate like Guo Huai.

After all, Nie Li was just 4-fate. There were five fates of difference between them!

To think that Nie Li had hidden so much!

Venerable Flameless furiously transmitted his voice over to Guo Huai. “What are you doing?! End him, quickly!”

Guo Huai was disheartened. Although Nie Li’s strength was inferior to his, Nie Li was extremely agile in battle. He managed to either dodge or destroy all of Guo Huai’s wind blades. The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon’s strength greatly surpassed his expectations.

Roar!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast furiously roared as its chest rapidly expanded. His body size doubled as he rapidly gathered majestic Heavenly Energy in his mouth. His move caused a freezing pressure in the surrounding that forced the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon to take several steps back.

Wind Cannon of the Nethermoon Draconic Beast!

Nie Li was felt a chill in his heart and had to restrain his fear. The Nethermoon Draconic Beast’s Wind Cannon was a highly destructive attack!

Nie Li wanted to dodge it, but it was already too late.

So fast!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast abruptly spat out a huge wind ball that shot towards the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon.

An invisible wind energy locked onto Nie Li and made it hard for him to move, even a little. That massive wind sphere was almost upon him as he struggled to dodged towards the side.

Boom!

That wind cannon grazed past the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon with a huge sound. The terrifying energy swept through and sent the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon flying out.

Nie Li suffered the heavy attack directly in his chest, and his limbs and part of his wings were shredded by the frightening energy. Fresh blood splattered everywhere. He flew out, impacting the ground so heavily that he instantly created a huge crater.

This Wind Cannon had left Nie Li with a heavy injury.

The difference in energy between Nie Li and Guo Huai was just too wide. The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon emitted a dazzling golden light, as it regenerated its tattered limbs with a clearly visible speed. Among all the Dragon Bloodline demon beasts, the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon undoubtedly has the most powerful physique and also possessed powerful regeneration abilities.

However, Guo Huai didn't give Nie Li any time to catch his breath. His chest and abdomen expanded again and he spat out a second Wind Cannon.

The third, fourth, fifth...

He launched Wind Cannons ones after another towards the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, who kept dodging. However, Nie Li was still swept up by the Wind Cannon's frightening energy.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Wind Cannons' powerful force continued to hit Nie Li's body.

The Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was wounded all over. With such heavy injuries, even his regenerative abilities were useless.

Indeed, the difference between Nie Li and a 9-fate expert was too wide.

After nine consecutive Wind Cannons, the Nethermoon Draconic Beast finally exhausted its strength and stood there, breathing heavily. Guo Huai looked upon the terribly wounded Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, and the trace of a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. So what if Nie Li's Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit was a mutated one? Nie Li was still going to lose to him!

Although the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's was powerful, it was still impossible to block the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's Wind Cannon.

Nie Li had suffered heavy injuries and his consciousness was becoming a little fuzzy. He felt a vague sense of nostalgia, as if he'd returned to his battle with the Sage Emperor. Back then, he was already on the edge of exhaustion, and surrounded by six Deity ranked demon beasts. Yet he still forcibly endured the battle. As he fought with those six Deity ranked demon beasts, he was forced to watch the Sage Emperor erase the souls of those who were even slightly related to him.

That continued, until Nie Li had thoroughly lost the meaning to his own existence and died in unjust anguish.

His rebirth had given him another chance and had returned those people to him. Images of his parents, friends, clansmen, Ye Ziyun, Xiao Ning'er, and everyone else flashed across his mind.

He couldn't retreat here. He couldn't lose!

Without the Temporal Demon Spirit Book, there was no third chance!

The reason Nie Li had been cultivating his strength like crazy and expanding his power, was all in preparation for his battle against the Sage Emperor! How could he die here to a measly 9-fate?

Everyone who was watching the stage couldn't help sighing. Nie Li had finally lost. He was still a 4-fate, after all. The fact that he'd confronted a 9-fate existence was already enough to win everyone's respect!

The five auras that observed Nie Li began discussing amongst themselves.

"So Nie Li was able to reach this stage! That's already extremely good!" the solemn voice sounded again.

"I'm becoming more and more interested in that kid!" the flirtatious voice chuckled.

Without a doubt, Nie Li had displayed a heaven-defying talent. Hierarch Skycloud allowed the faint trace of a smile to show. Perhaps Nie Li would grow to become the new pillar of Divine Feathers Sect and lead them to glory.

Gu Bei, Lu Piao, and the rest were all worried for Nie Li. At the sight of this, Gu Bei immediately barked, "We'll go up and save him!"

Just as they were about to take action, Li Xingyun suddenly blocked their way and said, "Wait!"

"Li Xingyun, move!" Lu Piao frowned as he growled. He never expected that Li Xingyun would be the one to actually obstruct him

at such a critical moment.

Suddenly, a huge boom sounded from the stage as a majestic aura soared into the sky.

Everyone was slightly shocked as they sensed that frightening ripple of energy. They watched with shocked expressions as the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon release a powerful aura.

What was going on?

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several blasts of air exploded, radiating from the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. This aura was several times more powerful than before!

At that moment, the fifth fate soul was forming inside Nie Li's body. It quietly burned in the center of his soul realm, along with the red, blue, yellow, and black fate souls.

5-fate!

Usually, when someone moves from 4-fate to 5-fate, their strength would increase by two-folds, if they were lucky. However, Nie Li's strength had increased by five to six-folds, at the very least!

The wounded body of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon began regenerating at a rapid speed. The originally golden skin grew a metallic sheen that was like black gold. The spikes on its back also became bigger and more solid.

Chapter 361: Assassin?

5-fate!

Nie Li could sensed that the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's physique had also been strengthened by a lot.

Now that he'd reached 5-fate, there were five fate souls floating within his soul realm, revolving nonstop. That fifth fate soul constantly provided him with Heavenly Energy.

Now, Guo Huai was extremely disheartened. He'd executed so many Wind Cannons that he'd nearly exhausted all of his Heavenly Energy.

However, he still couldn't get rid of Nie Li. He never thought that his actions would allow Nie Li to reach 5-fate. The badly wounded physique of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon was already fully recovered.

Guo Huai furiously roared as he leapt and pounced at Nie Li. He swiped his huge palm towards Nie Li's head.

He absolutely couldn't allow Nie Li to fully grasp the power of 5-fate!

Long Yuyin and Xiao Yu couldn't help to shouting at the same time, "Be careful!"

Just as the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's huge palm was about to land on Nie Li's head, Nie Li suddenly opened his eyes as a sharp ray of light flashed through them.

Usually, a person would need several hours to fully grasp their power upon reaching 5-fate. However, that wasn't the case for Nie Li. After reaching 5-fate, he quickly activated the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique to hasten the development of his fifth fate soul. Through various methods, he'd already fully grasped the power of 5-fate.

How could he be that fast? Guo Huai saw Nie Li open his eyes and his heart shook.

It was already too late for Guo Huai to react. Nie Li let out a deep roar, shook his wings, tilted his body, and mercilessly charged towards the Nethermoon Draconic Beast with his backside.

Boom!

A heavy noise sounded as the two huge beasts collided.

The students of the East District felt their scalps tingle at the scene. Nie Li had used his back spikes to ram the Nethermoon Draconic Beast!

The Nethermoon Draconic Beast had issued a horrific scream. It'd been pierced by hundreds of spikes, and every single one of

them was extremely sharp and left a deep bloody hole in it's body. Fresh blood poured from the wounds.

Guo Huai miserably shrieked. He thoroughly hated Nie Li and his Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon. From that collision, the Nethermoon Draconic Beast's body was filled with bloody holes. He felt pain from every single one of them!

Before Guo Huai could react, Nie Li furiously roared and charged at the Nethermoon Draconic Beast again.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Energies exploded on the stage as the Nethermoon Draconic Beast continued getting rammed by the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and wailed even more miserably.

For the Nethermoon Draconic Beast, this experience was even worse than Hell!

Now that he'd reached 5-fate, Nie Li had grasped two more of the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon's combat abilities. However, he didn't plan to display them, since he could already win against Guo Huai with what he'd already shown. He'd already displayed sufficient talent, so he could keep those two combat abilities as hidden trump cards.

After experiencing all sorts of events in his previous life, Nie Li had learned an important lesson; no matter what happened, he

always had to conceal some cards. Those without hidden trump cards died too easily.

Thanks to Nie Li's furious ramming, the Nethermoon Draconic Beast was sent flying. When he landed on the ground some distance away, he remained there, completely bloodied and unable to stand.

Venerable Flameless never expected Guo Huai to lose. He was furiously enraged in his heart as he scolded, "Trash!"

Now that the Nethermoon Draconic Beast could no longer stand, Nie Li rapidly withdrew the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, shrank back to his human form, and leapt off the stage. He turn to Venerable Flameless, Huang Yu, and Nanmen Tianhai, and asked, "Two Elders, I've already won your two battles. The test should be over, right?"

Students of the East District weren't able snap out of it for quite some time.

As a newcomer, he'd actually managed to defeat so many experts of the East District and directly enter the top two hundred ranks. Something like this definitely hadn't happened for hundreds of years!

Nie Li's talent was indeed shocking, especially that mutated Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit of his. It left everyone with a deep impression.

“Nie Li has managed to win against two Senior Brothers. His test for today shall come to an end here!” Huang Yu laughed as he looked at Venerable Flameless, who sat beside him. “I wonder what opinions Venerable Flameless might have on the matter?”

“Leave it, then!” Venerable Flameless said in a low voice as he swept an eye over Nie Li. His plots against Nie Li haven’t succeeded this time, and it’d definitely be harder for him to do so in the future. He still wasn’t resigned to it, but there was nothing he could do. He knew that Hierarch Skycloud had probably noticed what was going on. He no longer had a chance here; therefore, he could only leave things as they were.

After Nie Li had finished, Lu Piao, Gu Bei, and the rest also went up to challenge some Senior Brothers.

Although Lu Piao and Gu Bei’s performances were extremely outstanding, thanks to Nie Li’s performance before them, the students of the East District weren’t in as much of a shock as they would’ve been.

From this day onwards, Nie Li was a disciple of the East District. However, his aim was to enter the Central District as soon as possible and quickly grasp the power and a position within the Divine Feathers Sect. He didn’t have any more idle time!

The competition ended and the crowd on the field slowly dispersed.

The news that Nie Li had entered the East District’s top two

hundred from the moment he entered quickly spread throughout the Skysoul Institute. The news also gradually spread throughout the rest of the Divine Feathers Sect and the other disciples started to pay attention to the rising genius.

After his battle with Guo Huai, Nie Li stopped receiving transmissions from Hierarch Skycloud and had no idea what his views were on the matter. Either way, if Hierarch Skycloud had something to say, then he'd definitely send someone with summons for Nie Li. Since Nie Li had just entered 5-fate, he had to resume cultivating as soon as possible to consolidate his cultivation.

As for Li Xingyun, Lu Piao and Gu Bei, they went on to carry out their plan. Recently, there'd been a steady influx of geniuses joining both the Demon and Heavenly Path Leagues. Aside from the Demon League's generous treatment of its members, Nie Li's name caused a huge effect.

With a talent like Nie Li's, who knew how high he'd grow in the future? Following Nie Li was definitely a commitment with prospects!

The night gradually darkened.

Nie Li continued his cultivation, as usual, and his fate soul had finally stabilised. Tomorrow, he'd be able to store his fate soul in the Soul Hall and head out again to the outside world. Things would be much safer for him, after he placed his fate soul in the Soul Hall.

Nie Li quietly sat, enshrouded by a powerful aura. He'd already finished cultivating the first few lines of the [Heavenly God] technique's first chapter! He didn't know when he'd finish the entirety of the first chapter.

He quietly meditated on the profound intents contained in the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique. Insights flitted across his heart.

Just when he was about to enter the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, he suddenly sensed a peculiar aura. He immediately put away the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting and looked at the door with alertness.

A strong wind blew through and forced the door open.

"Who's there?" Nie Li coldly barked as he peered outside. It was dark out there, without the shadow of a single person.

Nie Li sensed imminent danger. There was no way that the wind could just blow open the door like that and he couldn't see anyone outside, nor could he sense the trace of anyone nearby. This proved that the other party possessed strength that far surpassed his own. He had no idea where the other party was hiding themselves. Nie Li mobilised his Heavenly Energy and prepared to engage in battle.

Could it be...?

Had Venerable Flameless sent assassins over?

With a flick of his right hand, the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword appeared, as well as his Grade 6 Artifacts. But even so, Nie Li couldn't sense the slightest thing. Just what kind of realm was his opponent in?

Chapter 362: Die While Fully Knowing

Nie Li extended his perceptions, with his senses on full alert.

He still couldn't sense the other party's presence!

Traces of sweat beaded on Nie Li's forehead. He was already a 5-fate and his perceptive abilities had reached a frightening degree. He could sense the slightest movement of anything within fifty meters of himself, even if his opponent was a Heavenly Axis Realm expert. However, the other party could still manage to conceal themselves from his perception!

That meant that his opponent must be of the Dao of Dragon Realm!

He couldn't sense the other party's presence. However, thanks to the rich battle experience from his previous life, he felt a strong sense of danger.

The Divine Feathers Sect strictly forbade things such as assassinating students within the Skysoul Institute's grounds. It didn't matter how special Venerable Flameless was. If he committed a crime like this, the matter would definitely be investigated. If found guilty, even he'd have to pay for it with his life.

The Divine Feathers Sect's laws were absolute. No one could break them!

Nie Li couldn’t figure out why Venerable Flameless would try to pull something like this. That is, if he really was the one behind this.

After all, no matter how well Venerable Flameless could try to conceal the deed, it’d still be exposed by the big five. Wasn’t he a disregarding the consequences a little too much?

Nie Li slowed down his breathing and coldly swept his eyes over his surroundings. As long as the other party struck first, he would definitely return with a counterattack!

If the other party was too powerful, then he would have to execute one of the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique’s secret skills to engage in a death battle! All he hoped was the movements and aura ripples of the fight could attract the attention of some higher-ups within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Nie Li paid close attention to his surroundings as he prepared himself to engage at the drop of a hat. Suddenly, a invisible energy locked onto Nie Li.

“Shit!” Nie Li’s heart trembled as he waved the Thunder God’s Meteorite Sword in his hand and slashed in front of himself.

Bolts of lightning shot towards that energy.

However, the lightning pillars were destroyed as quickly as they

were released.

How was that possible? Nie Li's pupils shrank. The other party possessed such powerful strength!

The invisible energy continue honing in on him.

Nie Li furiously roared and prepared to merge with the Shadow Devil. However, just as Nie Li mobilised the energy within his soul realm, a peculiar energy hit his soul realm, causing it to shake. Instantly, the merging with his demon spirit halted halfway.

Immediately following that move, the unseen intent tangled itself around Nie Li's right leg and lifted him into the air.

His opponent's attack was simply too fast. Nie Li was extremely shocked. He stiffened his body and tried to use the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword to slash that invisible energy.

The moment Nie Li moved, two other invisible energies wrapped themselves around both of Nie Li's hands. A surge of energy pounded on his wrists, sending a sharp pain. The Thunder God's Meteorite Sword fell from his hand.

His limbs were tightly bound by that invisible energy.

Nie Li didn't have the slightest power to resist his enemy, nor did he know where in the room his opponent was currently hiding themselves. His opponent's strength must have reached the Dao of

Dragon Realm, at the very least! Nie Li slightly frowned his brows. He must've been overthinking it. There's no way that Venerable Flameless could've sent such a person.

Venerable Flameless probably couldn't even mobilise such a powerful expert.

Nie Li knew that his opponent possessed powerful strength, but he wasn't going to let himself and be caught without putting up a fight. If he had anything with him that could deal with this strange energy, it'd be that mysterious vine!

Nie Li immediately mobilised the vine within his soul realm and felt a majestic energy surging into his limbs.

The vine within his soul realm rapidly grew and absorbed the energy that bound Nie Li. The absorbed energy was quickly devoured by the vine.

The energy that bound Nie Li instantly collapsed. He landed and pounced towards the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword, trying to get it in his hands again.

Nie Li's opponent seemed to be a little surprised that he could actually break free. A small sound of surprise came from somewhere above.

Nie Li's opponent realised that he was about to grab the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword, the sword was knocked away with some

kind of energy. The blade was sent skittering, stuck itself into the ground, some distance away, and vibrated back and forth from the shock. Nie Li sensed countless invisible threads tighten around him and lift him into the air once again.

He immediately mobilised the vine within his soul realm a second time, but his soul realm suddenly emitted a bright golden light as a mysterious inscription patterns array thoroughly sealed the vine within Nie Li's soul realm.

Even the vine had been rendered totally useless!

Nie Li was bound by that invisible energy, lifted into the air, and had his limbs pulled in all four directions, until he was spread-eagled.

Nie Li smiled bitterly. His opponent's strength wasn't something he could match. He didn't even have the chance to merge with his demon spirit! Even a straight-on fight would be useless. Even if she managed to execute some of the [Heavenly God]'s secret techniques, he probably still wouldn't be able to fight against his opponent.

Nie Li started guessing at his opponent's identity. Was there really a need to send such a powerful expert to deal with the likes of himself?

Suddenly, a figure materialised and landed on the ground.

The figure wore a black tight-fitting ninja outfit. Even their face was concealed under the cloak. This person's aura felt as though it'd been concealed in a void — entirely undetectable. It felt like the Shadow Devil's void-form!

That person slowly walked towards Nie Li. Although she wore a ninja outfit, Nie Li could still see her fiery figure through her clothes. She had a perky, plump butt with beautifully long and slender legs. The fullness of her chest displayed extreme temptation.

In every steps she took, her beautiful figure gave off an astonishing charm. A strongly fragrant scent wafted over.

Her fiery figure alone was enough to mesmerise countless men, until they were head over heels for her.

Although Nie Li couldn't see her face, her knew that she was definitely devastatingly beautiful.

She slowly moved towards Nie Li, step by step, as she penetrated his heart with faint traces of killing intent. Nie Li felt the blood in his body solidify. She gradually walked in front of him. He was displayed right in front of her with his limbs stretched in all four directions, like a naked lamb on the cooking rack.

With a twitch of her right hand, a sharp dagger appeared that shined with chilling light.

“Someone asked me to take your life. However… killing you just like that would be such a waste of a good leather purse. So, I’ve decided to play with you a bit. if you serve me well, then who knows? I might even grant you an easy death!” Her voice was sharp and carried traces of seductiveness. She positioned the dagger between his thighs and cut apart his pants, revealing the skin beneath. The blade left shallow bloodstains.

Nie Li felt a shiver emanate from his crotch, as the dagger was only an inch away from his important parts. Nie Li felt his scalp tingle.

“Please wait for a moment, Senior. I wonder, who is the one who sent Senior over here? Who have I offended? Even if I must die, at least let me die while fully knowing!” Nie Li shifted his train of thought as he pondered over his opponent’s intentions.

Chapter 363: Pick One Of Two

“Brat! So now you’re afraid? You’ve offended so many people, so there are plenty who want you dead. But I’ll be generous and let you die fully knowing why. Venerable Flameless was the one who sent me here!” The black-clad embodiment of seduction smiled and continued, “Now, do you want an easier death or more painful one? It’s your choice!”

Her slim fingers softly slid across the skin around Nie Li’s thigh area. He felt an aura so cold that he had to suck in a mouthful of cold air.

His crotch was being threatened. How could his scalp not tingle?

“Senior, please don’t joke with me!” Nie Li bitterly smiled.

“Joke? You think I’m joking?” The person in black patted Nie Li’s crotch with the dagger in her right hand and showed an expression that was a smile, yet not a smile.

“This Senior definitely wasn’t sent by Venerable Flameless. If that was true, then ghosts must be real! Venerable Flameless is a 3-stage Dao of Dragon Realm expert, at most. Meanwhile, Senior must be an 8-stage Dao of Dragon Realm, at the very least! Senior could kill the likes of Venerable Flameless with a flick of your finger. How could you be willing to heed his orders?” Nie Li said as he looked at the black clothed person.

The woman in black was obviously startled. She never thought

that Nie Li would've been able to determine Venerable Flameless's strength, let alone her own.

After all, Nie Li was just a Heavenly Fate Realm. How could a lowly Heavenly Fate Realm tell the difference between the strong and weak of the Dao of Dragon Realm?

"Continue speaking. If you can tell me why, maybe I'll spare you today!" The black robed person crossed her arms and slightly smiled. Because of the way she'd positioned herself, her arms were squeezing her chest and making it bulge out with a shocking curve.

Nie Li bitterly smiled. At his current level, how could he possibly guess his opponent's identity so easily? He racked his brains for other clues. She was such an alluring woman and possessed great strength. She must be quite a figure within the Divine Feathers Sect.

Nie Li recalled the memories from his past life. There was one person who fit snugly into that category.

"From the strength that Senior has displayed, it doesn't look like the Dao of Dragon Realm. So... Martial Ancestor Realm?" Nie Li's eyes were fixed on the other party.

Her cloak trembled.

Nie Li felt excitement in his heart. Could he have guessed correctly? If it's a Martial Ancestor Realm, then there's a high

chance that she was that person...

Nie Li pondered for a brief moment before saying, “According to the cultivation technique that Senior displayed just now, you should be from the Dragonseal Family! Furthermore, you’re an expert in the Dragonseal Family who has reached the Martial Ancestor Realm. I believe that Senior’s identity is quite obvious right now. There’s really no need to guess!”

“Hahaha! You’ve guessed wrongly! I haven’t reached the Martial Ancestor Realm, yet. Actually, I’m at the 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm!” the black clothed person laughed as her body shook and there were waves roaring before her chest, “However, since you’re able to guess that I’m from the Dragonseal Family, you indeed have some capability!”

Dragonseal Family? 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm?

With the new information, Nie Li realised that he didn’t know who his opponent was and bitterly smiled, “Looks like I’ve guessed wrong!”

The black clothed person patted Nie Li’s crotch with the dagger and said, “You’ve humiliated my daughter so badly. So much so that now her mother has come looking for you. That sounds reasonable, doesn’t it?”

Upon hearing her words, Nie Li finally knew who she was. This black clothed person was Long Yuyin’s mother!

“Aunty, listen to me...” Nie Li immediately said as he tried to explain.

The black clothed person waved her hand to dismiss his words. “I’m well aware of everything. Since you’ve guessed so much, I don’t plan on killing you!”

Nie Li finally felt some relief at the black clothed person’s words.

“I won’t kill you, but there’s no way I’m letting you off without any punishment. I’m only going to cripple you. I don’t think you’ll have any objections, right?” The woman in black patted Nie Li’s crotch with the dagger once again.

Nie Li sensed a chill in his crotch and immediately hunched forward to move his pelvis away from her. He bitterly screamed inside his head. He still hadn’t placed his fate soul in the Soul Hall. If he got wasted like this, then it’d take a huge effort to heal. Furthermore, getting wasted like that, even just once, that feeling would be rather depressing.

“Aunty, you’ve misunderstood! I didn’t bully Long Yuyin! Furthermore, she’s taken me on as her master!” Nie Li immediately explained.

“Oh? Is that so?” The black clothed person removed the hood and her long hair fell like waterfall. She looked very similar to Long Yuyin, but more mature and charming. She had a devastatingly beautiful appearance. Her figure, wrapped by her tight, black clothes, was also more fiery than her daughter’s. Especially her

chest. A thought flashed across Nie Li's mind. Would Long Yuyin be so spectacular when she grew up?

"Yes, that's true!" Nie Li immediately nodded his head, though he was still rather depressed. Back then, he was an expert who'd stood his ground against the Sage Emperor. Although his cultivation had risen rather quickly in this life, he was still quite far from the Dao of Dragon Realm. Before this expert, he didn't have the slightest power to resist.

"I've heard it all from my daughter. You have two choices. First, marry Long Yuyin. Second, I'll waste you. Choose one!" Long Shuyun patted Nie Li's crotch and showed a smile that wasn't a smile. "Where should I start with the knife?"

Nie Li immediately replied, "That's not possible! Long Yuyin and I have a master-disciple relationship right now. Wouldn't we be messing up seniority if we did that?"

Long Shuyun coldly snorted. "Psh! Your master-disciple relationship is nothing but children playing house. It's nothing to be taken seriously. So what if the seniority gets messed up a little? If anyone dares to say anything, then I, Long Shuyun, will cut their tongue out!"

Nie Li was quite depressed within his heart. Really, could this Long Shuyun not be so rampant?

"Aunty, we should still consider this matter rather carefully. I already have a wife! It's not that I dislike Long Yuyin, but I feel

that I'm not a match for her!" Nie Li quickly followed up.

"So what if you already have a wife? It's extremely normal for men to have three or four wives. I only have one request. My daughter definitely must become your first wife!" The corner of Long Shuyun's mouth twitched. "Since the two of you are already like that, then there's nothing to be done. You might not be a match for my daughter, but she'll have to put up with it!"

"Like that?" Nie Li felt an urge to vomit blood. What had he done to Long Yuyin? "Wait, doesn't Long Yuyin already have a fiancé?"

"Oh? That engagement can be easily annulled!" Long Shuyun waved her hand.

"It doesn't seem morally right to break off an engagement just because you want to!" Nie Li righteously replied.

"Morals? Dogs shit morals. The one who has the larger fist has the justifications. Nie Li, I've already put my words on the table. Are you going to marry Long Yuyin or not? If you keep dilly-dallying, then don't blame me for being impolite!" A chilling bloodlust flashed through Long Shuyun's eyes as she coldly snorted.

"Aunty, I'm not dilly-dallying! There's really some stuff that I can't understand!"

"Speak!" Long Shuyun coldly glared at Nie Li.

“Your Dragonseal Family is prominent and Long Yuyin is also one of the successors. Whereas I originated from the Tiny World, just a poor guy without a background worth speaking of. Why does Aunty want me to marry Long Yuyin?” Nie Li bitterly smiled.

“You don’t have to play humble. My judgements are accurate. You may be from the Tiny World, but you have a Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon and you’re also one of Hierarch Skycloud’s disciples. Your future prospects are unlimited. Therefore, you’ll still make quite a match for my daughter.” Long Shuyun said with a light smile as she looked at Nie Li.

Chapter 364: Five Years

Nie Li was extremely depressed. It didn't matter whether they made a good match or not. You should still get peoples' opinions before you try to marry them off. Was she even aware of the saying "unwillingness cannot produce desired results"?

Nie Li's thoughts whirled. How could he deal with Long Yuyin's forceful old lady?

Nie Li felt extremely depressed under the threat of the cold dagger. He'd heard that Long Yuyin had wasted her own fiancé, Hu Yong, twice. Had she learned that from her mother?

Long Shuyun stared at Nie Li as she coldly said, "So, will you?"

The chilling aura made Nie Li shiver.

Nie Li immediately opened his mouth. "Wait! I have several questions. Why do you and Long Yuyin have the same surname, Long?"

At Nie Li's words, Long Shuyun blankly stared at him for a moment. This subject was a bit too much of a leap. After a brief moment, she said, "We belong to the Dragonseal Family; therefore, we are surnamed Long. If you're married with my daughter, your surname will, of course, have to be Long as well!"

So it turned out that he'd have to go and live with his "wife's"

family[1]!

“Having the chance to take on the surname Long. You should feel proud!” Long Shuyun said, as if it was a natural thing.

“That’s impossible!” Nie Li shook his head. “My surname was bestowed by my ancestors. Forget about being wasted. Even if I was killed, I won’t change my surname. This is disrespect towards my ancestors!”

Long Shuyun shrugged. “Alright then. If you’re unwilling to take the surname Long, then I won’t force you to. It’ll be fine as long as the first child you have with my daughter bears the surnamed Long!”

Nie Li dumbfoundedly looked at Long Shuyun. She compromised so quickly? Didn’t she have principles?!

“Before you marry my daughter, go ahead and voice any requests you have. As long as they aren’t too unreasonable, I’ll agree to them!” Shunyun looked at Nie Li and said in a meaningful tone, “I know your ambitions are quite large, and the foundations that you’ve laid out are quite solid. However, if you really want a chance at the Sect Master’s position, it won’t be enough with just Hierarch Skycloud’s support. If you marry Long Yuyin, you’d be able to gain the support of another big five. At that point of time, even Sect Master Situ would have to consider you carefully as your chances of winning are too high! Furthermore, our Dragonseal Family will do our best to help you win the position! But whether you’ll be our ally or our enemy, that’s your decision to make!”

Hearing Long Shuyun's words, Nie Li was depressed in his heart. That was a naked, straightforward threat! Was there anyone like her, marrying her daughter off in this manner? These people of the Dragonseal Family... how were their brains wired?

Nie Li was depressed; however, he understood Long Shuyun's thoughts. With Long Yuyin's strength alone, the chances that she'd win the Dragonseal Family's Patriarch seat were rather small. However, if Nie Li married Long Yuyin, then the outcome would definitely be different.

Two members of younger generation who'd integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. And one of them had a mutated one at that. Surely, the resources of the Dragonseal Family would lean towards Nie Li and Long Yuyin's side.

"Speaking of which, I still have to thank you. No matter how I tried to persuade her, that daughter of mine wasn't willing to fight for the Patriarch's position. I never thought that after following you, she'd actually change her mind about that. In this world, there are many things that require you to compete before they can belong to you! I can tell that this daughter of mine is fond of you. Since that's the case, then as her mother, I definitely have to help her. Nie Li, if you betray Yin'er's hopes... Hmph! Don't preach to me about the rules of Divine Feathers Sect. I've never cared about those rules, anyways!" Long Shuyun said with a domineering attitude.

Nie Li felt a headache from just how much Long Shuyun loved her daughter. He'd been trying the change the subject, but she still

drove on.

“Aunty, this doesn’t seem like a good idea. After all, both Long Yuyin and I are still young. Marrying right now doesn’t seem too good of an idea. Why don’t we wait five years? By then, if Long Yuyin still likes me, then I’ll marry her!” Nie Li said after pondering for a brief moment. Who knows what things would be like in five years? By then, even if Nie Li was going to shamelessly claim ignorance of the matter, there’d be nothing that Long Shuyun could do to him.

Long Shuyin briefly considered Nie Li’s words, then said, “It’s not too good of an idea? There are many people who get married at your age! But alright. I can wait five years for the wedding. But you’ll have to go ahead and get engaged and have your first child. I’m very free anyways, I’ll take care of the grandchildren for you!”

Nie Li blankly stared at Long Shuyun. He was dumbfounded.

This...

She’s truly unparalleled! Nie Li didn’t know how to reply to her at all.

“Aunty, marriage is such a big matter! Shouldn’t we consult our parents first? My parents live in the Tiny World, but the door to the Tiny World only opens every five years.” Nie Li quickly replied. Even he couldn’t help being convinced by his own quick-witted reply.

Long Shuyun hesitated for a moment, but then sharply glared at Nie Li, and said, “Are you trying to stall?”

“Why would I dare to stall Aunty?!” Nie Li immediately followed. “My parents really are still in the Tiny World!”

“You don’t have to bother about that. You can just let your parents know in five years. After your child is born, of course.” Long Shuyin said firmly.

“I can’t do that! Without my parents’ approval, how could I dare to commit such an unfilial act[2]?!” Nie Li righteously replied on the spot.

Long Shuyun was so enraged that her chest was heaving up and down. “I get it. You don’t want to marry my daughter. If that’s the case, then don’t blame me for being ruthless! Let’s see how long you can hold out for!” She raised the dagger and brought it down towards Nie Li’s crotch.

Nie Li sensed that chill in his crotch, but firmly replied, “I’ve put my words on the table. It’s not that I’m unwilling to marry Long Yuyin. But before I do, I have to seek my parents’ approval! Otherwise, I definitely won’t yield, regardless of what Aunty does to me!”

Just as her dagger was just about to cut into Nie Li, she stopped. Long Shuyun had been caught in a rather awkward position. After all, Nie Li hadn’t thoroughly refused her. And if she went ahead and actually wasted this boy, Long Yuyin might get angry with her.

However this kid was too crafty. Who knew if he was actually delaying on purpose?

Just as Long Shuyun hesitated, the door to Nie Li's room suddenly opened and Xiao Yu walked in. Xiao Yu was stunned on the spot.

"You guys..." Xiao Yu dumbfoundedly looked upon the scene. He'd heard a female voice when he passed by Nie Li's room. When he thought that it was Long Yuyin again, he became enraged, so he pushed the door open and witnessed the scene before him instead.

Nie Li was suspended in mid-air with his limbs splayed in all four directions, looking extremely ambiguous. Who knew what this mature and fiery woman was doing to him?

"Who are you?" Xiao Yu stared at Long Shuyun as he tried to guess her identity. After all, it was weird that there was a stranger in Nie Li's room.

Long Shuyun patted Nie Li and chuckled. "Nie Li, how was it? Has Big Sister served you well?"

She glanced at Nie Li as her charming eyes flashed with a chilling light.

Seeing Long Shuyun's eyes, Nie Li felt depressed in his heart. This woman seriously wanted his life[3]! But he knew that if he didn't cooperate with her, then the consequences would be

extremely heavy.

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[1] In China, the woman usually joins her husband's family. However, in various circumstances (for example, if the wife's family has extraordinary wealth or is a prominent family), then the husband might join the wife's family and adopt her surname.

[2] Chinese culture is all about "filial piety", or absolute obedience towards your parents.

[3] Not literally. Something more like a pain in the ass, or annoying him to death.

Chapter 365: Wait!

It's useless even with Xiao Yu in the room. Long Shuyun was a 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm expert, whereas Xiao Yu was just a Heavenly Fate Realm. It was impossible for Xiao Yu to save him!

"Thank you, Big Sister. Big Sister has worked hard!" Although he was depressed in his heart, Nie Li still managed to pay lip service.

Xiao Yu's face turned black as he scolded Nie Li. "Nie Li, you're filthy! Earlier, it was Long Yuyin and now, it's another woman! You're simply shameless!" He slammed the door shut with a loud bang.

Long Shuyun watched Xiao Yu make his exit, patted Nie Li between the thighs, and chuckled, "Not bad! You're still rather tactful."

Nie Li bitterly smiled as he couldn't figure this woman out. Was Long Shuyun really Long Yuyin's mother? Why were the personalities of mother and daughter so different? Although Long Yuyin did have a fiery temper, she still managed to restrain it. In the eyes of others, Long Yuyin was a cold iceberg. However her mother was bold and unrestrained.

Xiao Yu probably thought that he was having an illicit relationship with Long Shuyun!

"However, that boy said something about 'earlier, it was Long Yuyin.' What was he talking about?" Long Shuyun looked at Nie Li

with a smile that wasn't a smile.

Nie Li was inwardly depressed. He didn't expect Xiao Yu to save him anyways, but why did he have to throw stones at someone who'd already fallen down a well [1]? Nie Li really had been too reckless with picking his friends!

"Brat! You think you can just eat the cookie, wipe your mouth, and intend to deny what you did? My daughter might be a little weak, but if you think we're that easy to push around... Hmph, hmph!" Long Shuyun snorted.

What was she talking about? Long Shuyun seemed convinced that there was something going on between Nie Li and Long Yuyin. However, Nie Li was innocent! At most, they only had a master-disciple relationship. Everything they did was according to the rules. The one who Nie Li loved most was still Ye Ziyun. However, now that he knew that Xiao Ning'er was also bound to him by his previous life, there'd, more or less, been space for her growing inside his heart as well. But as for Long Yuyin, they only had a master-disciple relationship between them. Furthermore, just how long had Nie Li known Long Yuyin anyways? How could any affection manage to engrave itself upon his heart in such a short time?

As for what Long Shuyun had said, "don't think that they're easy to bully". What was that based on? Who dared to bully Long Shuyun anyways? That, by itself, meant that they were looking to die.

"Auntie, I think it's better if you ask for Long Yuyin's opinion on

this matter, don't you think?" Nie Li bitterly he looked at Long Shuyun and said, "I don't want to insult her innocence!"

"So, you want to see my daughter. Well, I've just happened to bring her with me!" Long Shuyun looked at Nie Li with that "smile" again. She waved her right hand and a figure appeared. Long Yuyin quietly stood a few meters away from him.

Long Yuyin was looking at Nie Li with a complicated expression.

Nie Li was stunned. So Long Shuyun had brought Long Yuyin along. It's just that she'd used some method to conceal Long Yuyin's presence so that he couldn't see her.

He had to admit that mother and daughter looked quite similar. Long Yuyin possessed ninety percent of Long Shuyun's attractiveness, at least. However, Long Shuyun was a little more charming, whereas Long Yuyin appeared more indifferent of her beauty. Furthermore, Long Yuyin's figure wasn't as fiery as Long Shuyun's. However, Long Yuyin wasn't fully grown, yet; therefore, she wasn't necessarily inferior to Long Shuyun's looks. At least, that's what happened in his previous life.

That also meant that, since the beginning, Long Yuyin had heard the conversation between Nie Li and Long Shuyun!

What was that all about? Long Shuyun was dealing with Nie Li. But as his disciple, Long Yuyin didn't help her Master out?

“Mother, please don’t force him anymore. There was nothing between us! Last time, he only used acupuncture needles to open up my meridians!” a dull look crossed Long Yuyin’s eyes. She hadn’t shown herself because she wanted to see Nie Li’s reply. However, Nie Li’s intentions were obvious in the way he evaded her mother’s questions. Long Yuyin didn’t know why, but she felt terrible in her heart.

In the past, even if men approached her with ulterior motives, she didn’t place them with much regard, nor would their actions have the slightest effect on her mood. Hu Yong included. However, when she heard Nie Li come up with all sorts of excuses to decline her mother’s offer, she felt a pain in her heart.

Could it be that Nie Li thought she was a terrible woman? Even if her mother forced him, Nie Li was still unwilling to marry her?

However, if she thought about it rationally, it all made sense. She’d only known Nie Li for a few months, and the impression that she’d given him at the beginning was an overbearing and rude person. However, Nie Li had always been the one giving to her, and she didn’t have anything that she could give back to him. Nie Li had taken her in as a disciple and released the power that was in her bloodline. He’d already shown her extreme benevolence. How could she possibly be deserving of his affection?

“Master Nie Li, my mother was joking with you. Please don’t be too bothered by it!” Long Yuyin apologised.

Nie Li felt relieved. It’s good that it was a joke. He had been miserably joked by Nie Li.

Long Shuyun nearly lost it when she saw Nie Li's expression, as if he was being released from a burden. She understood her daughter very well. Nie Li obviously had a place Long Yuyin's heart; she was just cowering.

"Yin'er, are we going to let this brat go, just like that? Absolutely not! Since we're already here, how can we return empty-handed? That's not my style, the style of Long Shuyun!" She coldly snorted as she continued, "Yin'er, since you're fond of this kid, then go ahead and get pregnant with his child. If he doesn't admit that the child is his, then I'll slaughter him. Back then, I also used this method with your father! In the past, your father also flirted around, but I was the one who subdued and collared him. Too bad that man was rather unlucky and wound up dead at the hands of the Demon God's Sect. Well, anyways, it just so happens that I'm here. I'll teach you everything, hands-on!"

Nie Li stared at Long Shuyun, speechlessly. Of all the people living under the heavens, who teaches their own daughter like that? How was her brain wired?

Hearing Long Shuyun's words, Long Yuyin bashfully stomped her feet and anxiously said, "Mother, what are you saying?!"

Long Shuyun firmly said, "Yin'er, all men are hateful wretches. Listen to your mother's advice!"

"Enough!" Long Yuyin yelled with anger and total embarrassment.

Long Yuyin's furious voice made Long Shuyun silent. Her daughter had never spoken to her like that before.

"What happens between me and him is our business. You don't have to get involved!" Long Yuyin scowled. She really was a litthe angry. Long Shuyun had never cared about how her heart felt!

Long Shuyun looked at her daughter and lightly sighed. "Fine. If that's the case, then forget about it!" Somehow, Long Shuyun felt like she'd let her daughter down. Since Long Yuyin was about to get violent on the subject, the only thing she could do was let it go.

Long Shuyun glanced at Nie Li and coldly snorted, "I'll let you go, for now. If I hear that you've bullied Long Yuyin again, then don't blame me for being impolite to you!" With a twitch of her right hand, she released him.

Finally freed from his bonds, Ni Li landed on the ground and sucked in heavy breaths. He couldn't understand Long Shuyun at all. Well, at least, he wasn't being threatened anymore by her dagger. He finally felt some relief.

"I'm leaving!" Long Shuyun turned and started walking out. Her expression was a little desolate.

"Wait!" Nie Li called out.

"What do you want?" Long Shuyun turned her head as she

looked at Nie Li. Hadn’t he been through enough of her “lesson”?

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[1] Chinese idiom, something along the lines of “kicking a guy when he’s already down”.

Chapter 366: Doesn't Benefit Themselves, But Others?

"Aunty, I just had a thought, though I'm not sure if I should say it?" said Nie Li. Although he'd been tortured by Long Shuyun, he knew that this was still one of his few chances to speak with her. If he missed this opportunity, then who knows when the next time would be?

"Speak!" Long Shuyun cast a glance at Nie Li with a "hmph". She was still rather unhappy about the way things had turned out. If Long Yuyin wasn't there with them, then her temper would've erupted a long time ago.

"Aunty has a high position inside the Dragonseal Family. With your support, Long Yuyin would have a really good chance of obtaining the Patriarch's position. It'd still be slightly inferior to Long Tianming's, but it shouldn't be too far apart." Nie Li said as he probed.

"You're wrong. The Ancestor of the Dragonseal Family supports Long Tianming! Therefore, it won't be easy for Long Yuyin to obtain the Patriarch's position." Long Shuyun lightly looked over Nie Li as she continued, "Don't think that I'm unaware of what you're planning. You've helped someone from all the three major families establish a foundation. It's all for your competition over the Sect Master's position. However, all three of them won't have an easy time trying to obtain the Patriarch's position in their respective families!"

Nie Li shook his head. "About that, Aunty has misjudged me. I

didn’t approach these three on purpose, just to lift them up for my own purposes!”

“Oh? Then what’s your motive? Have I misjudged you?” Long Shuyun looked at Nie Li with that “smile” again. She obviously didn’t believe his words.

Long Yuyin looked at Nie Li. She firmly believed that Nie Li wasn’t just using her. After all, her relationship between Nie Li was built under many coincidences, it wasn’t Nie Li who’d specifically tried to get close to her. If Nie Li been trying to get close to her, then he wouldn’t have confronted her in the Saint Soul Grounds.

“Aunty should also be able to see it. The Divine Feathers Sect has too many factions that are competing intensely against each other. There are many people who tried to change it, but they weren’t able to do so. Hierarch Skycloud, for example. He’d rather become a hermit and not bother about any of the sect’s matters. I’m certain that if this goes on, then the Divine Feathers Sect will definitely fall apart within two hundred years!” Nie Li said firmly.

Long Shuyun was silent.

Long Yuyin’s eyes were wide — she obviously hadn’t thought as far as Nie Li’s words were predicting.

“Continue…” Long Shuyun said.

Nie Li slowly explained, “Everyone keeps prioritising their own benefits. Everyone knows that there are a lot of problems inside the Divine Feathers Sect, but they keep competing against each other. If this continues, then the Divine Feathers Sect will definitely fall. One hundred years ago, the Divine Feathers Sects was ranked third among the six major sects. Now, we’re at the tail end of that ranking. Even if Sect Master Situ tries to change the current situation with all his heart, he can’t do anything because the three major families all have their own agendas. After all, the combined power of the three major families has already surpassed the Sect Master’s!”

Long Shuyun looked down at him. “What are you trying to say? Are you trying to tell me that you can change the situation with just your own strength?”

“Trying is better than doing nothing. Of course, it’s impossible to change anything with my strength alone. However, I have Gu Bei, Li Xingyun, and Long Yuyin. I think that their talents are pretty good, and that they’re also people worth trusting. They’re much better than the likes of Gu Heng, Long Tianming, and Li Yufeng. If those three wind up in charge of the three major families, then the Divine Feathers Sect will have a dark future, where it ends up torn apart. However, if Gu Bei, Li Xingyun and Long Yuyin can take control of the three major families, then everything will be totally different!”

Nie Li impassionedly reasoned, “With my strength alone, it’d be hard to accomplish that feat. But I, Nie Li, am willing to use everything I have to help Gu Bei, Li Xingyun, and Long Yuyin ascend to their positions! I’m not doing this for myself. I’m doing this so that in one hundred years, the Divine Feathers Sect will still

be a safe place for us all!”

Long Shuyun was mesmerised by Nie Li’s solemn vow, so much so that she no longer knew what was true and what was false. In this world, almost everyone worked for their own benefits. Who would do something that wouldn’t benefit themselves, but others instead? In her heart, Long Shuyun still didn’t believe him very much.

However, Long Yuyin was moved by Nie Li’s words. So, it turned out that Nie Li had such a huge dream. She looked at him. She compared herself to the man before her, and felt petty and low. Everything she’d done was to benefit herself; however, Nie Li had been thinking of the entire Divine Feathers Sect. This lifted Nie Li’s image even higher in her heart.

Long Shuyun twitched her lips in disdain. “Your words are only enough to bluff little girls. You want me to believe you? Hmph! Do you really think I’m that childish?”

It was true that Nie Li’s motives included something other than “for the good of the Divine Feathers Sect”; however, he could still look into his heart without shame. For the entire Draconic Ruins Realm, their greatest threat wasn’t from organizations like the Demon God’s Sect. It was the supreme existence — the Sage Emperor!

Countless numbers of experts from the Draconic Ruins Realm had fearlessly performed divinations on destiny, all to confront the Sage Emperor. The death toll far surpassed thousands, or even tens of thousands.

In order to protect his family and clansmen, Nie Li could embark on his noble plan with a clear conscience.

Nie Li looked at Long Shuyun and smiled. “It doesn’t matter if Aunty believes me or not. Either way, there’s no disadvantage to it. Right?”

Long Shuyun was silent for a moment, then said, “That’s true. Then, what do you plan to do?” It didn’t matter what Nie Li’s real motives actually were; the ones who he was pushing onwards included her daughter. And that was enough for her. As long as it didn’t threaten her, she didn’t care what he did.

Nie Li looked Long Shuyun in the eye and said in a serious tone, “Some of the things I have up planned are extremely huge. I wish that no matter what happens, Aunty will stand by me. Helping me also means helping Long Yuyin!”

“That depends on my mood!” Long Shuyun crossed her arms over her chest and calmly said, “If you need my help, send a message through Yin’er. Maybe I’ll consider it!”

Long Shuyun didn’t look concerned in the least; however, Nie Li knew that he’d be able to convince her. Long Shuyun was very caring towards her daughter. If Nie Li could convince Long Yuyin, and have her coax and pester her mother, then he wouldn’t have to worry about whether Long Shuyun would refuse.

Now that he had help from a 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm expert,

many things would be a lot easier to handle.

Long Shuyun looked at Nie Li as she said patiently, “Brat Nie Li! You’re really won’t marry my daughter? If you marry her, then as your mother-in-law, how could I not help you? When Yin’er ascends to her position, we’ll also do our best to help you obtain the Sect Master’s position. If you keep things this way, then aren’t you afraid that, after you raise Yin’er to her position, we might abandon you? If that happens, you won’t have anything more to gain!”

“Mother!” Long Yuyin stomped her feet in embarrassment.

Nie Li righteously replied, “It’d be hard to find any man who wouldn’t have his heart moved by a woman as good as Long Yuyin. However, if the marriage is linked to benefits, then it would be disrespectful towards Miss Long Yuyin! How could I, Nie Li, be that kind of despicable person? Therefore, we should carefully think this matter over!”

Long Shuyun looked at Nie Li in a daze. She really couldn’t understand this boy. If Nie Li managed to push Long Yuyin to the Patriarch’s position and marry her, then his chances of obtaining the Sect Master’s position would be much higher. Not to mention that there was nothing more a man could ask for in terms of Long Yuyin’s appearance. However, no matter how she tried to persuade him, he wouldn’t agree. Could there really be people in this world who didn’t work to benefit themselves, but to benefit others?

Chapter 367: One Who Is Sincere

Could Nie Li really be as noble as he claimed?

Long Shuyun didn't believe it. She's seen too much deception in people. Someone who helped others, but didn't ask for anything in return — people like that simply didn't exist! Was Nie Li just that confident that Long Yuyin would help him?

Nie Li tried his best to persuade Long Shuyun. "Regardless of what Auntie thinks, there's no harm in waiting a few years to see how things turn out. Right now, Aunty thinks that my talent is extraordinary; however, there are many talents who have fallen. Aren't you afraid that after I marry Long Yuyin, that I would not longer strive to improve myself? Of course, Auntie could tear up the engagement between us, the same way you plan to with Hu Yong's. But if you keep breaking promises, then I'm afraid it won't be very good to reputation!"

Long Yuyin nervously looked at Nie Li as she tried to explain that her engagement with Hu Yong was made between her mother and the Hu Clan. Back then, she was still young and didn't know anything about it. She'd never seen Hu Yong as her fiancé!

However, she still swallowed the words that welled up in her mouth. Nie Li had probably never seriously considered the engagement anyways. Right?

Long Shuyun glanced at Long Yuyin, sighed inwardly, and said to Nie Li, "No matter what your motives are, I'll admit that you've

persuaded me. From now on, I'll do my best to help you, as long as what you do is beneficial to my daughter."

Nie Li sighed a breath of relief at Long Shuyun's words. She'd finally agreed. With help from a 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm, his future endeavours would be much easier.

Simultaneously, in the Skycloud Hall

Hierarch Skycloud pulled his intent away as he was seated down with a solemn expression. A while later, he sighed and said, "How funny it is that I, who was born and raised in the Divine Feathers Sect, began rejecting the world because of some vexing matters. But, because of that, it seems that I can no longer see the world clearly, certainly not as well a youth."

"Long Yuyin, Gu Bei, and Li Xingyun are indeed excellent individuals among the younger generation. They aren't that bad in terms of character, either. If those three can take control of their respective families, then perhaps the Divine Feathers Sect could become united and face the enemy as one. In addition, there are many rising geniuses in recent years; the Divine Feathers Sect may even be able to recover its former glory!" Hierarch Skycloud could vaguely see the traces of hope.

Before Nie Li came to the Divine Feathers Sect, the sect's future was dull and the members of the younger generations from the various families had been deceiving and competing against one another. None of them had cared for the bigger picture. Back then, Gu Bei was still concealing his strength and Long Yuyin hadn't stood out to fight for the Patriarch's seat of Dragonseal Family.

After Nie Li's arrival, he'd affected Long Yuyin, Gu Bei, and Li Xingyun. The entrances of those three made slight changes to the situation.

These successors of the three major families weren't related to each other; however, they had been brought together by Nie Li.

'Since you're determined to accomplish your goal, then allow me to lend you a hand as well!' Hierarch Skycloud thought to himself. After being a recluse for so many years, he couldn't help the slightly throb in his heart.

The other four intents had also swept past. Hierarch Skycloud lightly smiled, if someone is sincere, then the other party would definitely be affected by their sincerity. He wondered what the other four thought about this, and whether Nie Li's sincerity could move them.

However, the Divine Feathers Sect was still a place ruled by the strong. If Long Yuyin, Gu Bei, and Li Xingyun couldn't claw their way up to the top, then it'd still be useless.

Nie Li was inside his room, after he'd seen Long Yuyin and Long Shuyun off. He sat there and stared at nothing in particular.

A 9-stage Dao of Dragon Realm had appeared in his room. He wondered whether the five major figures of the Divine Feathers Sect had noticed. Usually, none of them would bother to pay any attention to what happened inside the Skysoul Institute. However, the presence of such a powerful aura within the institute should've

attracted their attention. After all, the Skysoul Institute was one of the most important places within the Divine Feathers Sect; all of their young geniuses were gathered there.

Of course, that was all Nie Li's speculations. He'd have to be a little more careful from now on. Luckily, Long Shuyun hadn't planned on killing him; otherwise, the consequences would've been very severe. He had to hurry to the Soul Hall and place his fate soul within. He also had to be much more careful; if Venerable Flameless really sent an assassin, things could get dangerous.

He thought about it a little. Since he had so many spiritual stones right now, he should go ahead and buy a few courtyards within the Skysoul Institute grounds. As they say, "a crafty rabbit has three burrows".That way, he wouldn't be so easily found and killed by others.

Dawn gradually arrived and Nie Li left to take care of those matters. Even Xiao Yu and Lu Piao didn't know where he'd gone.

Nie Li placed his fate soul in the Soul Hall. He could finally head out to the outside world again.

Everyone was gathered in Li Xingyun's courtyard, including Gu Bei, Lu Piao, Xiao Yu, and Nie Li.

Nie Li saw Xiao Yu and was about to exchange a greeting with him. However, Xiao Yu's face darkened and he turned his head away.

Nie Li awkwardly scratched his nose. Even Ning'er didn't say anything when Nie Li interacted with other girls. Wasn't Xiao Yu being a little too concerned about this? Nie Li didn't know what to say.

Gu Bei reported, "Thanks to He Gui, we've managed to hunt down Gu Heng a total of three times. However, since Gu Heng is a Heavenly Star Realm expert, he can recover his fate soul after about five days. He's probably leaping and frisking about, right now. However, his cultivation should've dropped a lot. He should be around the 3-stage Heavenly Star Realm right now. Furthermore, thanks to our meticulous setups, Gu Heng is getting more and more suspicious of Chai Yue!" Gu Bei turned towards Nie Li and said, "Since your fate soul has recovered, let's go take down Gu Heng's Deity's Lakes!"

"Alright!" Nie Li nodded, looked at Gu Bei, and smiled. "How's the Demon League doing recently?"

"After the East District's competition, we announced that you're a member of the Demon League. After that, we got an endless torrent of applicants. Quite a few of them are Heavenly Star or even Heavenly Axis Realm experts. We already have more than six thousand people!" Gu Bei lightly smiled and continued, "Although we'll still need to test the newcomers' loyalties, the Demon League's overall strength has risen rather quickly!"

Even Li Xingyun was speechless at the report, as he listened from the sidelines. The Demon League had recruited so many people in such a short amount of time. Its expansion was simply too great. In terms of strength, it was already on par with the Heavenly Path

League.

Of all the powerful forces held by the talented younger generations, the Demon League could definitely claim to be in the top ten in terms of strength.

In addition, Li Xingyun had heard that Long Yuyin had established the Profound Note League. Rumors claimed that hundreds of Heavenly Axis Realm experts had joined upon its establishment. Several Dao of the Dragon Realm elders and grand elders were also obvious with their support for her force. The Profound Note League had rapidly surpassed the Heavenly Path League and was now ranked among the top five among forces.

Although the Profound Note League was a little inferior to the forces controlled by Long Tianming, Li Yufeng, Situ Beiyan, or Gu Heng, the speed at which it rose to power certainly surpassed everyone's expectations.

What stirred Li Xingyun even more was that the Profound Note Sect had already secretly formed an alliance with his Heavenly Path League and Demon League. The successors of the three major families had banded together — this was an unprecedented move. It'd be hard to imagine what future developments would look like.

Chapter 368: Heiyun Deity's Lake

The person Li Xingyun admired the most was Nie Li. Li Xingyun was a man who rarely admired anyone. Even though Nie Li was much younger than him, he'd already accomplished feats that Li Xingyun couldn't even imagine.

A party consisting of members of the Demon League and Heavenly Path League secretly made their way into the outside world.

These last few days, the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues had fought with Gu Heng's forces several times. The animosity between the two forces had already escalated to the climax. Both armies had killed until their visions were dyed red, yet Gu Heng still launched wild attacks against them without caring for his losses.

The combined Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues had counterattacked, and caused Gu Heng's side even more losses compared to their own. However, Gu Heng's force suddenly received aid from over two hundred Heavenly Axis Realm experts. Gu Bei and Li Xingyun's side immediately avoided his sharp edges.

They couldn't figure out where did those Heavenly Axis Realm experts had come from.

As a result, they proceeded with more caution, for a time. They couldn't afford to confront Gu Heng's forces like that.

In the outside world

Heiyun Deity's Lake

This was Gu Heng's most important Deity's Lake, guarded by a little over six hundred men. Sixteen of them were Heavenly Axis Realm experts. It was a rather decently sized force.

However, Gu Heng's main forces weren't present at the moment. Only a portion of his men were needed to guard the Deity's Lake.

The guards were seated and cultivating on the grassy area near the Deity's Lake. After all, the Heavenly Energy in this area was extremely rich. Compared to other locations, training here progressed much quicker. No one was willing to waste any time; therefore, only a few people were on patrol.

These men had followed Gu Heng for a long time and never experienced fear. No one ever dared to attack their Deity's Lake!

Several kilometres away, the Heavenly Path and Demon League members were gathering.

Gu Bei looked behind him and asked, "Are we all here?"

Lu Piao replied, "I made a quick check. We have almost three thousand men. Fifty-six of them are Heavenly Axis Realms!"

Even though they'd only gathered about three thousand men, it was more than enough to take down the Heiyun Deity's Lake.

"We should be able to start soon!" Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li and lightly smiled.

"Alright!" Nie Li nodded.

"Alright, let's go!" Gu Bei motioned with his hand as he barked in high spirits. It was only a short time ago that he'd abandoned his own prospects in order to conceal himself. He'd allowed the seniors of his family to believe that he was a useless person. However, his blood never stopped boiling, even for a single day. From this day onwards, he could finally stand forward and compete against Gu Heng.

Nie Li had cured his sister's illness and given him a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit. Gu Bei would do anything to repay his grace. Even if Nie Li asked him to die, he wouldn't say no!

"Kill them!"

Three thousand people charged towards the Heiyun Deity's Lake.

There were so many of them that they looked like a black patch in the sky. From afar, they looked like a massive swarm of bees.

Nie Li was among them, wearing his full set of Grade 6 artifacts

and wielding the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword. A pair of black and white wings flapped behind him as he flew towards the Heiyun Deity's Lake.

Even though Xiao Yu had an ongoing temper towards Nie Li, he still followed beside Nie Li.

The guards of the Heiyun Deity's Lake were still cultivating; they hadn't realised the danger yet.

There were several who were on patrol, but they were mostly chatting amongst themselves. Suddenly, one of them pointed towards the distance and said, "Look! Why are there so many people?"

"Maybe some faction is trying to transfer personnel?" Another guard glanced towards the distance. The situation certainly was rather abnormal, but they still didn't think that anyone would dare to attack the Heiyun Deity's Lake. If they came under attack, then Gu Heng would definitely arrive to the rescue within a few hours. So what if the Heiyun Deity's Lake was taken away for a bit? They could just take it back later.

As the guards chatted, the army approached. The men whistled through the sky.

"They're from the Demon League!'

"The Heavenly Path League as well!"

By the time they finally realised that something wasn't right, Nie Li, Gu Bei, and their army had already charged up to the Deity's Lake.

The Thunder God's Meteorite Sword in Nie Li's hand swung down and bolts of lightning landed.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It sent several Heavenly Fate Realm experts flying with its explosions.

Several Heavenly Axis Realm expert pounced towards Nie Li, but were blocked by the Heavenly Axis Realm experts from the Demon and Heavenly Path Leagues.

An intense battle broke out around the Deity's Lake.

There was no contest. Gu Heng's Heavenly Axis Realms were ganged up on by five, six, or even seven from the other party. They were killed, one by one.

Protected by the army, Nie Li arrived at the lake, stood in the center, and began writing inscription patterns.

Rays of light circled around him as these inscription patterns engraved themselves into the Deity's Lake, quickly forming a

completed inscription pattern array. A Deity Root slowly floated up from the center of the array. With a move of his right hand, Nie Li grabbed the Deity Root and threw it into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Nie Li glanced towards the battle that wasn't far away. Matters were settled rather quickly, and the Heiyun Deity's Lake's guards had been cleaned up.

Gu Bei looked at Nie Li and asked, "Done?"

"Yeah." Nie Li nodded as he lightly smiled.

"Alright! We'll head for the next one!" Gu Bei said excitedly. He didn't know where Nie Li was keeping the Deity Roots, but he knew that they were more valuable in Nie Li's possession. That guy always managed to churn out an endless supply of spiritual stones.

The army of three thousand soon set out for the next location, like a swarm of locusts. The Heiyun Deity's Lake began crumbling as they left.

Half an hour later.

Gu Heng led ten thousand people to the Heiyun Deity's Lake. However, they couldn't find a single trace of it.

Gu Heng nearly vomited blood at the sight of it. He'd controlled the Heiyun Deity's Lake for several years, and it produced a large

quantity of spiritual stones for him every year. But now, the Heiyun Deity's Lake was gone? He couldn't understand it. Even a Martial Ancestor Realm expert would have a hard time destroying a Deity's Lake. Not to mention, what benefits would there be to destroying a Deity's Lake?

"Nie Li! Gu Bei! I definitely won't let you guys off!" Gu Bei furiously roared.

He Gui rolled his eyes and said with a deeper meaning, "Boss Gu Heng, I sense that there's something fishy going on. Since they've destroyed the Heiyun Deity's Lake, they're probably heading for the next one. We have to chase after them, quickly! The closest one is the Guyu Deity's Lake. They must be heading there!"

Chai Yue was enraged at the accusations in He Gui's words. He'd been suspected quite a few times these days, and had nearly fought with He Gui. He Gui was a vile man who'd been badmouthing him in front of Gu Heng, to the point where he'd almost lost Gu Heng's trust.

There was an incident a while ago, where Gu Heng was mysteriously ambushed. Gu Heng had died while Chai Yue had managed to escape alive. From then on, Chai Yue was no longer trusted. After that, Gu Heng was killed twice more, when Chai Yue wasn't present at all.

Chai Yue suspected that He Gui was playing tricks. He immediately said, "Boss Gu Heng, they might've taken a detour and gone for the Lightning Deity's Lake instead! If we head for the Guyu Deity's Lake and miss them, then the Lightning Deity's Lake

could be lost!”

Gu Heng lightly cast a glance at him, considered his words, then said, “Let’s go! We’re heading for the Guyu Deity’s Lake!”

Gu Heng flew off. He Gui glanced at Chai Yue, coldly smiled, and followed Gu Heng.

Chai Yue watched Gu Heng and He Gui’s silhouettes and couldn’t help feeling disheartened. It looked like Gu Heng no longer trusted him anymore.

Chapter 369: Taking Drastic Measures To Deal With Situation

Guyu Deity's Lake

By the time Gu Heng and his entourage arrived, the place was already empty. There wasn't a single trace of the Guyu Deity's Lake.

Gone again?!

Gu Heng had practically gone insane. Gu Bei really wasn't sparing a single patch of dirt! It wasn't just the Heiyun Deity's Lake! Even the Guyu Deity's Lake had been destroyed!

"They definitely left just a short while ago!" Gu Heng said hysterically. "Search the area, within a dozen kilometres. Everyone else follow me to the Lightning Deity's Lake. We'll slaughter them all!"

But even slaughtering Gu Bei and his friends wouldn't be enough to dissolve Gu Heng's hatred. Even if he killed them, they'd revive back in the Soul Hall. However, the Deity's Lakes were gone for good!

Gu Heng clench his teeth. "Gu Bei, I'm not finished with you!"

As he thought of his destroyed Deity's Lakes, he felt like he'd

been stabbed through the heart.

Gu Heng's forces began combing the area for traces of Nie Li and co., especially in the direction of the Lightning Deity's Lake.

Flying on the way to the Lightning Deity's Lake were the Demon and Heavenly Path League's members.

Li Xingyun looked at Nie Li and said, "Gu Heng's men have already caught up. What should we do?"

By the time they reach the Lightning Deity's Lake and take it down, Gu Heng and his men would've arrived. After that, it'd probably be a fierce battle.

"No worries! Continue onwards to the Lightning Deity's Lake. It's Gu Heng's last one. It'll be worth it, even if we're all wiped out!" said Nie Li. The destruction of all three of Gu Heng's Deity's Lakes would cause him to take drastic measures against them. But what were they afraid of?

"After we take his last Deity's Lake, we'll just sit back and watch how he keeps his footing in the outside world!" a trace of strong hatred flashed through Gu Bei's eyes as he recalled the image of Gu Lan sitting in a wheelchair.

Gu Heng had poisoned his sister. He should'ave expected this day!

Everyone flew towards the Lightning Deity's Lake.

At the Lightning Deity's Lake

When Nie Li and his men arrived, they realised that something was off. There was a total of three thousand people guarding the Lightning Deity's Lake!

Back when Gu Heng was rushing towards the Guyu Deity's Lake, he'd had the foresight to send a portion of his force to strengthen and protect the Lightning Deity's Lake!

Li Xingyun frowned and said, "There seems to be more people here than we expected!"

Nie Li briefly considered the situation, then said, "Escort me in!"

Even if their opponents had greater numbers, Li Xingyun and his men still shouldn't have a problem protecting Nie Li until he reached the center of the Deity's Lake. After Nie Li took the Deity Root, everything would be over!

"Everyone from the Heavenly Path League, listen up! Protect Brother Nie Li as he goes in!" Li Xingyun barked.

"Everyone from the Demon League heed my orders! Protect Boss Nie Li as he goes in!" Gu Bei also yelled.

By now, the Lightning Deity's Lake's guards had already formed a powerful defence. They eyed the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues.

"Kill them!"

Murderous shouts filled the air as Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, Lu Piao rushed in with a group of Heavenly Axis Realm experts. Since the three of them possessed Grade 6 artifacts, so even if they encountered enemy Heavenly Axis Realm experts, they wouldn't need to be afraid. The two sides clashed.

Nie Li and Xiao Yu followed behind and charged into the heart of the Deity's Lake.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Xiao Yu helped Nie Li kill several Heavenly Fate Realm experts who charged towards them.

"Thanks!" Nie Li faced Xiao Yu with a bright smile.

"Hmph!" Xiao Yu's face was dark and he turned his head away.

'Why does Xiao Yu's attitude remind me of a woman's? He was even holding the grudge in the middle of a battle!' Nie Li was speechless and he brandished the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword and shot out bolts of lightning.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

The experts at the very front merged with their demon spirits. Gigantic beasts appeared, one after another, and fought in the sky. Fresh blood rained, it was like a meat grinding machine as deaths occurred on both sides.

Protected by the Heavenly Axis Realm experts, Nie Li and his group quickly approached the Lightning Deity's Lake.

"Don't let them in! Boss Gu Heng will be here soon!" A guard wearing golden battle armour yelled as he lead a small party and charged towards Nie Li.

Nie Li's Heavenly Axis Realm guards noticed their approach and also merged with their demon spirits.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Again, massive beasts filled the sky, one after another. All of them were Extraordinary Level growth rate Dragon Bloodline demon spirits. The sinister auras of the huge beasts suppressed their opponents so much that they couldn't breath.

The guards of the Lightning Deity's Lake were all dumbfounded.

Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirits were extremely

precious; there were only few of them in the entire Divine Feathers Sect. Second to them were the Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level demon spirits. However, they were also extremely rare. There were probably only a few hundred among the younger generations of the Divine Feathers Sect and that would already be considered pretty good. Furthermore, the only ones who could obtain such demon spirits would definitely be the important members of the various families!

But now, there stood more than twenty Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary demon spirits before their eyes!

To most people, Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level demon spirits were next to impossible to find on the market. However, it wasn't hard for Nie Li to obtain them.

Now that Nie Li had more powerful Deity Root, his bank of spiritual stones had already reached a frightening amount. With Gu Bei's help, he'd used spiritual stones to purchase Dragon Bloodline Ordinary Level demon spirits, then refined them into better leveled ones.

Nie Li had given Gu Bei and Li Xingyun each fifty or sixty Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level demon spirits, and had pick most trustable members in the respective leagues to integrate with those demon spirits.

After their Heavenly Axis Realm experts had integrated with those demon spirits, they became even more loyal. Each of them deeply realised that joining the Demon League was definitely the right choice! How could they receive such treatment if they'd

joined other forces? As for those who'd yet to receive a Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary demon spirit, Gu Bei and Li Xingyun would continue to test them.

Regardless of whether those people had joined for the benefits or had other motives, they began pouring their greatest efforts into their respective league. Now, in the fight with Gu Heng's underlings, they fought like wolves and tigers and charged without regard for their own lives.

Over twenty Heavenly Axis Realm experts merged with their Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary demon spirits and pounced upon their enemies. The people guarding the Lightning Deity's Lake were instantly intimidated. Was this a joke? A Heavenly Axis Realm expert was already strong enough; now they had Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary demon spirits on top of that? How were they going to fight back?

When the guards died in battle, they only received a dozen or so spiritual stones as reimbursement. So why should they risk their lives?

They'd heard the rumors, too. When a member of the Demon or Heavenly Path League dies in combat, they receive five to six times what Gu Heng gives! Furthermore, those guys were also rewarded for every kill they made!

It was really frustrating to compare themselves to their enemies!

The ones guarding the Lighting Deity's Lake all fled.

Protected by the Heavenly Axis Realm experts, Nie Li finally reached the heart of the Lightning Deity's Lake and began writing inscription patterns using demon blood. The patterns slowly floated down into the Lightning Deity's Lake.

Chapter 370: Reinforcements

As Nie Li was laying down his inscription patterns, Gu Heng arrived with his men.

The moment Gu Heng saw Nie Li and his army gathered at the center of the Lightning Deity's Lake, he immediately flew into a rage.

Gu Heng didn't know what methods Nie Li was using to destroy his Deity's Lakes, but he instantly knew what Nie Li was trying to do when he saw him standing in the middle of the Lightning Deity's Lake. Nie Li must trying to destroy the Lightning Deity's Lake right this moment!

Now that the Heiyun and Guyu Deity's Lakes were gone, Gu Heng only had the Lightning Deity's Lake left!

And now, Nie Li was preparing to take away even that!

Gu Heng went insane.

"Kill them! Slaughter them all!" Gu Heng furiously roared as he pointed the long sword in his hand towards Nie Li and his guards. With that, ten thousand people charged the Lightning Deity's Lake, snarling as they went.

Li Xingyun led his men and formed a tight, defensive formation and said anxiously, "Nie Li, we'll do our best to obstruct them! You

need to act quickly! Gu Heng and his men are already here!”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

An intense battle broke out. There were simply too many people on Gu Heng’s side — three to four times the number of the Heavenly Path and the Demon League members. The enemy frantically launched siege attacks towards them. Under Gu Heng’s lead, over three hundred Heavenly Axis Realm experts charged towards the Lightning Deity’s Lake.

Over at the Lightning Deity’s Lake, experts from the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues sank into a bitter battle.

Gu Heng’s three hundred Heavenly Axis Realm experts were an unstoppable force; they slaughtered open a path in their charge towards the Lightning Deity’s Lake’s.

“Nie Li, we can’t hold them off any longer!” Gu Bei anxiously reported.

Gu Heng simply had too many Heavenly Axis Realm experts.

Boom!

A bolt of lightning struck Nie Li and electricity branched in all directions.

Luckily, Nie Li was wearing a set of Grade 6 artifact armour, and a surge of protective energy rebounded the lightning. Otherwise, Nie Li would've been killed.

Gu Heng was utterly dejected when he realised that his lightning had no effect on Nie Li. It's that damned Grade 6 artifact again!

"Block them!" Gu Bei urgently ordered.

A group of experts charged towards Gu Heng in an attempt to cut them off.

Nie Li attention were focused on laying down the inscription patterns. The array was quickly completed and formed a pattern of revolving light.

"Success!" Nie Li grinned. He could see the vague shape of the Deity Root floating upwards and extended his hand to grab it.

Suddenly, a curtain of dragon flames hit the inscription patterns array. With a boom, the array broke apart.

"What happened?" Nie Li frowned his brows for a brief moment, then realised that a few hundred meters away, one of Gu Heng's Heavenly Axis Realm underlings had merged with a Dragon Bloodline demon spirit while fighting with the experts of the Heavenly Path League. He was the one who'd released the dragon flames.

Nie Li didn’t know if it was by accident or on purpose, but the dragon flames had destroyed his array. The emerging Deity Root hid itself back within the soil.

Nie Li quickly began rewriting the inscription patterns, trying to repair the array.

“Nie Li, we can’t hold them off anymore!” Lu Piao and the rest yelled anxiously.

The three thousand of the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues would probably be entirely annihilated within a short amount of time!

“All of you, die!” Gu Heng showed a vicious expression as he ferociously pounced towards Nie Li. The moment right before Gu Heng’s sword landed on Nie Li, Li Xingyun flew out of nowhere.

Boom!

Gu Heng’s sword hit Li Xingyun’s body and activated Li Xingyun’s protection barrier. Gu Heng’s attack was rebounded.

Gu Heng felt depressed. He had no idea where Nie Li, Li Xingyun, and the rest of those guys had gotten so many Grade 6 artifacts from. Although Gu Heng was much stronger than Li Xingyun, he still couldn’t penetrate Li Xingyun’s set of Grade 6 artifacts. Not with his own strength!

Another set of Grade 6 artifacts, another Dragon Bloodline Extraordinary Level demon spirit. The more he fought with the Heavenly Path League and the Demon League, the more frustrated he felt.

Gu Heng wasn't frustrated with how powerful the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues were; he was frustrated by the fact that they were just too rich!

If he had that much money, he'd be able to make such an awe-inspiring force too!

What made him even more frustrated was the fact that he didn't know how much money his opponents actually had. They could afford to recruit six thousand people in such a short amount of time; furthermore, many of their new recruits were Heavenly Axis Realm experts. If the Demon League was allowed to fester on its own, how formidable of a force could they become?

Due to the shelter of the Divine Feathers Sect, although Gu Heng could manage to restrict the Demon League's development to a certain degree. However, he couldn't completely kill the Demon League's unstoppable momentum!

"Kill him!" Gu Heng furiously barked. Six Heavenly Axis Realm experts charged at Li Xingyun.

"Protect Boss Xingyun!" the surrounding allies all gathered towards Li Xingyun.

By now, both the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues combined had suffered over a thousand deaths. However, Gu Heng's forces had also suffered quite a bit. So far, the total death toll was two thousand.

The members of the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues weren't afraid of death; they firmly blocked Gu Heng's men with their lives on the line. Even though they were outnumbered, they had momentum. Their fighting spirits soared like a rainbow. Even though every last one of them was going to die, they were determined to take a few enemies with them. Gu Heng's forces were all rather disheartened at the pack of suicidal wolves and tigers that they'd encountered. How could they not feel that way?

Even if a member of the Heavenly Path or Demon League died, they'd receive a reimbursement that totally covered their losses. If they managed to take one or two with them, then they'd even make a profit. So why wouldn't they do their best?

By now, the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues were almost wiped out. However, a wave of people suddenly appeared on the horizon and headed towards the lake like a dark cloud.

"Reinforcements from the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues have arrived!"

Eight to nine thousand reinforcements charged towards the Lightning Deity's Lake.

"Boss Xingyun! Boss Gu Heng! We've come to reinforce you

guys!”

Murderous shouts filled the air.

Almost all of the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues’ forces had been sent out. In terms of quality, they were inferior to Gu Heng’s; however, in terms of quantity, they weren’t inferior.

Gu Heng’s face turned dark at the sight of this. Since when did Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues have so many people? Even he wasn’t aware of it until now!

The Demon League had only been established a short while ago. Back then, Gu Heng didn’t place them with much regard. However, the Demon League had now grown into a full-blown threat for him. If you added the Heavenly Path League to that, then they became a force that could match evenly with the dozen or so forces that he’d managed to rope in!

Gu Heng had an urge to vomit blood. If he’d known this earlier, he would’ve poisoned Gu Bei too, and turned him into trash, just like his sister!

There were over two hundred enemy Heavenly Axis Realm experts surrounding Li Xingyun; however, hundreds of allied Heavenly Axis Realm experts suddenly rushed out from nowhere and attacked Gu Heng’s forces.

Where had those Heavenly Axis Realm experts come from? Since

when did the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues possess so many Heavenly Axis Realm experts? After all, Gu Heng had only managed to borrow two hundred for himself with great effort. Who would've imagined that the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues would've had so many mysterious reinforcements emerging?

Chapter 371: Escaped?

What Gu Heng didn't know was that in addition to the Heavenly Path and Demon League members, Long Yuyin had also sent a hundred of her own Heavenly Axis Realm experts as reinforcements.

Long Yuyin hadn't formally announced that her Profound Note League was allied with the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues; however, the Profound Note League had always been supporting them. For example, by sending over a hundred Heavenly Axis Realm experts.

These hundred Heavenly Axis Realm experts had masked their outer appearances, so that Gu Heng's men wouldn't be able to recognise them, much less tell that they were from the Profound Note League.

Since Gu Heng had some reinforcements, it wouldn't be unusual for the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues to have their own reinforcements as well.

As the two forces fought each other, another five or six thousand people flew in from nowhere and joined the battle. They were obviously there to aid Gu Heng.

"They're Li Yufeng's men!" Li Xingyun furrowed his brows. He never expected Li Yufeng to take action, as well. However, since Li Xingyun and Li Yufeng had always been in disputes, it wasn't surprising that Li Yufeng would join the battle against them.

Although Li Yufeng's Wind Intent League was far inferior than his Heavenly Path League, they were still a rather considerable force with large numbers.

Li Yufeng himself wasn't present. That was his style; he was a miser about his own cultivation. But because he never participated in battles, there were also few experts willing to follow him.

The Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues were now at even more of a disadvantage; the pressure was even stronger.

However, Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, and co. had a very simple objective; they were to keep Gu Heng's men from getting close to Nie Li, and they were doing a good job of it.

Nie Li was done repairing the inscription pattern array. Dazzling lights revolved around the design. Pulled by the force of the array, the Deity Root gradually floated to the surface.

At the sight of this, Gu Heng anxiously yelled, "Stop him!"

He didn't know what Nie Li was doing, but he knew that if it was completed, then he'd be in trouble!

Dragon flames rained down in Nie Li's direction.

The dragon flames were about to land on Nie Li, but a dozen allied Heavenly Axis Realm experts merged with their Dragon Bloodline demon spirits and stood in their way.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A wall of dragon flames exploded. The raging flames danced in every direction.

Although the flames slightly injured the Heavenly Axis Realm experts, it wasn't enough to kill them.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Three licks of dragon flame passed through the gaps between the Heavenly Axis Realm experts' defenses at crafty angles and shot towards the inscription patterns array.

A sinister expression was smeared across Gu Heng's face. If he couldn't cut Nie Li into ten thousand pieces, then he'd never be able to ease the hatred in his heart. No matter what happened, he wouldn't let the Lightning Deity's Lake be destroyed, just like that!

Three tongues of dragon flame whistled towards the array below.

Nie Li stood in the face of those dragon flames, but didn't move an inch. His expression was calm. He quickly extended his hand and snatched the Deity Root.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The three tongues of dragon flame exploded around him. One raging flame even caught on him.

A barrier quickly sprung up from his Grade 6 artifact and blocked the flames. Not even the slightest spark managed to touch Nie Li's skin.

He got the Deity Root!

The corner of Nie Li's mouth rose into a smile as he tossed the Deity Root into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Since he already had the Deity Root, there was no longer a need to continue the battle.

Nie Li transmitted his voice over the Li Xingyun and Gu Bei. "Brother Xingyun, Gu Bei, conserve our strength and order a retreat!"

When Li Xingyun, Gu Bei, and the others heard Nie Li's words, they rejoiced. Nie Li had accomplished their objective, so why should they keep fighting? They should just let Gu Heng go and cry in a corner all on his own. Anyways, they weren't going to stay and play around with him any longer than they needed to!

"Everyone, retreat!" Gu Bei loudly yelled.

"Follow me and charge out!" Li Xingyun took the lead.

The experts of Heavenly Path League and Demon League all charged out of the seige.

Without its Deity Root, the Lightning Deity's Lake began to rapidly collapse.

At the sight of this, how could Gu Heng possibly not understand what was going on? He nearly cried out from the emotional pain. This Lightning Deity's Lake was his last remaining one! So what if he managed to wipe out Nie Li and his entire group? All three of his Deity's Lakes were gone, not a single one was left!

That goddamn bastard, Nie Li!

If he wanted a new Deity's Lake, then he'd have to start a war with another faction! Furthermore, he wouldn't be able to find anything better than Heiyun, Guyu, and Lightning Deity's Lakes!

"I'll slaughter you all!" Gu Heng roared in rage and led his men to attack on all sides.

Nie Li, Xiao Yu, Lu Piao, and their men followed Li Xingyun and Gu Bei. The battle was simply too intense. Within moments, everyone got separated from each other in the clash.

Gu Heng pointed at Nie Li and yelled, "Slaughter that kid and bring me his interspatial ring!"

Nie Li definitely must have taken something from the Lightning Deity's Lake and placed it in his interspatial ring! Whatever it was, Gu Heng had to recover it!

A group of people surrounded Nie Li.

When Li Xingyun and Gu Bei saw this, they immediately led a few men to rescue him.

"Don't worry about me! Just retreat!" Nie Li immediately yelled. After all, the Deity Root wasn't in his interspatial ring; it was in his Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

At most, he'd die here. But even if that happened, Gu Heng wouldn't be able to take back the Deity Root! At the very most, Nie Li would just have to stay within the Skysoul Institute for a period of time!

A group of Heavenly Axis Realm experts surrounded Nie Li.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Explosions of energy landed on Nie Li's barrier and left cracks on it.

Once the Grade 6 armour's barrier was destroyed, Nie Li would definitely die. With his current strength, it wasn't possible for him to confront against a Heavenly Axis Realm expert.

‘I have to put the Grade 6 Armour into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, before it’s destroyed.’ Nie Li thought inwardly. He definitely couldn’t allow the Grade 6 artifact armour to fall into Gu Heng’s hands and benefit him!

A group of enemy Heavenly Axis Realm experts pounced towards Nie Li. Just as Nie Li was about to stow away his Grade 6 artifacts, Xiao Yu grabbed his arm.

“Follow me!” Xiao Yu anxiously said as he activated the inscription patterns array on the ring on his forefinger.

A mysterious blanket of light rapidly enveloped Nie Li and Xiao Yu. The ripple of time-space rapidly spread out around them.

Nie Li was secretly alarmed; he never thought that Xiao Yu’s common-looking ring would actually be a Time-Space Artifact!

Gu Heng was startled by the sight and sense of that peculiar time-space ripple. He immediately barked, “Quick, stop them!”

A wave of dragon flames was aimed at Nie Li and Xiao Yu’s direction.

One of the tongue of flames hit Xiao Yu, who groaned. However, the ring managed to fully activate in time. With a flash of light, the two of them disappeared.

Nie Li and Xiao Yu had actually escaped!

At the sight of this, Gu Heng's bloodshot eyes filled with an unparalleled viciousness and his lungs nearly burst. All three of his Deity's Lake had been destroyed, but he'd actually allowed the culprit to escape?!

Chapter 372: Origins

Now that Nie Li and Xiao Yu had safely escaped, the others rejoiced!

What else did they have to worry about?

“Everyone, retreat!” Li Xingyun barked.

The Demon League and Heavenly Path League split into dozens of smaller groups and charged out, retreating while fighting off their enemies.

Gu Heng led his men in a chase for a few hundred kilometres. Although both sides had suffered quite a few losses, at least half of the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues’ combined forces managed to retreat safely. Gu Heng could only watch as they escaped.

A quick count told Gu Heng that the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues had suffered a total of five thousand casualties, while he’d suffered six thousand. Li Yufueng had also suffered over a thousand deaths.

Three of his Deity’s Lakes were gone and he’d suffered more losses in personnel than his enemies. Gu Heng was extremely depressed.

He looked out at the horizon, in the direction that the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues had escaped to, and rays of wrath flashed

through his eyes. “If we were only killing each other out of hatred, then maybe the family elders wouldn’t be bothered over it. However, I don’t think that’s the case anymore, since you dared to commit actions like destroying Deity’s Lakes! Gu Bei, let’s see if your position as first-in-line successor is still stable!”

Gu Heng led a group of men and rushed back to the Divine Feathers Sect.

He definitely had to get the elders riled up about this, then make them impeach Gu Bei!

Destroying three of his Deity’s Lakes was just too vicious a move. He definitely had to make Gu Bei pay the price!

One day later, Skysoul Institute, Gu Bei’s courtyard

Gu Bei, Li Xingyun, and Lu Piao were gathered together.

Gu Bei frowned and questioned, “Why isn’t Nie Li back, yet?”

Li Xingyun smiled. “Xiao Yu unleashed a mysterious inscription pattern array at the last minute to save them. It looked like some kind of space-time array. Since they’ve already stored their fate souls, they’ll only be able to die once before they return. There’s nothing to worry about!”

Since the outside world was so vast, sending out a search party wouldn’t be a good idea.

Gu Bei nodded. “Alright then. Let’s just forget about it for now!”

Lu Piao wasn’t worried for Nie Li in the slightest.

They began discussing the arrangements for compensating the members of the Heavenly Path and Demon Leagues who’d died. Suddenly, a servant anxiously walked in. That servant’s name was Gu Teng. He was one of Gu Bei’s direct subordinates.

“Master Bei, I just received news that Gu Heng is trying to contact the elders of the Gu Clan to impeach you!” Gu Teng anxiously reported.

“Impeach me?” Gu Bei was stunned for a moment.

“It seems to be about the destruction of their three Deity’s Lakes!” Gu Teng reported.

Gu Bei furrowed his brows briefly. Indeed, there’d never been a precedent for destroying a Deity’s Lake. Perhaps they really had gone a little too far this time. But what about the fact that Gu Heng had poisoned his sister? That was even more vicious. This was “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”.

“How does Gu Heng plan to accomplish his goal” Gu Bei asked with furrowed brows. If Gu Heng was going to play petty tricks, then Gu Bei would have to guard against them!

Both Li Xingyun and Lu Piao were listening beside them. This was part of the Gu Clan's internal affairs; outsiders like themselves wouldn't be able to provide much help. They could only help him come up with ideas.

"Gu Heng has gathered dozens of elders and is preparing to pressure the Patriarch. They want you to either give up your position as first-in-line successor, or compensate for the loss of three Deity's Lakes. One of those elders actually supports Miss Gu Lan and secretly told this news to the Young Miss. Young Miss then asked me to pass the message to you!" Gu Teng said.

A chilling ray flashed through Gu Bei's eyes. Before he'd displayed his strength, Gu Heng had been the first-in-line successor; therefore, many elders had good relationships with Gu Heng. After Gu Bei had destroyed three of Gu Heng's Deity's Lakes, Gu Heng wasn't resigned; he was trying to use the clan's power to deal with Gu Bei!

"Gu Bei, what are you going to do?" Lu Piao asked.

Gu Bei went silent for a moment, then said, "I already have an idea! Gu Teng, go investigate which elders Gu Heng has contacted!"

"Yes!" Gu Teng bowed and replied.

Gu Bei busied himself.

The outside world, a mysterious and hidden valley

Surrounded by towering, precipitous cliffs was a valley, flourishing with grasses and flowers. A small spring flowed out from a densely packed forest. The Heavenly Energy was especially rich in this area.

Nie Li didn't know how far he was from the Divine Feathers Sect. He'd never been here before, not even in his previous life.

After Xiao Yu had activated the space-time array in his ring, he and Nie Li suddenly appeared in this valley. They'd shaken Gu Heng off their trail, but Xiao Yu had suffered severe, almost fatal, injuries from the dragon flames.

Xiao Yu only had a 5-fate cultivation. His entire body had been charred black by the dragon flames, and his life was hanging by a thread. With his current cultivation, recovery wouldn't be easy.

Nie Li should've bought a set of Grade 6 armour for Xiao Yu, too. He couldn't help feeling guilty about that.

Xiao Yu struggle to sit upright, and leaned on a big tree to do so. He forced his head up to look at Nie Li and weakly said, "Healing these wounds is too difficult for me, especially in this state. Kill me. That way, I can revive back in the Soul Hall!"

Nie Li squatted down next to Xiao Yu, inspected his wounds, and confidently replied, "You wounds might be heavy, but recovery

isn't impossible! As long as your soul realm hasn't collapsed, I can do it!"

Xiao Yu showed an embarrassed expression and said, "Forget it!"

"There still a chance! Why are you giving up?" Nie Li said in confusion. He looked at Xiao Yu's ring and said, "I never thought you'd have this sort of hidden method up your sleeve. It looks like an ancient space-time attributed ancient artifact. I actually don't recognise it! It looks like it's connected to your blood and is a part of you."

Xiao Yu lowered his head and looked at the ring on his finger. Then, he shifted his eyes and gazed off into the distance, "I'm an orphan, adopted by my foster father. Back then, I was still a infant who knew nothing. Everything that was related to my birth is gone. Only this ring was left behind. The ring is extremely important to me — it's the only proof of my existence in this world!"

Nie Li shook his head at Xiao Yu's words. "A person's existence isn't something that can be proven with just an item. Have you heard the saying before? "Like the empty air; life is as tranquil as a blooming flower; all is fleeting and illusory; let your heart be as clear as a mirror"[1]. Everyone is born into this world empty-handed. Your existence doesn't any proof. Live life with a merry heart and appreciate what is there! Things like origins aren't that important!"

Xiao Yu looked at Nie Li with a dumbfounded expression. Although Nie Li was younger than he was, Nie Li sounded like a

sage who'd already seen through the illusions of life into reality. Xiao Yu's desolate heart found comfort in Nie Li's consolation.

Xiao Yu looked at the ring on his finger and said in a serious tone, "I understand your meaning. I'll take your advice and appreciate life. But I still want to know of my origins!"

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[1] Live life with a happy heart. Experience things with an open mind and unwavering determination. Face the world with a tranquil heart.

Chapter 373: Treatment

“Alright! I’ll treat your injuries!” Nie Li said to Xiao Yu.

He furrowed his brows for a brief moment, then said, “If we don’t treat you now, then your wounds definitely won’t be able to heal! It’ll definitely affect your cultivation!”

“Treatment isn’t worth the trouble. Just send me back to the Soul Hall for revival!” Xiao Yu was resolute, though uneasy for some reason.

Nie Li knitted his brows again and replied, “Your wounds might look serious and cover your whole body, but treatment isn’t troublesome at all. I’ll only need one or two hours, at most! This is obviously much easier than letting your cultivation drop a level.”

Xiao Yu looked anxious and shook his head, “Forget it! There’s no need!”

He was covered in wounds. If he didn’t want treatment, doesn’t that mean…?

“You don’t trust my medical techniques? Rest assured! I guarantee that I’ll have you back to your normal, handsome self in less than two hours! Huang Yin and the other girls will still scream when they see you!” Nie Li laughed.

“That’s not what I meant…” Xiao Yu immediately tried to

explain. It was hard for him to tell Nie Li the real reason.

"What are you hesitating over? We're both guys. There's nothing to be embarrassed about!" Nie Li grabbed Xiao Yu's shoulders, examined his friend's injuries, and prepared to treat his wounds. "Not to mention the fact that I'm the reason why you suffered these injuries. I'm obligated to treat you. Don't worry about my medical techniques. I'll make sure your cultivation ends up soaring higher than before!"

"No! There's really no need!" Xiao Yu lifted his hand with difficulty to stop Nie Li.

A sense of curiosity arose in Nie Li's heart. What was up with Xiao Yu? Nie Li had told him that his wounds were treatable, so why was he so insistent on death and revival in the Soul Hall? Had his brain been fried by the dragon flames? Xiao Yu had suffered such heavy injures in order to save him. He already felt bad enough about that, but Xiao Yu still insisted on dying. Wasn't this just making Nie Li feel even more guilty?

"No matter what, I'll definitely treat you!" Nie Li raised his hand. With a few taps, he sealed Xiao Yu's meridians, completely paralysing him.

"You really can't..." Xiao Yu said anxiously.

"Shhhh. Save your strength. I understand!" Nie Li tapped Xiao Yu's neck and sealed his vocal chords.

Xiao Yu stared at Nie Li with his pitch-black eyes. Nie Li had sealed his meridians; he couldn't move or speak.

"Wu...wu...wu..." Xiao Yu struggled as hard as he could, and tried to twist his body away. However, it was totally useless. His clear eyes filled with anxiety.

"Rest assured, leave this to me." Nie Li patted Xiao Yu's shoulders. He lowered his chin and looked at Xiao Yu's skin. The corner of his mouth rose into a smile. Xiao Yu only had flesh wounds from the dragon flames; his soul realm hadn't been damaged. Treatment was still possible.

The one who unleashed this dragon flame must be a Heavenly Axis Realm expert, at least. Xiao Yu should've been killed by the attack, but because of the space-time array in his ring, he'd managed to escape a portion of the flames. Therefore, he only suffered heavy injuries instead of losing his life.

Usually, a Heavenly Fate Realm expert wouldn't be able to recover from such heavy dragon flame wounds dealt by a Heavenly Axis Realm expert. A Heavenly Fate Realm expert shouldn't be strong enough to help his friend heal such wounds either. However, Nie Li wasn't the same as others.

Nie Li's methods were more than enough to heal Xiao Yu's wounds.

"Wu...wu...wu....." Xiao Yu incessantly gargled as Nie Li continued to examine his body. His face was flushed red as he tried

his best to speak. However, nothing came out of his mouth.

Nie Li patted Xiao Yu's shoulder, "It's just a flesh wound, nothing much. It'll be fixed in a jiffy. I'll help you take off your shirt!"

Riiiiippppp!

Nie Li quickly tore open Xiao Yu's clothing, strip by strip, until his entire shoulder was showing. Nie Li brought out a bottle of ointment, dipped a finger in, and smeared it on his shoulder.

Nie Li injected his Heavenly Energy as he smeared the medicine. Slowly, Xiao Yu's shoulder returned to its rosy and fair complexion. The level of exquisiteness and fragileness wasn't any less than it'd been before. Even a woman would be jealous of that skin.

"How's that? Believe in me now?" Nie Li said with satisfaction. His Heavenly Energy had entered Xiao Yu's body and healed his internal injuries as well.

"Wu...wu...wu....." Xiao Yu continued struggling with an anxious expression.

"I understand!" Nie Li patted Xiao Yu's shoulder again with a confident smile. He dipped his hand back into the ointment pot and continued treating the wounds Xiao Yu's face and neck. His skin gradually returned to its former state.

Nie Li had to admit that Xiao Yu was very beautiful. No wonder Huang Yin and the other girls were so enamoured with him. Even Nie Li couldn't help feeling a little jealous.

"I'm done with your upper body. Next, it's below!" Nie Li picked up Xiao Yu, laid him down on his stomach, and tore away the cloth on his back. Xiao Yu seems to have suffered injuries before this as well as he had many bandage wrapped across his chest. Nie Li tore away the bandages until Xiao Yu's entire back was revealed, filled with burnt wounds.

"Wu...wu...wu....." Xiao Yu kept twisting his body and his face was red all the way down to his neck. Anxiety filled his eyes, but he couldn't speak at all.

Nie Li applied the medicinal salve to Xiao Yu's back and slowly rubbed it into his skin.

The wounds quickly disappeared at a visible speed. A brief moment later, Xiao Yu's entire back returned to its former, smooth appearance, a gorgeous jade sculpture that even left Nie Li dumbfounded. It could only be described as smooth and fair.

Nie Li couldn't help sighing. If Xiao Yu was a woman, then he'd mesmerise so many men!

Nie Li immediately expelled those unrealistic thoughts from his mind and focused on treating Xiao Yu. The wounds on his back were quickly healed.

Rrrrriiiiiiiiippppppppppp!

Nie Li tore away Xiao Yu's trousers, revealed his slender thighs, and began treating. He slowly applied the salve to every part of Xiao Yu's wounds and meticulously massaged the medicine in as he injected Heavenly Energy. A brief moment later, all the wounds on Xiao Yu's legs were healed. Those slender legs were perfect, without the slightest flaw. Nie Li simply didn't know how to describe them.

It looked like Xiao Yu had lived like a prince since he was little; his maintenance was simply too perfect!

"En." A trace of weird sound came from Xiao Yu's throat.

Nie Li massaged his hands over every surface of Xiao Yu's legs, and a peculiar warmth flowed from Nie Li's palms into Xiao Yu's body. Although Xiao Yu couldn't move, he clearly felt the sensation throughout his entire body.

Chapter 374: Void Spiritual Array

Xiao Yu struggled for quite a while before he finally realised that there was no point. The only thing he could do was widen his eyes and helplessly resign himself to his fate.

After Nie Li treated Xiao Yu's back, he turned his friend over and leaned him on the tree.

What Nie Li caught sight of there stunned him.

Xiao Yu was extremely slim, and his chest was flat and smooth. Although there were several burn wounds, it wasn't terribly serious. A huge portion of his pearly white skin could be seen.

There wasn't the slightest injury on her chest and her pearly white chest were covered by a mysterious tattoo.

The design was extremely complex, as though it was crafted from high-level inscription patterns.

Even Nie Li couldn't make any sense of it; however, he intuitively sensed that those inscription patterns were probably linked to Xiao Yu's origins.

A strange ring with power over space-time, and a set of mysterious and profound inscription patterns. Nie Li guessed that Xiao Yu probably had a formidable background!

Since Nie Li was staring at his front, Xiao Yu turned red all the way down to his neck. He could only slightly tilt his head away slightly.

“We’re both guys, what’s there to be embarrassed about?” Nie Li shrugged.

Xiao Yu still appeared a little indignant at Nie Li’s words.

He began treating Xiao Yu’s front side. He slowly smeared the medicinal paste on his friend’s wounds and massaged it in. He was cautious with every wound.

Nie Li had a serious expression on his face as he looked down on Xiao Yu’s wounds. Xiao Yu was finally looking back at him with a less dazed expression. Tears flickered in his eyes. Who knew what he was trying to say?

“Could you not look me in the eye? You’re making my hair stand.” Nie Li said, a little disheartened. No. Xiao Yu wouldn’t happen to have a special hobby of being interested in men, right?

Either way, Nie Li continued treating Xiao Yu’s wounds, and only left a few private parts for Xiao Yu to do for himself.

Just as Nie Li prepared to unlock Xiao Yu’s meridians, his eyes fell back to the mysterious inscription pattern arrays on Xiao Yu’s chest.

He could faintly sense a mysterious ripple of energy spreading out from the design on Xiao Yu's chest. It was as though the surrounding time and space had stopped.

When Nie Li's eyes fell on the tattoo, he felt like he was being sucked in. He couldn't look away.

Nie Li's heart was filled with curiosity. Just what were these inscription pattern arrays?

He unconsciously extended his hand and touched Xiao Yu's chest.

His body no longer listened to him, and was being pulled by the ungraspable energy.

"Wu...wu...wu..." Xiao Yu thrashed violently.

However, Nie Li couldn't hear his friend's protests. His right hand was already over the mysterious inscription patterns.

Boom!

The mysterious energy surged violently. The inscription patterns on Xiao Yu's chest began spinning rapidly. Mysterious inscription pattern chains snaked out in all direction and latched onto Nie Li.

A deep vortex sucked his mind inside.

Nie Li thoroughly lost consciousness.

After a long period of time, Nie Li entered a dark and endless space.

He quietly seated himself in the place without edges. It was a void that made one feel vulnerable and exposed from all directions.

“Where is this?” Nie Li furrowed his brows. Why did this happen when he touched the inscription pattern arrays on Xiao Yu’s chest?

He sensed a powerful intent permeating the surrounding space. His own intent was like a drop in the ocean compared to it.

A deep and hoarse voice sounded from the endless time-space. “This is the space within the Void Spiritual Array!”

“The Void Spiritual Array?” Nie Li knitted his brows. The information flowed into his mind as he recalled the Void Spiritual Array. Only someone who’d cultivated the [Heaven’s Divination] technique to a very high level could lay that kind of inscription pattern array.

[Heaven’s Divination] technique was a mysterious and forbidden technique.

Within the time-space controlled by the Sage Emperor, the [Heaven’s Divination] technique was something that absolutely should not be learned. Those who’d learned it would eventually be

discovered, and then the Sage Emperor's Deity Generals would pursue them to the ends of the earth. However, even if the [Heaven's Divination] technique couldn't be practiced, there were still many people with lofty ideals who preserved and passed it down. Therefore, there were still many who knew it.

It was said that the [Heaven's Divination] technique could allow one to climb the Heavenly Dao and break the space-time seal placed by the Sage Emperor.

However, once those who'd cultivated the [Heaven's Divination] technique reached a certain level, they'd be discovered by the Sage Emperor. After that, death was destined. Therefore, there were only a few throughout history who were powerful enough to lay down a Void Spiritual Array. All of them possessed great strength and had attained unimaginable heights. To some degree, all of them were strong enough to fight the Sage Emperor.

"Indeed. Before I died, I laid this Void Spiritual Array upon the body of my daughter. However, that was already several million years ago. My confrontation with the Sage Emperor ended with my fall. To protect my only daughter, I sent her through time and space with a secret technique, and she arrived in the present, several million years later. I chose this time because I sensed a powerful time-space aura from here. Someone has managed to cultivate the [Heaven's Divination] technique to my level."

"Your daughter?" Nie Li couldn't help knitting his brows. Could this "daughter" be Xiao Yu?

Nie Li had suspected that Xiao Yu was a woman, but he couldn't

confirm it. He bitterly smiled as he thought about her flat chest. Back then, he'd thought that he'd confirmed that Xiao Yu was male!

The voice didn't seem too bothered by what Nie Li was thinking, as it said, "I do not know where that expert is, but I sense a powerful space-time aura from you."

Nie Li's body contained a powerful time-space aura? Could it be from the two remnant pages of the Temporal Demon Spirit Book? Or was it something else?

Nie Li stared into the void and asked, "I'd like to ask Senior, what's your motive for placing the Void Spiritual Array onto your daughter's chest?"

The intent replied, "Through this Void Spiritual Array, my wife and I have sealed our lifetime's worth of cultivation within our daughter's bloodline. As time passes, our daughter's bloodline will slowly awaken, and she will become an expert that surpasses even ourselves. However, she still won't be strong enough to confront the Sage Emperor. We can only wait for that expert that have reached the pinnacle of the [Heaven's Divination] technique!"

"I wonder... how can I help you?" Nie Li said after he considered the voice's words. The Void Spiritual Array had sucked his consciousness inside; that expert must have intended it to happen. He must have a motive behind it.

"I do not know of your origins, but I can sense that you have a

more than ordinary relationship with my daughter," the voice said.

Cough cough

Nie Li couldn't help feeling a little awkward. Just a little while ago, he didn't even know that Xiao Yu was a woman. Now that he knew, he couldn't help the awkwardness. He'd touched Xiao Yu's entire body!

"Well... we're just really close friends." Nie Li awkwardly smiled.

"Since you're her close friend, I'd like to entrust a matter to you," the voice said.

"Senior, please speak. As long as it's something I can accomplish, I'll do my best!" Nie Li straightforwardly answered. After all, his relationship with Xiao Yu wasn't that bad. Earlier, he'd been saved by Xiao Yu. He'd even touched her. If he couldn't agree to her father's request, then he'd be too cruel and shameless.

Chapter 375: From The Tiny World

The voice sounded rather impressed as it said, “I can sense the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting from you. I’m surprised that you’ve managed to obtain that ancient divine artifact. Not only that, you’ve also managed to completely merge with it.”

Nie Li received a fright at those words; he never expected Xiao Yu’s father to be able to sense the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting concealed within his soul realm.

The voice continued, “Once my daughter’s bloodline is released, she’ll attain all the cultivation that my wife and I possessed before we died. However, the aura of the [Heaven’s Divination] technique will leak from her body and the Sage Emperor will be able to sense her. I have a request of you: please send her into your Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting before her bloodline awakens, so that she can escape the calamity!”

“If you’re asking me to allow her into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, that’s no problem!” Nie Li pounded a fist on his chest in a gesture of confidence. “But I’d like to ask, when will her blood awaken?”

“That will happen when her cultivation reaches the Martial Ancestor Realm, or…she becomes the woman of a man,” that voice finally said after a brief hesitation.

Nie Li was clearly stunned by that answer, and a strange

expression smeared itself across his face. Well, it shouldn't be too difficult or too long before Xiao Yu reached the Martial Ancestor Realm.

The voice sighed and said, "The Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting is an astonishing treasure that contains a separate dimension. Back then, there were countless wars and battles over this treasure. Once, two pinnacle experts had risked their lives to conceal it from the Sage Emperor. However, they ultimately died at his hands."

This is the time and space of the Sage Emperor. If anything appeared, regardless of person or treasure, that could threaten the Sage Emperor's power, then it'd be eliminated.

The Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting is one of the treasures that the Sage Emperor wants to eliminate!

The only reason the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting managed to survive is because it'd been preserved by people with noble goals.

The voice spoke with sorrow. "Back then, countless experts fell in battles against the Sage Emperor. Even until now, the best we can do is to keep him in check. We have gathered numerous experts in the Ancestral God Land to suppress the Sage Emperor's Demonic Bone; because of that, the Sage Emperor cannot exert his entire strength and could only use his clone to control this area of time and space. That clone only possesses a tenth of his true power; therefore, providing us a chance. Otherwise, dozens of nearby realms would've already been turned into wastelands."

Nie Li was alarmed by this new information. So the Ancestral God Land was suppressing the Sage Emperor's Demonic Bone. During Nie Li's battle with the Sage Emperor in his previous life, he'd noticed that the Sage Emperor was unexpectedly weak. So it turns out that the Sage Emperor hadn't recovered his full strength!

Based on what Nie Li knew, the Sage Emperor had suddenly become bolder with his actions once the Ancestral God Land's Holy Maiden suddenly disappeared and the land was ravaged by golden flames. Perhaps the Sage Emperor hadn't had enough time to recover his strength after the destruction of the Ancestral God Land.

So, how should Nie Li resolve it in this life?

Nie Li went silent.

The voice took the opportunity to speak again. "The Sage Emperor may be strong, but you don't have to be too pessimistic about it. There are many experts concealed in the corners of various realms who continue to cultivate for the sake of confronting the Sage Emperor. The Tiny World that exists within the Draconic Ruins Realm was created by a supreme expert before he died. Even the Sage Emperor cannot break its seal and enter. Therefore, many experts have concealed powerful treasures within that realm. If you can obtain these treasures, it'd be a great help to your endeavours!"

The voice continued, "The seal on the Tiny World is extremely

powerful; only those who have originated from the Tiny World can enter and exit as they please. Fortunately, my daughter is from the Tiny World; she will definitely be able to help you!”

Nie Li heard Xiao Yu’s father and finally understood the reason for the seal on the Tiny World. So that’s why the Tiny World is the way it is!

What Xiao Yu’s father didn’t know was that Nie Li was also from the Tiny World!

Nie Li wondered about what kind of treasures were hidden there.

The Temporal Demon Spirit Book, the Thunder God’s Meteorite Sword, and the Nightmare Demon Pot were probably part of that horde. Nie Li had found the Green Poison Pearl as well, but that was far inferior to the other divine artifacts that he’d found.

He never imagined that the Tiny World would be so important. No wonder the Demon God’s Sect was trying to overrun it with demon beasts and cultivate forces within it!

The fog within Nie Li’s heart gradually lifted as he put the pieces together. So that’s how it was!

The next time the entrance to the Tiny World opened, he’d definitely have to go in! That was the only way he could obtain the hidden treasures within before the Demon God Sect’s experts did!

Nie Li had been reborn and thought of himself as quite knowledgeable, but there were still many riddles that he couldn't solve. For example, the mysterious Emperor Kong Ming. Who was he? Where was he right now?

"I'll leave my daughter to you!"

"Senior, please rest assured. As long as I'm here, no one will touch a hair on your daughter. Well, if I die, then I won't be able to guarantee that!" Nie Li shrugged.

The voice sounded like he was smiling as he replied, "If you can hide yourselves away, then hide. If you cannot, then leave yourselves to fate! Now that things have been sorted out, you may take your leave..."

The voice gradually drifted away.

Nie Li consciousness slowly returned to his own body. When he curled his fingers, a peculiar sensation came to his hand. Ample and soft, too much to grasp with one hand.

What is this?

Smack!

A burning pain spread across Nie Li's face and a five-fingered mark appeared. When Nie Li opened his eyes, he saw Xiao Yu wearing a new set of clothes and glaring at him.

“Lecher!” Xiao Yu couldn’t help spitting out those words as her cheeks burned.

Nie Li’s consciousness had been inside Xiao Yu for almost two hours now. The seals on her meridians had naturally become undone.

But that earlier, what was that sensation?

Nie Li looked at Xiao Yu’s chest. It was obviously flat. Could it have just been his imagination? Was his head that foggy?

Nie Li shrugged and said, “I didn’t know that you’re a woman. It’s your fault that you dressed up like a man this entire time!”

“You…” Xiao Yu was extremely depressed as she recalled everything that’d happened two hours ago. Nie Li had touched her entire body, but it was true that it wasn’t his fault. She’d dressed as a man, so of course he’d assumed that she was one. When she remembered how Nie Li had laid her down and massaged her naked body, her entire face started burning.

“Forget it! Let’s pretend that nothing happened!” Xiao Yu threw her hands down in anger and irritation. She’d been taken advantage of, but what could she actually do about it?

Chapter 376: Wu Yazi

Nie Li couldn't help being amused at Xiao Yu's sulky attitude. He never expected the situation to turn out like this. He'd always thought of Xiao Yu as a man, who knew that she had hidden the truth so well.

It was probably related to the inscription patterns on her chest.

Nie Li looked at Xiao Yu and asked, "How are your wounds?"

The scenes from earlier flashed across Xiao Yu's mind. She turned away with with her face boiling.

"I'm fine," Xiao Yu answered quietly.

"That's good!" Nie Li nodded, "Since your wounds are already healed, then let's go back!"

"Alright," Xiao Yu replied.

Just as Nie Li stood up and prepared to leave, several powerful auras swooped in their direction.

"Careful!" Nie Li immediately pulled Xiao Yu by the hand and hid in the nearby forest. Then, he dipped his right hand in a little demon blood and quickly wrote down a few inscription patterns. As he wrote them, he pointed at Xiao Yu's chest.

“Lecher!” Xiao Yu’s face was ashen. Nie Li had already taken advantage of her earlier. Now, he wanted to do it again?

With a grave expression, Nie Li grabbed Xiao Yu’s wrist with his left hand, covered her mouth with his right, and softly growled in her ear, “Be quiet, unless you want to die!”

Nie Li was hugging her from behind, and she couldn’t break free, no matter how much she struggled. Shame crossed her face. She could only stay in that position, with Nie Li hugging her from behind as that peculiar feeling made her cheeks boil.

Nie Li and Xiao Yu peered out from behind a tree while holding their breaths. They knew that they were not in a position to confront the owners of those powerful auras. As for whether Nie Li’s inscription patterns could successfully conceal them from the other party, Nie Li was still unsure.

They spent so much effort just to survive up until now. It’d be a waste to be killed right then and there.

Thanks to Xiao Yu’s struggling, Nie Li was distinctly aware of her perky, smooth, and soft rear that was currently pressed against his leg. He suddenly remembered events from back in the Nether Realm, when they explored the Death God’s tomb.

Back then, Nie Li had thought that Xiao Yu was a male; therefore, he hadn’t had much of a reaction. But right now, Nie Li couldn’t help secretly cursing himself.

In all honestly, Xiao Yu was still heart-stoppingly gorgeous, even though she was dressed in men's clothes.

Nie Li had to restrain himself as he stared into the distance.

Some distance away from their hiding spot, two people landed on a patch of grass.

These two experts were of some other race: one had a body covered in fur, while the other had scarlet-red ears. Both were clearly experts of some demon clan.

"There were obviously two auras here just a short while ago. Where could they've escaped to?"

"Those two auras shouldn't have any connections with that kid. That guy's aura wasn't so weak!"

The two demon clan experts conversed with each other.

They seemed to be pursuing someone.

"That kid killed so many of our men! If I don't kill him myself, I'll never be able to extinguish the hatred in my heart!" one of the demon clan experts said as he grounded his teeth and scanned his surroundings.

They'd clearly sensed two weak auras just now, so they'd chased after them. But why couldn't they sense them anymore? It should be impossible for such weak auras to escape their senses!

The two demon clan experts briefly searched their surroundings.

Only now did Xiao Yu understand what was going on. So Nie Li had sensed those two demon clan experts, while she hadn't. That's why he'd acted like that. Although her current posture with Nie Li was very ambiguous, Xiao Yu held her breath and didn't dare to move.

Nie Li realised that one of the experts had signs of approaching in their direction, and his heart rate sped up a little. According to his perceptions, those two should be Heavenly Axis Realm experts, at the very least. If they got within ten meters or so, they'd be able to break the concealment inscriptions and discover Nie Li and Xiao Yu.

If that happened, it'd be an impossible fight with Nie Li and Xiao Yu's strength. Those two Heavenly Axis Realm experts could easily kill them!

The demon clan expert drew closer to Nie Li and Xiao Yu, but he suddenly stopped and stared into the distance.

"Over there!" An expression of joy crossed that demon clan expert's eyes.

Woosh! Woosh!

The two figures flew away at frightening speeds.

Once the two demon clan experts left, Nie Li let out a breath of relief.

“Let me go already!” Xiao Yu struggled and complained in a soft voice. The experiences today ran through her mind again. She wanted to find a hole to crawl into and never come back out.

Nie Li released Xiao Yu and said, “The situation was urgent. I really didn’t have an alternative!”

Xiao Yu glanced at him with a depressed attitude. Of course she knew that Nie Li hadn’t done it one purpose; however, there was no way she could just not mind it.

“Those two demon clan experts are gone, but this place still isn’t safe. We should leave quickly!” Nie Li said. He turned around to leave, and received a scare when he found himself face-to-face with someone else.

Nie Li observed the other party. It was a child. Aside from a pair of sharp and furry ears, all his other features were human-like. He appeared thirteen or fourteen years-old and carried himself elegantly.

But even if he looked like he was thirteen or fourteen, it was

highly possible that he was an ancient monster who'd lived for thousands of years!

The child blinked and examined Nie Li and Xiao Yu with clear eyes.

Nie Li didn't know what the other party was intending to do, so he put on a blank face and stretched his senses out on full alert. He couldn't tell exactly how strong his opponent was, but he knew that this guy was stronger than those two demon clan experts from earlier!

This guy had approached within a few meters, and Nie Li hadn't noticed at all. If he wanted to kill them, it'd be no effort at all!

"Which divine sect are you two from? The Divine Feathers Sect? Or the Skyblaze Sect?" He looked at Nie Li and Xiao Yu and narrowed his eyes with a smile.

Nie Li looked at him and asked, "Who are you?"

He still couldn't understand the other party's intentions.

"My name is Wu Yazi. I'm already over eighty years-old. That means that you two should address me as "grandfather". I asked you a question. Not only did you not answer, but you turned around and asked me a question instead?" Wu Yazi said, puffing his chest as he announced his age.

Nie Li smiled inwardly at Wu Yazi's words. This guy was only a little over eighty years old; as far as the demon clans were concerned, he was still just a brat. However, most demon clan experts his age wouldn't have gained their spiritual wisdoms yet; meanwhile, this Wu Yazi possessed quite a high one. At least Wu Yazi's tone didn't contain any malice. Either way, if Wu Yazi had wanted to kill them, they'd already be dead.

"You demon clan people aren't the same as us, humans. An eighty year-old demon is still just a kid!" Nie Li shrugged.

Wu Yazi was clearly rather annoyed by that, as his expression turned rather stern. "Aren't you two just kids too? Aren't you worried that I'll kill you? After all, you two are just Heavenly Fate Realm experts!"

Chapter 377: Thousand Illusionary Array

Nie Li smiled, looked at Wu Yazi and said, “If you wanted to kill us, we’d already be dead.”

It was true. Nie Li and Xiao Yu were only Heavenly Fate Realm experts. An even match against Wu Yazi was impossible.

“Thank your lucky stars that I’m the one you encountered,” Wu Yazi shrugged.

Nie Li calmly looked ahead at Wu Yazi. “Since we came to the outside world, we’re prepared to die. Luck has no part in this.”

Nie Li had no idea about the origins of this demon clan youth.

Wu Yazi swept his eyes over the pair. “The two of you have some traces of space-time aura on you!”

A peculiar light flashed through his eyes.

Nie Li heart trembled; he never thought that Wu Yazi would have such sharp senses. He paid close attention to the changes in expression on Wu Yazi’s face.

Xiao Yu silently stood beside Nie Li. She understood that Wu Yazi’s strength far surpassed their own. If she said too much, they could be killed; therefore, she remained silent.

“Don’t worry. I don’t have any grudges with either of you, and I wouldn’t do anything to you without a reason,” Wu Yazi shrugged. He looked back at them and continued, “So the two of you are also here for the Void Illusionary Divine Palace?”

Void Illusionary Divine Palace?

Nie Li knitted his brows slightly as he thought over those words.

Wu Yazi was confused for a moment when he saw Nie Li and Xiao Yu’s blank faces. “So you aren’t here for the Void Illusionary Divine Palace? Then, what are you doing here? Don’t you know that this area is really dangerous?”

Nie Li recalled his information on the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. It was a grand palace left behind by a supreme expert from ancient times. The doors to the palace only opened once every six years. Countless experts flocked to it whenever that happened, because there were many treasures concealed within.

In his previous life, Nie Li had heard many legends about the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. There were many treasures hidden there, as well as many dangers.

In roughly sixty years, the Demon God’s Sect would invade the Void Illusionary Divine Palace and open that ancient almighty’s treasury.

Wu Yazi considered something for a moment, then said, “I’m asking you too many unnecessary questions. You’re only Heavenly Fate Realm experts, after all; entering the Void Illusionary Divine Palace is simply walking to your deaths.” He then waved his hand and said, “You two should leave this place. Quickly!”

It’d be extremely difficult for Nie Li and Xiao Yu to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace with their current strength. If they ran into another demon clan expert, they’d definitely die.

Nie Li pretended to be casual as he asked, “Why were those two demon clan experts chasing you?”

“Pshhh! How could those two morons be my opponents? There are a total of six spiritual halls in the Demon God’s Sect. Those guys are from the Fire Spiritual Hall, while I’m from the Water Spiritual Hall. A while ago, I found an unknown item close to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Some guys tried to snatch it from me, so I killed a few of them. After that, they started chasing me! I could easily kill them just by playing around, but I can’t afford to reveal myself. That’s why I can’t be bothered to swat them out!” Wu Yazi said with a prideful attitude.

“An unknown item? What was it?” Nie Li asked after some pondering.

“Since you two are just Heavenly Fate Realm experts, there’s no harm in showing you.” Wu Yazi obviously didn’t think very highly of either of them; he wasn’t even on guard against them. With a smile, he brought a round and sparkling red stone, roughly the size of a fist. Although there weren’t any energy ripples coming from

it, the surface of the stone looked like it was boiling.

"This is the item! I don't know what it is, but I can tell that it's something good!" Wu Yazi said in an excited tone. He'd decided that there wouldn't be a problem in chatting with Nie Li and Xiao Yu, especially since he didn't have anything else to do while he was hiding. He'd hide here for just a little while longer. As for Nie Li and Xiao Yu, he'd probably forget that they even existed.

Nie Li looked at the rock in Wu Yazi's hand and involuntarily let out a laugh. "Scarlet Mist Rock?"

"You know what this is?" Wu Yazi's mood instantly brightened as he looked at Nie Li with expectation.

Nie Li shrugged and said, "Yeah, I know what it is. It's a Scarlet Mist Rock. It's rather uncommon, but it's no treasure. At the very best, you can use it to forge a Grade 5 artifact."

"That's impossible! Are you lying to me?" Wu Yazi instantly glared at Nie Li on alert. "I don't believe it! There's no way that something uncommon or rare isn't a treasure!"

"Just because it's hard to find doesn't mean it's a treasure. If you don't believe me, feel free to flip through the Craftgods Book at the Gods Craft Pavilion, page seven hundred sixty-one," Nie Li replied with an indifferent shrug.

"Craftgods Book? I think I have a copy with me!" Wu Yazi

immediately started searching in his interspatial ring. A while later, he pulled out a tattered book. “I ripped out a few pages for toilet paper, but it’s still readable. I wonder if page seven hundred sixty-one is still here?”

Wu Yazi flipped to the right page, and there it was — an introduction on the Scarlet Mist Rock, which accurately described the stone he was holding.

His expression instantly turned ugly, as though accidently he’d swallowed a fly.

“I wasted so much effort on this crap? I killed a dozen guys over this?” Wu Yazi said, indignantly. He felt dejected as he recalled the earlier pursuit.

Nie Li laughed and said, “Next time, you should read a few more books before you fight!

Wu Yazi made a dismissive motion with his hand and said, “Get lost! I hate reading. The old man at home makes me read stuff every single day. I’m almost annoyed to death!” He stopped to ponder something for a brief moment, then looked their way, and said, “Well, it’s in my possession, anyways. Even if it’s not a treasure, it’s still rare. I’ll probably make quite a profit if I sell it to my friends. They definitely won’t recognise it!”

Nie Li and XiaoYu were speechless at Wu Yazi’s words. You probably had to sin in eight lifetimes for fate to arrange Wu Yazi as your friend.

Wu Yazi re-examined Nie Li and said, “You might be only a Heavenly Fate Realm, but who would’ve thought that you’d be so knowledgeable?”

Xiao Yu also couldn’t help glancing at Nie Li. She, too, extremely admired Nie Li for his knowledge.

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi, smiled, and said, “If you go into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace like that, you definitely won’t be able to find anything.”

“Do you know about the Void Illusionary Divine Palace too?” Wu Yazi couldn’t help looking at Nie Li with eagerness.

Nie Li thought things over, then said, “I do know a few things.”

Wu Yazi didn’t seem to be a reliable person. Even if they entered the Void Illusionary Divine Palace and obtained a few treasures, Wu Yazi would definitely steal them for himself!

Wu Yazi’s brows twitched, “In hundreds of thousands of years, countless Martial Ancestor Realm experts couldn’t even break the Thousand Illusionary Array outside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. They weren’t able to enter it. However, there have been a few who’ve managed to get in by accident and returned with quite a few good items.” Wu Yazi’s eyes rolled and continued, “Do you guys want to go in with me?”

Nie Li shook his head and firmly replied, “The Ten Thousand Illusionary Array isn’t that hard to break. However, the two of us are only Heavenly Fate Realm experts. We’d be walking to our deaths. I’d rather not go.”

Chapter 378: Demon Blood Sacrifice

Wu Yazi was extremely disheartened at Nie Li's words.

If Nie Li had claimed that he couldn't break the Thousand Illusionary Array, then Wu Yazi would've just forgotten about it and gone by himself.

However, Nie Li had claimed that he could break the Thousand Illusionary Array, but he didn't want to go. That's why Wu Yazi felt disheartened. However, Wu Yazi would really be pushing his luck if he tried to enter alone; after all, passing through the Thousand Illusionary Array was still too difficult for him.

Wu Yazi looked at Nie Li and asked, "Can you really break the Thousand Illusionary Array? You're not lying, right? Why don't you tell me how it's done? I'll go in myself. If I manage to find any good stuff in there, I'll split some with you. How about it?"

Nie Li looked back at him with a smile that wasn't quite a smile. "There are over a thousand parts to the Thousand Illusionary Array. Each one requires a different breaking method. Could you even remember them all, if I told you? Otherwise, why would it be called the Thousand Illusionary Array?"

Wu Yazi felt a major headache at Nie Li's words.

An array with over a thousand parts. He probably wouldn't be able to break it, even if Nie Li told him all the methods.

Xiao Yu couldn't help herself from secretly smiling as she heard the conversation between Nie Li and Wu Yazi. That Wu Yazi was about to get hooked by Nie Li's plot. She didn't know if Nie Li was speaking the truth when he claimed to be able to break the Thousand Illusionary Array, but she knew that he definitely had a motive.

Wu Yazi pondered over it a little, then said, "How about this? I'll take you guys to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. You guys help me break the Thousand Illusionary Array and we'll split everything fifty-fifty."

"I'm not going." Nie Li shook his head, then looked at Xiao Yu. "We should leave this place, quickly!"

"Wait!" Wu Yazi barked.

"What is it?" Nie Li looked at him.

Wu Yazi ground his teeth and said, "If you don't come to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, then you're definitely dead!"

Nie Li shrugged and looked at Wu Yazi. "We're in the outside world; dying isn't unexpected. But even if we do, it's not that big of a deal! Do you want to take action?"

Hearing Nie Li's tone, Wu Yazi softened his tone. "Of course not. There are too many people from the Demon God's Sect wandering

around the area. But you guys definitely won't be able to return without my protection. Since you're going to die anyways, why don't you come with me to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace?"

"It's not that we don't want to go. But if someone sees us with a member of the Demon God's Sect, we'll be labeled as traitors of the human clans. If that happens, we'll never be able to wash the tarnish off our reputations, even if we jump into the Yellow River.

"Parochialism. From my point of view, as long as you don't try to steal from me, then you're not my enemy. I don't care if you're from the demon clan or the human clan," Wu Yazi snorted. "Anyone who tries to steal from is dead meat!"

"Even if you don't mind, what would others think? What would other members of the Demon God's Sect think if they saw you with two humans?" Nie Li added.

Wu Yazi stopped to think. What Nie Li had said was true. "So what do you propose?"

Nie Li paused for a moment before he said, "There's one method..."

"What is it?" Wu Yazi's eyes lit up.

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi and asked, "Have you heard of the secret technique called the Demon Blood Sacrifice?"

“Demon Blood Sacrifice?! There’s no way I’m doing that!” Wu Yazi immediately shook his head. “That’s a huge taboo for our demon clan!”

Nie Li waved his hand in dismissal. “Then forget it. There’s no other way.”

“What’s the Demon Blood Sacrificial?” Xiao Yu asked with curiosity.

Nie Li feigned ignorance as he explained, “I’ve only heard of it before in rumors. Usually, someone from the demon clan offers up some blood as a sacrifice. It allows a human to possess the aura and appearance of a demon. That way, we’ll be able to deceive the other members of the demon clan, and we won’t be killed by them!”

Xiao Yu had really timed this question well.

“Then why doesn’t he want to do it? He doesn’t lose much by just giving up some blood, right?” Xiao Yu asked in confusion.

Wu Yazi looked at Nie Li. How much did this kid know about the Demon Blood Sacrifice? He wanted to use that method just to bluff his way through the demon clan?

Nie Li shrugged and said, “If we can’t bluff our way through, then we’d rather not be seen with a demon clan expert. Just forget it. Let’s go!”

Wu Yazi looked at the two. Something flickered in his eyes as he pondered.

Both Nie Li and Xiao Yu had stored away a fate soul before they came to the outside world. If they died along the way, then the Demon Blood Sacrifice would lose its effects! Wu Yazi made his decision. You couldn't blame him for burning the bridge after he crossed it. The power of the Demon Blood Sacrifice definitely shouldn't be given to humans!

Just as Nie Li and Xiao Yu were about to leave, Wu Yazi called out to them. "Wait!"

"What is it?" Nie Li turned around as he looked at Wu Yazi.

"I thought about it a little. I'll do the Demon Blood Sacrifice. But you can't stray more than a kilometer away from me, until we're out of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace! After that, you're free!" Wu Yazi said to Nie Li and Xiao Yu.

Nie Li gave Wu Yazi a long stare, then said, "Sure."

"Alright, then. I'll give both of you some demon blood." A sharp weapon materialised in Wu Yazi's hand, and he used it to make a cut on his wrist. A few drops of demon blood flowed from the wound and into a bottle that Wu Yazi produced.

The bottle was filled in just a brief moment, and Wu Yazi tossed

it over to Nie Li.

Nie Li caught the bottle of demon blood and dipped a finger into it.

Nie Li then raised his head and looked at Wu Yazi. “Oh, that’s right. How do you draw the inscription pattern array for the Demon Blood Sacrifice?”

That made Wu Yazi feel much more assured. It looked like Nie Li really didn’t know how to use the Demon Blood Sacrifice.

“It’s like this…” Wu Yazi began teaching Nie Li.

Nie Li wrote down the inscription patterns, which slowly formed into an array that revolved around his body with dazzling light.

Wu Yazi extended his right hand and tapped on the heart of the array. A majestic energy flowed through the Demon Blood Sacrifice inscription pattern array and emitted rays of light. With Wu Yazi’s help, the inscription pattern array quickly vanished into Nie Li’s body.

Nie Li sensed a mysterious energy flowing through his blood.

It flowed into Nie Li’s arteries and hibernated there. This was Wu Yazi’s demon blood. The sheer sensation of it made Nie Li wonder what Wu Yazi’s origins were. There was a majestic energy in his demon blood. It looked like his bloodline wasn’t that simple!

Wu Yazi glanced at Nie Li and said, “Alright! Your Demon Blood Sacrifice is complete!”

Quickly. Xiao Yu’s Demon Blood Sacrifice was also completed.

Xiao Yu didn’t know what its uses were, but she sensed that it wasn’t as simple as Nie Li had described. It was definitely more than a just a way to disguise themselves.

Chapter 379: Void Illusionary Divine Palace

Wu Yazi asked Nie Li, “What did you do with the rest of the demon blood?”

Nie Li waved his right hand and said, “I’m keeping it safe in my interspatial ring!”

Wu Yazi pondered over it a little, then said, “Alright.”

He didn’t bother to argue with Nie Li over the matter; after all, he planned to kill them as soon as they exited the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. He’d get his demon blood back, along with Nie Li’s interspatial ring.

Wu Yazi knew that he was being underhanded, but he really didn’t have any other choice. If Nie Li and Xiao Yu managed to run away with the effects of the Demon Blood Sacrifice, it would definitely cause many unforeseeable dangers.

Once upon a time, a member of the demon clan secretly helped a human complete the Demon Blood Sacrifice. In the end, the two were pursued to death by the experts of the demon clan. No one who obtained the Demon Blood Sacrifice would have a happy ending.

The Demon Blood Sacrifice was an extremely mysterious thing, so much that even Wu Yazi himself didn’t quite understand it. It was such an importantly guarded secret that only a few pinnacle experts of the Demon God’s Sect might know of its true uses.

On top of the usual dangers, Wu Yazi himself had inherited the Primordial Bloodline. It was all the more reason he couldn't allow his blood to fall into the hands of humans.

Once the treasure hunt in the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was over with, he'd have to kill Nie Li and Xiao Yu. If it came down to it, he'd repay them with a few treasures next time they met.

Wu Yazi glanced at Nie Li and Xiao Yu and said, "Alright! Let's go!"

Nie Li looked at Xiao Yu with a light smile. "According to what I heard, if you activate the demon blood and let it flow through your body, you can change your physical appearance and aura!"

Nie Li activated the demon blood within his own body and his form rapidly changed. His face morphed into a totally different one. A pair of furry ears sprouted from the top of his head, similar to Wu Yazi's. Nie Li studied his reflection in a nearby creek. The appearance of those two furry ears made him feel like vomiting blood.

He glanced at Xiao Yu, who had a similar pair of ears sprouting from her head. However, they made her look even more adorable and gentle.

The power of the Demon Blood Sacrifice had changed their appearances so much that even Lu Piao wouldn't be able to recognise them.

Nie Li touched the ears on his head and asked, “Wu Yazi, what clan on you from? Are you from the Rabbit Clan?”

Wu Yazi’s expression turned dark at Nie Li’s words. “You’re the rabbit.[1] I’m from the Divine Blooded Raccoon clan. Our ancestors are from a heavenly lineage. Primordial Bloodline. Understand?”

Nie Li’s heart slightly shook. He’d guessed that Wu Yazi was from the Nine Nether Raccoon clan, which was an Ancient Bloodline. He never imagined that Wu Yazi would actually be from the Divine Blooded Raccoon Clan, which had a Primordial Bloodline and heavenly lineage. He’d really hit the jackpot!

Now that Nie Li had the Divine Blooded Raccoon’s Demon Blood Sacrifice, what should he do with it?

Nie Li activated the demon blood within his body and felt it flow like an endless river towards his soul realm.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The majestic energy within the demon blood stimulated Nie Li’s soul realm and charged it. He felt like his soul realm was boiling.

A Primordial Bloodline is indeed an extraordinary thing!

The vine within him began growing at an insane pace, stimulated

by the Primordial Bloodline. A white flower quietly blossomed open. After that came the second, the third... all the way to the fifth flower, which quietly blossomed a pure white, just like the others.

The energy also seemed to have linked itself with the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, as well as the three demon spirits within his soul realm.

Wooooosh!

Next to his red, blue, yellow, black, and purple fate souls, a sixth, green, fate soul quickly formed.

6-fate!

Wu Yazi sensed the changes in Nie Li's aura and asked out of curiosity, "Oh? You've made a breakthrough?"

Nie Li's face was blank, showing that he was also at a loss. "I don't know why, but it looks like I've made a breakthrough. Maybe I was just hovering at the pinnacle of 5-fate without even knowing it, and somehow accidentally made a breakthrough."

"Oh!" Wu Yazi nodded.

Under Wu Yazi's lead, the three of them flew towards the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Wu Yazi stayed close to Nie Li and Xiao

Yu throughout the entire trip. The two of them were only at the Heavenly Fate Realm, and with Wu Yazi's powerful Heavenly Axis Realm strength, escape was impossible. However, Wu Yazi still didn't feel assured.

A demon clan expert's cultivation is contained entirely within their blood. With Wu Yazi's help, Nie Li had completed the Demon Blood Sacrifice; that was equivalent to having part of Wu Yazi's demon blood. If Nie Li unleashed its full power, he'd be able to obtain a cultivation on par with Wu Yazi's with a frightening speed.

It might not even require three months!

Furthermore, Wu Yazi possessed the Primordial Bloodline from a heavenly lineage. An innumerable number of Wu Yazi's ancestors had hidden their intents within his blood. Once Nie Li opened the seal within the blood, he'd be able to obtain the Primordial Bloodline's power and reform his body with it!

The demon clans have always had the most powerful physiques. Although humans could obtain strength through integration with demon spirits, those were still a far cry from a real demon's physique. Humans were especially vulnerable before the transformation, and could easily be killed. However, once a human gained possession of some demon blood, then he'd be able to slowly reform his physical body and obtain the demon clan's Primordial Bloodline physique!

The Sage Emperor was extremely powerful because he was also from a Primordial Bloodline. However, Nie Li didn't know if the

Sage Emperor's Primordial Bloodline was stronger or weaker than the Divine Blooded Raccoon's Primordial Bloodline.

This was just a small part of the Demon Blood Sacrifice's true uses!

Nie Li finely manipulated the demon blood within him, and simultaneously refined it to remove any impurities. Its nourishing effects slowly washed over him, as his meridians toughened and acquired a metallic sheen.

Wooooosh!

In addition to the sixth green fate soul, a seventh cyan fate soul slowly ignited within him. A surge of majestic energy radiated from Nie Li's body. He couldn't hide it, even if he wanted to.

The Primordial Bloodline was simply too powerful!

Nie Li couldn't help thinking to himself that this was only a tiny portion of its true power!

Wu Yazi was startled mid-flight, and he glanced back at Nie Li. "You ranked up again?"

Nie Li pondered for a brief moment, then said, "I have no idea. Maybe it's because of my cultivation technique."

Something flickered for a moment in Wu Yazi's eyes. No matter what happened, they still had to visit the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. After that was settled, then he'd kill Nie Li and Xiao Yu. Otherwise, he'd never be able to rest easy while knowing his demon blood was running through other people's veins.

Nie Li had made two breakthroughs, but he was still a 7-fate. That was still within his control.

Wu Yazi definitely couldn't allow the situation to spiral out of hand.

The three of them flew onwards to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, which was located in a far off mountain range. It was a majestic construct that shined with seven colors, and looked extremely magnificent. Its image was only faintly discernable, like a mirage.

They'd arrived at the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!

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[1] Wu Yazi took association with the "Rabbit Clan" as an insult, and turned the insult back on Nie Li.

Chapter 380: Accidental Encounter

Far away from Nie Li and his group were some people standing at the edge of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace's barrier, attempting to break in.

However, most of them couldn't accomplish it.

This entire mountain range, and surrounding forest, is a part of the Thousand Illusionary Array; entering isn't an easy feat.

Experts from both the human and demon clans glared at each other, like tigers stalking their prey. However, it was clear that none of them actually wanted to start a fight; they all maintained a certain distance from each other.

It was obvious that no one would benefit from a battle. In fact, they might even lose their chance to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. They only had ten days to enter the palace; if no one could accomplish it, then the task would be even harder next time.

Nie Li landed outside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace's barrier, and observed the rainbow rays of light that fluctuated off of it. It was extremely magnificent.

Each color of the rainbow was a part of the Thousand Illusionary Array.

There were tens of thousands of people gathered outside the

Thousand Illusionary Array. None of them could enter.

Wu Yazi looked at Nie Li and asked, “How are we going to get in?”

Nie Li turned to Wu Yazi and explained, “It’s still not time yet. The breach in the Thousand Illusionary Array only appears at noon, which is two hours from now.”

“Oh.” Wu Yazi nodded. He could only listen to Nie Li. Wu Yazi didn’t know if Nie Li was telling the truth, but he had a feeling that Nie Li definitely knew how to find the entrance to the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Nie Li continued refining the demon blood within his body.

Xiao Yu saw Nie Li cultivating, so she copied him.

At a location far from the Void Illusionary Divine Palace

A part of over thirty Heavenly Axis Realm experts reached the border of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. The one leading them was Long Tianming.

He stood outside, glaring at the the Void Illusionary Palace.

One of Long Tianming’s attendants, who wore golden armour, cupped his hands. “Young Master, trying to break into the

Thousand Illusionar Array will be extremely difficult. Not only that, there are a lot of demon clan experts in the area. Why would you wish to come, personally?"

"Time and tide wait for no man on the path of cultivation. This Void Illusionary Divine Palace was left behind by a supreme expert. Who knows if they might've left behind some worthy inheritance inside? As long as there's a chance, I'll give it a try." Long Tianming stepped forward and condensed his energy. By now, he'd already reached the Heavenly Axis Realm.

He'd also integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit; therefore, he was much stronger than an ordinary Heavenly Axis Realm expert.

A 1-stage Heavenly Axis Realm expert who'd integrated with a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit could easily face a 9-stage Heavenly Axis Realm expert, without a problem. This is the true power of a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit!

Long Tianming used his senses to try and detect the location of the Thousand Illusionary Array's entrance; however, he remained in that silent state, with his brows knitted together.

The others in his party noticed that he'd gone silent, so they respectfully stood to the side, not daring to speak.

From a certain distance, a group of demon clan experts had noticed Long Tianming's party. However, they didn't dare to provoke Long Tianming; after all, they had over thirty Heavenly

Axis Realm experts on their side. No one would dare provoke them, unless they were a Dao of the Dragon Realm expert.

The crowd around the Thousand Illusionary Array gradually swelled. The number of small conflicts between the demon and human clans also increased and a battle would occasionally happen.

Nie Li had been cultivating for a while. Finally, he rose to his feet and began walking arounding the edge of the Thousand Illusionary Array as he carefully observed it.

Wu Yazi immediately followed behind him.

Nie Li glanced back at Wu Yazi and complained, “Why are you following me so closely?”

This guy wasn’t leaving an inch of space between them.

Wu Yazi chuckled and replied, “You’re only at the Heavenly Fate Realm. There are a lot of Heavenly Axis Realms in the area. I’m worried that you might run into some trouble!”

“Rest assured. I’ll definitely find the entrance of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace for you. But I’ll remind you that we have a deal. We’re going to split the treasures fifty-fifty! Furthermore, I get first pick!” said Nie Li.

“No problem!” Wu Yazi agreed without the slightest hesitation,

since it was all the same to him, anyways. Once they exited the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, he'd kill both Nie Li and Xiao Yu. He could afford to let Nie Li choose first.

The three of them walked on.

"Nie Li, look over there!" Xiao Yu said as she pointed into the distance.

Nie Li followed Xiao Yu's direction and saw Long Tianming and his subordinates. They seemed to be busy with something over there.

Nie Li didn't have any conflicts with Long Tianming; however, his intuition told him that Long Tianming definitely wasn't a good guy. Therefore, Nie Li didn't have a good impression of him, not in the slightest.

Nie Li pondered for a brief moment, until an idea lit up his mind.

Since he and Xiao Yu weren't in their human forms, Long Tianming wouldn't recognise them, even if they stood in his way.

Nie Li intentionally moved closer to Long Tianming and his group, while pretending to examine the Thousand Illusionary Array.

"The aura from this Thousand Illusionary Array is growing stronger. There's probably an entrance nearby!" Nie Li excitedly

claimed as he quickened his steps and moved closer towards Long Tianming and his group.

“Wait! Those guys are all Heavenly Axis Realm experts!” Wu Yazi called out to stop him.

Nie Li furrowed his brows for a moment, looked at Wu Yazi, and ask, “What? You’re saying you can’t beat them?”

The corner of Wu Yazi’s mouth twitched as he said, “That hilarious! There’s no way I can’t beat them! I could flip all of them, just by myself!”

“Well then, there’s nothing wrong!” Nie Li said casually.

Wu Yazi furrowed his brows and said, “But they still have over thirty Heavenly Axis Realm experts on their side. If a fight does break out, then trouble is unavoidable!”

“Fine then. Just forget about it. Those guys are just gathered there, not moving at all. They’ve probably found the entrance. If they manage to get in first, then all the good stuff might fall in their hands!” Nie Li said with feigned indifference as he turned back.

Wu Yazi thought to himself, ‘If the entrance really was close to them, then wouldn’t he be losing by backing off like this?’

In his point of view, those thirty-something Heavenly Axis

Realms might pose a little trouble, but shouldn't be too hard to deal with.

Wu Yazi considered Nie Li's words, then said, "You keep searching. If you can find the entrance, then everything's good. We'll chase them away, if there's really no other way in. If they're not tactful, then I'll take actions. After all, they're just humans!"

An almost unnoticeable smile showed at the corner of Nie Li's mouth when he heard that. He continued moving towards Long Tianming's party.

The three of them approached Long Tianming and his group, but a golden-armoured Heavenly Axis Realm expert suddenly blocked their way. He furiously glared at them and said, "Demon clan trash! Get lost! If you take another step forward, then don't blame me for taking action!"

This man was one of Long Tianming's underlings, and was in charge of guarding the area. He'd shouted at Nie Li's group when he saw them approach.

He could tell that Nie Li and Xiao Yu were only at the Heavenly Fate Realm. He couldn't discern Wu Yazi's cultivation, but what kind of expert would be with two Heavenly Fate Realms?

Wu Yazi's face turned black at the underling's words.

"Who are you calling trash?!" Wu Yazi coldly glared at the

Heavenly Axis Realm expert.

Chapter 381: Trouble

That Heavenly Axis Realm expert coldly snorted at Wu Yazi's attitude.

"The three of you! Yeah, I'm calling you trash! Grow a pair of eyes! Otherwise, I'll slaughter all three of you!" the Heavenly Axis Realm expert shouted as he coldly swept his eyes over Nie Li's group.

Wu Yazi was enraged by that Heavenly Axis Realm's words.

Nie Li patted Wu Yazi on the shoulder and said, "Forget it, let's just go."

At first, the Heavenly Axis Realm expert was hesitant, because he'd caught a trace of Wu Yazi's dangerous aura. However, his courage grew back when he saw how weak Nie Li was acting.

Wu Yazi was acting all buddy-buddy with a Heavenly Fate Realm; there was no way his cultivation could be that strong.

Wu Yazi's fists were crackling from how hard he was clenching them. One could say that he was quite a figure within the Demon God's Sect. Who was he to dare call him trash?

Wu Yazi angrily pointed at the Heavenly Axis Realm expert and ordered, "You guys, get lost. I'll give you fifteen minutes. If you aren't out of my sight by then, I won't let a single one of you live!"

However, that Heavenly Axis Realm only laughed at Wu Yazi's words. This demon clan kid was just too arrogant and ignorant!

Suddenly, Long Tianming noticed the commotion from far away and walked over. "What's going on?"

The Heavenly Axis Realm expert bowed as he replied, "Report to the Young Master. There are three Heavenly Fate Realm demons over here. I ordered them to leave, but they refused to heed."

"Just make them run far enough." Long Tianming said with indifference. They were only three Heavenly Fate Realm demons. Chasing them away would be enough.

Usually, Long Tianming would just kill three Heavenly Fate Realm experts of the demon clan; however, he didn't want to cause any trouble, since he didn't know when the entrance to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace would open. He'd already loaned over two hundred of his Heavenly Axis Realm experts to Gu Heng, which meant he had fewer men with him this time. It was in his best interest to keep a low profile.

The Heavenly Axis Realm underling turned back to Nie Li's group of three and growled, "You heard my Young Master. Get lost!"

Wu Yazi had finally had it with this arrogant Heavenly Axis Realm expert. Just a while ago, some people had tried to steal from him, so he'd killed a dozen of them. His hands are still sticky from

the blood, and here was another bunch of tactless idiots.

Woosh!

Wu Yazi vanished.

The Heavenly Axis Realm expert finally recognised the powerful energy that locked onto him, and he sensed the fear of death.

He tried to break free, but he couldn’t move at all.

Suddenly, a frightening chill ran down his neck. He wanted to cry out, but he couldn’t make a sound.

Wu Yazi’s cold voice entered his ears. “Who are you calling trash?”

The Heavenly Axis Realm expert didn’t know when it’d happened, but Wu Yazi was already behind him, clutching his throat with two fingers. Wu Yazi exerted a slight amount of force and something exploded.

The Heavenly Axis Realm expert’s throat had been crushed. Pieces of his body rained down from above.

Long Tianming’s guard of Heavenly Axis Realm experts were instantly enraged by this.

“How dare you!”

“Kill him!”

Over thirty Heavenly Axis Realm experts pounced on Wu Yazi.

Wu Yazi glanced back at Nie Li and Xiao Yu and said, “You guys should distance yourself a little!” Then he charged towards the Heavenly Axis Realm experts.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A chaotic battle broke out. Although Wu Yazi was surrounded by over thirty Heavenly Axis Realm experts, he didn’t look like he was at a disadvantage. On the contrary, he’d already killed several enemy Heavenly Axis Realm experts.

Xiao Yu stood next to Nie Li and asked, “Nie Li, you did that on purpose, right?”

Nie Li nodded. “Of course I did.”

“Then shouldn’t we leave, quickly?” Xiao Yu asked. She thought that Nie Li wanted those guys to keep Wu Yazi busy, while they escaped.

Nie Li smiled and said, “There’s no need for that. We haven’t entered the Void Illusionary Divine Palace yet. Why should we

leave so early?”

“Since your motive is to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, why cause such disturbance? Their leader seems to be Long Tianming!” Xiao Yu glanced at the scene. “Do you have a grudge against Long Tianming? Is that why you’re trying to borrow Wu Yazi’s hand, to teach him a lesson?”

Nie Li pondered over the question, then replied, “I have no grudges, but I’ve thought carefully about it. There are a lot of things that are definitely tied to Long Tianming. I’ve always suspected that he’s been secretly plotting against us.” Nie Li really did have a feeling that Long Tianming was some kind of scorpion hiding in the dark.

Nie Li preferred to deal with people like Gu Heng, who fought openly and from the front. It wasn’t that he was afraid of Long Tianming, but he had to guard against the tricks that Long Tianming are playing from behind the scene.

In Nie Li’s previous life, he’d watched the Divine Feathers Sect fall. Back then, Long Tianming was the only one who’d benefited from it. Therefore, Nie Li was being far more vigilant against Long Tianming than Gu Heng or the others.

If an opportunity to weaken Long Tianming presented itself, Nie Li definitely wouldn’t let it pass by.

No matter how powerful the Demon God’s Sect was, they’d still have to pay a miserable price to destroy the Divine Feathers Sect.

However, the Divine Feathers Sect's greatest threat was actually from within.

Nie Li looked out towards Wu Yazi, who was in a heated battle with Long Tianming's thirty-some-odd Heavenly Axis Realm experts. He moved swiftly and gracefully. The Heavenly Axis Realm experts were turned into bloody masses on the spot and rained down.

The more Wu Yazi fought, the bravier he became. Even after killing seven people.

The Divine Blooded Raccoon Clan's vigour was astounding.

Nie Li could sense that Wu Yazi's cultivation was roughly around the 7-stage Heavenly Axis Realm. If you added his Primordial Bloodline to that, it'd be really hard for Long Tianming and his men to deal with him.

Long Tianming watched from afar and furrowed his brows. He'd roughly grasped the situation. However, his underling had reported that they were only three Heavenly Fate Realms. So how did such a powerful expert emerge?

This enemy's strength was quite outstanding.

Long Tianming glanced at Nie Li and Xiao Yu, then coldly ordered, "Kill those two first!"

One Heavenly Axis Realm expert pounced in Nie Li and Xiao Yu's direction.

Although Wu Yazi was busy with Long Tianming's Heavenly Axis Realm experts, he'd also been keeping an eye on Nie Li and Xiao Yu. He'd helped them complete the Demon Blood Sacrifice in order to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. If Nie Li and Xiao Yu died here, then wouldn't all his efforts have been in vain?

It looked like Wu Yazi was surrounded, but all of a sudden, his figure disappeared and reappeared right in front of Nie Li and Xiao Yu. That expert was still heading towards Nie Li and Xiao Yu; however, Wu Yazi grabbed him with his right hand, slightly exerted a force, and snapped his neck.

Long Tianming's heart trembled at the sight of that. That was the Raccoon Clan's secret technique. It looks like this demon youth standing before him actually had quite a position within the demon clan!

If this Heavenly Axis Realm demon clan youth was trying his best to protect those two, that meant that those two behind him must have quite the positions within the Demon God's Sect as well!

Long Tianming was inwardly furious. All this time, he'd been trying to keep a low profile, so why did trouble still find him anyways?

Chapter 382: Following

"Stop!" Long Tianming halted his underlings as they were about to charge forward. He landed in front of them.

Long Tianming lightly cupped his hands towards Nie Li's group of three. "It seems that there was a misunderstanding earlier. Please do forgive us! Since the three of you haven't suffered any injuries, how about we just end things here?"

Wu Yazi's brows twitched at Long Tianming's words and snorted, "So it looks like you're the one in charge. When I arrived, one of your underlings told me to 'get lost'. Who the hell does he think he is?"

Long Tianming frowned for a moment, then said, "So it seems that one of my subordinates has been rude to you! However, you've also killed nine of my men. Weren't you being a little too heavy with your attacks?"

Long Tianming didn't want to provoke any trouble, but if Wu Yazi was going to be insistent, then he wouldn't back down. He was already angry over the fact that nine of his underlings had been killed.

Wu Yazi snorted at Long Tianming's words. "Being too heavy? That was only light punishment! If we weren't that strong, would you be acting so polite right now? You would've already killed the three of us! Those nine underlings of yours only got what was coming!"

Nie Li lightly smiled at that. Wu Yazi really had a fiery temper. The harder Long Tianming was on him, the more stubborn he got.

"You..." Long Tianming's breathing accelerated. However, he reconsidered and decided to endure it. He was searching for the entrance to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace right now. He didn't have time to argue with Wu Yazi. "Friend, it doesn't matter who's right or wrong. Your party hasn't suffered any losses, and I don't wish to pursue this matter any longer. Let's leave it here. What do you say?"

Wu Yazi shrugged and said, "Whatever you want. Either way, this place is already mine. I'll let it go, if you guys get lost!"

Long Tianming's lungs nearly exploded.

His fists were tightly clenched. A vein popped from his arm.

"Young Master, we'll slaughter those arrogant fools!"

"He really thinks that we're afraid of him?"

Long Tianming's underlings had been riled up, and they rashly prepared to attack Wu Yazi again.

Wu Yazi arrogantly replied, "I'm the least afraid of fighting. If you guys want to bring it, then I'll destroy every last one of you!"

He was from the Raccoon Clan, with a Primordial Bloodline; he had the qualifications to be arrogant.

Long Tianming couldn't gauge Wu Yazi's strength. Although he had a Dragon Bloodline God Level demon spirit, and, therefore, had a certain level of confidence, he didn't dare to take the risk.

However, if he ran with his tail between his legs, then even he, Long Tianming, would find it hard to face his subordinates anymore.

Nie Li looked at Long Tianming and his group. "Yeah, you guys get lost!"

He'd been observing Long Tianming this entire time. Indeed, that guy had much more patience than the descendants of the other families. However, it'd also be hard for Long Tianming to agree to Wu Yazi's overbearing request.

Long Tianming's face was ashen at Nie Li's words. Since when could a Heavenly Fate Realm reprimand him like that?

Long Tianming deeply looked at Wu Yazi. Nie Li had absolute confidence in this guy's cultivation; that's why Nie Li dared to be so arrogant. Wu Yazi was from the Raccoon clan, and he possessed many powerful secret techniques. If a fight broke out, even Long Tianming wasn't confident that he'd win.

Long Tianming coldly snorted as he turned around. "Let's go!"

Long Tianming's Heavenly Axis Realm experts all turned red from the pent-up anger. They'd lose face if they were to leave like that! However, they didn't dare to disobey Long Tianming's orders. They felt wronged and shamed, but they still followed him.

Following Long Tianming, they turned and left, relocating to another spot a few miles away.

Nie Li stared at Long Tianming's back with a deep expression. He never expected Long Tianming to accept such an unreasonable demand. He really wasn't a simple guy! That man was definitely harder to deal with than Nie Li had imagined!

Wu Yazi spat towards Long Tianming's silhouette. "I never expected them to actually run away. Humans really are cowards!"

He turned around and saw Xiao Yu glaring at him with fury and Nie Li smiling, yet not smiling. He laughed awkwardly. "I didn't mean you guys!"

In terms of strength, Wu Yazi was much stronger than Long Tianming; however, he wasn't a deep schemer. Nie Li didn't consider Wu Yazi much of an opponent at all, especially since he knew that Wu Yazi would try to deal with them upon exiting the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Long Tianming, on the other hand, gave Nie Li a strong sense of danger.

"Alright! This place is ours now!" Wu Yazi looked around him. "Are you sure the entrance is around here?"

“I’ll look for it!” Nie Li said, “We still have time!”

A spot far away, Long Tianming and his group of people.

One of Long Tianming’s subordinates indignantly said, “Young Master, I still cannot accept this. That demon was truly strong, and we might not be his match, but why did we have to run with our tails between our legs?”

Long Tianming coldly swept an eye over that subordinate. “Long Liu, do you have an opinion on my decision?”

“No, I dare not.” Long Liu immediately trembled with fear.

“That demon is from the Raccoon Clan. I’m not sure if it’s the Nine Nether or the Divine Blooded Raccoon bloodline, but either way, if we were to engage in battle, the outcome is very unpredictable. Don’t forget our goal in coming here!” A chill flashed through Long Tianming’s eyes as he continued, “That kid was an arrogant brat and stepped all over us, but there really isn’t a need to fight him head-on. He’s also searching for the entrance to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. It’s highly possible that he’s realised something, and that’s why he snatched our position. If they’ve really found the entrance to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace…anyways, just keep a close eye on them!”

The eyes of his subordinates lit up when they heard Long Tianming’s words.

“The Young Master is wise!”

Nie Li looked into the distance and saw Long Tianming and his group. Even though they’d given up this location, they’d only moved a few miles away, and were still watching from a distance. A thought flashed through Nie Li’s head, and the corner of his mouth turned upwards. He’d already figured out Long Tianming’s motives.

Long Tianming was quite a troublesome schemer.

It was a pity that he’d encountered Nie Li!

If Long Tianming walked off like this, then Nie Li would’ve let it go. However, Long Tianming had stayed behind to plot against them then he would fall sooner or later.

Time passed, bit by bit. Nie Li continued studying the seven-coloured barrier that surrounded the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

“How is it?” Wu Yazi asked, looking a little anxious.

Nie Li smiled and said, “Don’t worry. I’ve already found the entrance to the Thousand Illusionary Array!” The truth was, there were hundreds of entrances to the Thousand Illusionary Array. Entering was simple. The problem was whether or not they could leave the array afterwards.

Wu Yazi's face filled with excitement when he heard Nie Li's words. "Can we enter right now?"

"Follow me!" Nie Li said as he flew towards the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Outside, within Long Tianming's group.

"Young Master, they've started to move. They're preparing to enter!" Long Liu said with excitement.

A chilly ray flashed through Long Tianming's eyes. "Everyone, follow closely."

Chapter 383: Sneak Attack

Wu Yazi frowned for a brief moment before he said, “There’s a swarm of flies trailing behind us. Should we exterminate them?”

He’d already let Long Tianming’s party go once; who would’ve thought that they still weren’t done with them?

Nie Li lightly smiled and shook his head. “There’s no need for that. Just let them follow. We’ll deal with them once we get inside the Thousand Illusionary Array. Follow me!”

Nie Li was the first to enter the Thousand Illusionary Array, followed by Xiao Yu.

Wu Yazi turned around, glared at Long Tianming one more time, and snorted. Then, he plunged into the Thousand Illusionary Array after Nie Li and Xiao Yu.

The three of them disappeared.

Long Liu saw that and urgently reported to Long Tianming, “Young Master, they really did know how to enter the Thousand Illusionary Array!”

“I saw!” Excitement flashed through Long Tianming’s eyes. “Everyone, follow them!”

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Their group quickly entered the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Nie Li's group of three was already inside, and surrounded by a sea of constantly shifting illusions. One moment, they were walking through a forest. The next, it was grassland. Then, a deep canyon.

Wu Yazi couldn't help sighing with appreciation. "It's truly worthy of being called the Thousand Illusionary Array!"

He'd already lost any sense of direction in here. If it wasn't for Nie Li's lead, he would've already gotten lost.

As the Thousand Illusionary Array shifted thousands of times, Nie Li carefully monitored the array's fluctuating energy. He glanced back at Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu, and the corner of his mouth rose into a small smile. "Follow closely. We're going to deal with the flies that are following us!"

Long Tianming and his group entered the Thousand Illusionary Array. The countless changes around them forced them to lose their sense of direction.

"Where are those three?" Long Tianming knitted his brows.

There wasn't a trace of Nie Li's group of three.

Damn it! They'd actually lost them!

Long Tianming and his men were extremely disoriented as they stood inside the Thousand Illusionary Array. They were completely lost and had no idea where to go.

Over twenty people wandered around inside the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Suddenly, a shadow flashed past the group and fresh blood splattered. Before that Heavenly Axis Realm expert had a chance to react, his corpse fell to the ground.

"What's going on?" Long Tianming turned around with his brows locked tightly. He sensed Wu Yazi's aura, but by the time he reacted to it, there was only a corpse left on the ground.

Wu Yazi himself had already disappeared without a trace!

That Wu Yazi was making use of the Thousand Illusionary Array to deal with them!

Long Tianming was extremely depressed. Upon entering the Thousand Illusionary Array, they'd been blinded with their eyes open. They didn't even know where Wu Yazi and his group were at!

Fwooosh!

Another Heavenly Axis Realm expert was killed, this one standing right behind Long Tianming. By the time Long Tianming had turned around, Wu Yazi had disappeared again.

“Bastard!” Long Tianming couldn’t help cursing. He was nearly crazy as he angrily commanded, “Men, form a defensive position! Watch out for their guerilla attacks!”

Nie Li’s party was standing only two hundred meters away from Long Tianming and his group.

By now, Wu Yazi was quite convinced of Nie Li’s abilities. He looked out towards Long Tianming’s group, who were on high alert and scanning their surroundings, and he couldn’t help turning back to Nie Li and asking, “How did you do it? We’re so close to them, but they’re acting like they’re blind. How can they not see us?”

Nie Li lightly smiled and replied, “The profound uses of the Thousand Illusionary Array include more than just that.”

“Are you saying that you know this Thousand Illusionary Array like the back of your hand?” Wu Yazi was in disbelief. After all, this array had been set by a supreme expert from ancient times!

Nie Li smiled and looked into the distance, at the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. “The Thousand Illusionary Array isn’t that difficult.

If I had the right materials, I could lay one out myself! The Thousand Illusionary Array is just the outermost barrier, and the simplest one, at that. Once you break past it, there are far more high-leveled arrays inside. Only by breaking all the arrays can we enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. However, once the array is broken, everyone outside can rush in as well!”

At that, Wu Yazi couldn’t help asking, “If that’s true, then doesn’t that mean we’ll have to share the Void Illusionary Divine Palace’s treasures?”

It was true that Wu Yazi was strong, but there were also many other powerful experts from various sects, standing outside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!

“That’s true. Therefore, we’ll have to grab the good stuff before we break the array!” Nie Li glanced back at Long Tianming and his eyes slightly narrowed. “And, we’ll have to get rid of all the threats!”

Wu Yazi turned in the direction that Nei Li was looking, patted his own chest, and said, “I understand! Leave it to me!”

Wu Yazi possessed the Raccoon Clan’s secret technique. With Nie Li’s guidance and this Thousand Illusionary Array, he was like a tiger that’d grown wings1. He turned into a streak of light with a woosh and pounced towards Long Tianming and his group.

Xiao Yu watched Wu Yazi launch his attacks, then glanced at Nie Li and asked, “Nie Li, we’ve told Wu Yazi so many things. Won’t

that be a problem? If Wu Yazi attacks us, we won't be able to counterattack at all!"

"Don't worry. He won't do anything before we exit the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Anyways, with our strength, we'd definitely die inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. We still need him," Nie Li replied. He knew that they were dancing on a tightrope, but this was a bet he was willing to take to enhance his own strength quickly!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Wu Yazi killed six more of Long Tianming's Heavenly Axis Realm experts, all in a row.

"Bastard!" Long Tianming furiously roared as he mobilised the energy within him for an attack on Wu Yazi.

Boom!

A burst of wild energy created a huge crater in the ground and sent several Heavenly Axis Realm experts flying out.

Wu Yazi snorted again and disappeared into the Thousand Illusionary Array. A brief moment later, he reappeared next to Nie Li. A line of blood trickled out of the corner of his mouth. "That person's strength is truly outstanding. He's surpassed my expectations!"

Nie Li briefly frowned. He never expected Long Tianming to be capable of wounding Wu Yazi. It seemed that he'd underestimated Long Tianming's strength.

After he'd exchanged a few blows with Wu Yazi, Long Tianming took several steps backwards and released a powerful aura. He looked around him and furiously snorted, "So, a member of the Raccoon Clan is only that strong? Come and fight me to the death, if you dare! What kind of strength is this, just hiding around like a mouse?"

Nie Li glanced at Wu Yazi and asked, "How strong is Long Tianming?"

Wu Yazi shook his head and replied, "I'm not too sure. He feels like a 9-stage Heavenly Axis Realm, but he's certainly much stronger than that. He's obviously human, but I sense a familiar demon blood energy on him. Could he have also completed the Demon Blood Sacrifice with the help from someone of the demon clan? Not only that, but his demon blood definitely isn't ordinary!"

Chapter 384: Outer Hall

Long Tianming had traces of demon blood power in him?

NIe Li looked at Wu Yazi and asked, “How did you sense it?”

“There’s a trace of demon blood hidden within his body. No one else, not even a Martial Ancestor Realm expert, unless he releases it. But don’t forget about who I am. I’m a member of the Divine Blooded Raccoon Clan; my ability to sense bloodlines is much sharper, and isn’t something that an ordinary human can compare to!” Wu Yazi proudly stated.

Nie Li nodded. The Divine Blooded Raccoon was an extremely mysterious clan. Even Nie Li wasn’t well aware of their abilities. There were also very little records of their capabilities.

It would be impossible for a human to obtain the Demon Blood Sacrifice without the willing aid of a demon.

“Could someone from one of the demon clans have helped him complete the Demon Blood Sacrifice?”

Wu Yazi smiled bitterly and shook his head. “I can sense that his demon blood wasn’t obtained through ordinary methods. As for how, specifically, I’m not sure.”

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi and asked, “Don’t you have ways to investigate?”

“The only way would be to tie him up and use my Divine Blooded Raccoon Clan’s secret technique. However, that’d be too difficult. In our exchange just now, I realised that I’m actually not his match. I can protect myself, but if we really fought, I might be on his level if I mobilised the power within my bloodline. However, overpowering him is impossible,” said Wu Yazi. “Furthermore, I don’t know how much stronger he could become, if he merges with his demon spirit and activates his demon blood.”

Nie Li went silent for a moment before he responded. “Forget about it. Let’s just kill all his underlings and leave him all alone, by himself!”

It looked like killing Long Tianming was impossible. If that was the situation, then he’d let Wu Yazi do the things that could still be done.

“That’s easy! Wait for the good news!” Wu Yazi said as he launched another attack.

Nie Li observed the far-off figure of Long Tianming with a deep expression. In his previous life, the fall of the Divine Feathers Sect must have been connected to Long Tianming. After the fall of the sect, Long Tianming had left for the Ancestral God Land. A hundred years after that, the Ancestral God Land had been destroyed by golden flames. Nie Li wondered whether that was connected to Long Tianming as well.

Long Tianming was hiding a lot of things about himself. The

more Nie Li dredged, the more he realised how complex Long Tianming was.

Nie Li had always vaguely sensed that Long Tianming was a threat.

Xiao Yu noticed Nie Li's peculiar expression, and sensed that he must have discovered something. "Nie Li, what did you find?"

"Nothing much. Be careful of this Long Tianming from now on. Especially for you. It'll be better if you limit your contact with him. Keep yourself as far away from him as possible!" Nie Li replied.

Xiao Yu was surprised. "Why?"

Why her, specifically?

"Just listen to me!" said Nie Li. Xiao Yu's body concealed her parents' consciousness. If Long Tianming realised that, it'd probably attract quite a bit of trouble. However, Nie Li felt that it wasn't yet the time to tell her those things.

Xiao Yu couldn't help mumbling to herself, "Why should I have to listen to you? You're not even giving me a reason! Aren't you being a little too overbearing?"

However, she still replied in acknowledgement.

Wu Yazi was already taking action over there. Even though Long Tianming was stronger than him, Wu Yazi was from the Divine Blooded Raccoon Clan; his speed wasn't something that Long Tianming could match. He launched one guerilla attack after another, and Long Tianming's men fell in that order.

What was originally thirty people became twenty, then ten. Finally, only Long Tianming and Long Liu were left.

Long Tianming was so enraged, he was almost smoking. He'd tried to catch Wu Yazi several times already, but he was only able to see the afterimages of Wu Yazi. Wu Yazi clearly didn't want to confront Long Tianming head-on; that's why he'd been sneaking around and attacking those who couldn't guard against him.

The Raccoon Clans had simply unimaginable speed.

All of Long Tianming's subordinates had been killed, except for Long Liu.

"Let's get out of here!" Long Tiaming snarled in rage. With Long Liu in tow, he quickly flew off and disappeared.

Wu Yazi landed back beside Nie Li and Xiao Yu, and shrugged. "I dealt with the ones I could deal with. The only ones left were those two, who were a bit troublesome. Let's just forget about them!"

Nie Li couldn't help smiling lightly at Long Tianming and Long

Liu's sorry-looking silhouettes. This was probably the worst defeat that Long Tianming had ever suffered. However, this was still just the beginning of Nie Li's fight with him.

Nie Li smiled back at Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu and said, "Alright, let's go! Follow me closely, and make sure you don't fall behind more than three meters. Otherwise, don't blame me for getting lost!"

Under Nie Li's lead, the three of them headed for the center of the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Outside the Thousand Illusionary Array

Experts from various majors sects were gathered here. Quite a few of them were of the Dao of Dragon Realm.

Everyone here had heard of the name “Void Illusionary Divine Palace”. They’d visited this location numerous times in attempts to enter; however, they’d always failed. Some simply gave up, while others still dropped by whenever the Void Illusionary Divine Palace reopened.

Regardless of whether they were from one of the three demonic sects or the six divine sects, they were all powerful experts, who eyed each other like tigers stalking their prey.

Several hundreds of forces, which amounted to at least a hundred thousand people, were all searching for the entrance to the Thousand Illusionary Array.

Some of them were lucky, having already found the entrance, and had entered. Others were still locked out and wandered around the border.

However, even if there were some people who’d managed to enter the Thousand Illusionary Array, entering the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was still a difficult feat. As difficult as ascending to the heavens.

Long Tianming and Long Liu were circling the Void Illusionary

Divine Palace, totally trapped within the array. They were unable to distinguish their directions, and kept circling back to their starting point. The two of them were almost driven insane.

While that was happening, Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi were walking onwards, following Nie Li's lead. As they drew closer and closer to the Void Illusionary Palace, the landscapes flashed as if they were viewing them from the back of a horse's back.

Wu Yazi was astonished from the bottom of the heart. This Thousand Illusionary Array was nothing to Nie Li!

However, he wasn't quite sure if Nie Li had been telling the truth, when he said that he could lay down a Thousand Illusionary Array, as well.

Roughly half an hour later, Nie Li, Xiao Yu, and Wu Yazi stood before a massive, ancient array. Five great pillars stood high and mighty, as if brushing the heavens. The area past the array formed the outer hall of the Void Illusionary Palace. The trio had yet to enter, but they could already feel the frightening pressure bearing down on them.

It was a grave and awe-inspiring force that even made Wu Yazi show respect.

Wu Yazi didn't know which supreme expert had laid down this Void Illusionary Divine Palace, but he knew not to be rash. He was even cautious with his words.

Who knows, there might be a remnant piece of will left behind by that supreme expert!

It wasn't just Wu Yazi; Nie Li and Xiao Yu expressed similar sentiments. Nie Li raised his head towards the majestic architecture before him and said, "Once we enter, you must listen to me. Don't go out on your own. Otherwise, don't blame me if you die!"

He was dead serious this time.

Chapter 385: Illusion

Both Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu's hearts trembled at Nie Li's words.

Nie Li's expression was graver than ever before. His mood affected Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu, making them serious as well, as they scrutinised their surroundings.

Nie Li stood in the center of the thick pillars and saw a faint sheen light up the space before him. It was a transparent wall that loomed before them, preventing them from taking another step forward. Nie Li quickly wrote down a few inscription patterns, which glowed brilliantly before forming a large inscription pattern array that projected itself onto the unseen barrier.

Boom!

The inscription pattern array exploded and a majestic energy swept over them. The five pillars that surrounded them shook violently, and began cracking.

The earth trembled with the force of earthquakes.

A visible hole shattered through the invisible wall.

The Void Illusionary Divine Palace's protection barrier had been torn down!

“Follow me!” Nie Li ordered as he leapt into the hole.

Wooshh! Woooosh!

Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu followed him in.

The ground shook intensely and the five pillars collapsed to the ground. A few mountains outside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace also crumbled.

The Thousand Illusionary Array outside was collapsing.

The experts from the various sects, who’d had gathered outside the Thousand Illusionary Array, were dumbfounded at the sight.

“What happened?”

“What’s going on?”

Nothing like this had ever happened before. They looked out into the distance, where the Thousand Illusionary Array was crumbling.

The experts of the Demon God’s Sect showed pure joy on their faces as they watched the Thousand Illusionary Array crumble away.

“The Thousand Illusionary Array has been destroyed! Everyone get ready! We’re charging in!”

“Send a few messengers back, to inform the ancestors. The Thousand Illusionary Array that surrounds the Void Illusionary Divine Palace has crumbled. Tell them to send reinforcements!”

Experts from the various divine sects, including the Divine Feathers and Skyblaze Sects, couldn’t help showing the same expression.

Before, the Thousand Illusionary Array had prevented them from approaching the Void Illusionary Divine Palace; but now, they had a chance to enter, since it’d been destroyed.

Legends told of a great treasure that a supreme expert had hidden behind in the Void Illusionary Palace.

The first to enter would definitely be able to obtain many priceless treasures!

The moment the Thousand Illusionary Array crumbled, countless people turned themselves into streaks of light that charged towards the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Rays of light rained toward it from all directions, as everyone wanted to be the first inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

Suddenly, the sounds of clashing resounded.

Those streaks of light had hit an invisible barrier.

“Owowowowow…”

“What’s that?”

A lot of people hadn’t noticed the invisible barrier before they’d charged; therefore, they’d run head-on into it. Quite a few of them had suffered injuries that left them in bloody and miserable states.

So there was actually another barrier around the Void Illusionary Divine Palace! This barrier was extremely solid. Not even a Heavenly Star or Axis Realm expert could break through.

The only way to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was by breaking this barrier!

Tens of thousands of people had been blocked out by the barrier, and were left with despair. At first, they’d believed that they could enter, since the outer barrier was gone. None of them had expected another barrier.

They began pondering over ways to break the new barrier.

Long Tianming and Long Liu stood outside the barrier. Long Tianming’s brows were tightly knit. He never expected the Thousand Illusionary Array to actually break! He recalled Wu Yazi’s group of three travelling back and forth within the Thousand Illusionary Array with ease. It was highly likely that

those three were connected to this situation!

Could Wu Yazi's group of three really have broken the Thousand Illusionary Array?

Long Tianming deeply stared at the invisible barrier that surrounded the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

Wu Yazi's group might've already entered the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!

The truth was exactly as Long Tianming had imagined. Earlier, Nie Li had used a special inscription pattern array to open a hole in the protection barrier. The three of them had already entered.

Outer Hall of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

Roar!

Massive beasts lunged towards Nie Li's group of three from all directions, as their majestic auras washed over them.

"Not good!" Wu Yazi cried. "Those are Thunder Beasts! I can't deal with them! We have to leave, quickly!"

Thunder Beasts were Dao of Dragon Realm creatures, at the very least! Even Wu Yazi would hit a dead end if he tried to take on so many at once.

Xiao Yu's face ashened as she sensed their auras and realised that they weren't creatures that she could confront.

However, Nie Li only smiled. "Keep a calm mind and maintain your emotions. Don't worry about the beasts!"

"Those beasts are already snapping at us. How are you not anxious?" Wu Yazi replied. "Are you trying to die?"

"They're just illusions!" Nie Li replied as he continued walking forward.

Wu Yazi was surprised by Nie Li's words, but quickly reclaimed his calm mind. Were they really just illusions?

Roar!

A Thunder Beast passed through Nie Li's body without causing any damage.

Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu calmed their minds and passed through after Nie Li.

It was true! They were only illusions!

"Those Thunder Beasts were so lifelike! How could you tell the difference?" Wu Yazi asked. He was curious as to how Nie Li could

always see the truth behind the illusions.

Nie Li smiled and said, “It’s called the Identifying Technique. But you wouldn’t understand, even if I told you about it. So let’s just leave it at that.”

Wu Yazi’s heart was filled with curiosity as he chased after the question. “Even if I won’t be able to understand it, at least it’ll be better than not knowing!”

“I’ll tell you after we exit the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Right now, we still have some important things to do!” Nie Li said as he turned to face forward and continued flying further in.

Wu Yazi opened his mouth, but said nothing and bitterly smiled to himself. He still planned to kill Nie Li and Xiao Yu after they left the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

The more they progressed on this adventure, the more Wu Yazi was amazed and mystified by Nie Li.

A trace of hesitation made its way into Wu Yazi’s heart. Should he really kill Nie Li after they left the Illusionary Divine Palace? If he didn’t, then the matter regarding the Demon Blood Sacrifice might get out. But it didn’t seem worth it to offend someone like Nie Li, either.

Wu Yazi felt extremely contradicted.

Nie Li had already caught all the slightly changes in Wu Yazi's expression. The corner of his mouth lifted into a light smile, but he said nothing as he kept flying.

They flew along for a little more, before Nie Li landed at the entrance to a side chamber and walked up to it without a second pause. Even though he was still standing outside, he could already sense the rich Heavenly Energy that filled the chamber's interior.

There must be some kind of treasure concealed within!

Chapter 386: Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array

The trio stepped into the side chamber and were greeted by the sight of a grand hall, hundreds of meters in radius, supported by towering stone pillars that were dozens of meters high.

Everything, from the ground to the pillars to the walls, was filled with mysterious inscription patterns.

The designs spiderwebbed over every surface and filled every possible crack and crevice.

Dozens of chests, forged of pure gold, were scattered throughout the hall. Each one was tightly shut, concealing its contents from prying eyes. Embedded into the lid of each chest was a Luster Pearl, magnificent and dazzling to the eyes.

One could tell that the chest's contents definitely weren't ordinary, just by looking at the craftsmanship of the chest.

Wu Yazi's eyes glowed with greed when he laid eyes on the chests. He wanted to immediately rush forward and open them.

Nie Li extended a hand to stop Wu Yazi. "Do you want to die?"

"What?" Wu Yazi asked him in confusion.

“The floor, the walls, and even the pillars are filled with inscription patterns. Those are all part of the Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array. One wrong step will set off the trap. The patterns will melt into formless chains that will bind you, causing you unable to breath and in the end, dying from burnout. And by that, I mean they’ll wring you out until even the last drop of flesh is gone from your body.” Nie Li answered darkly. “Not even Heavenly Axis nor Dao of Dragon Realm experts can escape it!”

Wu Yazi looked back at the densely packed designs on the wall, and his heart quivered. He stared at them for a moment, then shook his head and said, “In that case, could we fly over them?”

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi with a cold smile. “You can try.”

Wu Yazi caught the message in Nie Li’s tone, so he asked, “Then, does that mean we can’t get to those chests? They’re overflowing with Heavenly Energy, so there should definitely be some remarkable treasures inside. It’d be such a waste to leave them!”

Nie Li looked back at him and said, “I did say that you can’t walk around freely. But I didn’t say that there’s no way to get them. I told you to listen to me once we got inside, remember? But there’s one other thing; how are we going to split the treasures after we get them? I won’t go for fifty-fifty!”

Wu Yazi was silent for a brief moment, then he raised his head and said, “Fine. In that case, you guys can take the first pick. Sixty percent. Is that alright?” Wu Yazi still planned to kill Nie Li and Xiao Yu, and under those circumstances, he’d get the treasures back anyways. Therefore, it made no difference to him whether

Nie Li and Xiao Yu got first pick.

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi and said, “First pick? That’s not what I meant. I made a quick count; it looks like there are twenty-six Gold Jade Treasure Chests. We don’t even know their contents. But whoever opens them gets the items. Does that sound fair?”

Wu Yazi thought things over briefly, then replied, “Fair.”

“Alright then. Now you have to listen to my instructions. Take seven steps forward. Three to the right. Six forward... Make sure your steps are three feet wide!” Nie Li commanded.

Wu Yazi looked at Nie Li, then back at the inscription patterns. “Is that really going to work? You’re not lying to me, right?”

This chamber was filled with Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array. One misstep and he’d be strangled to death. What if Nie Li was planning to use it to get rid of him?

Nie Li placated him. “Don’t worry about that. There’s no benefit in killing you. We’re just two Heavenly Fate Realm experts. Even if we got the treasures, we wouldn’t be able to bring it out of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace without your backing. If we get killed during escape, then others would steal our treasures. We wouldn’t do anything that stupid.”

Wu Yazi considered Nie Li’s words and realised that there was some sense in his logic. Without his protection, these two

Heavenly Fate Realms definitely wouldn't be able to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. His death wouldn't benefit Nie Li!

"Alright!" Wu Yazi replied, as he moved per Nie Li's instructions.

Everything was just as Nie Li had said. The inscription patterns under him remained inactivated has he reached the first Gold Jade Treasure Chest, leaned down, and opened it.

A golden-armoured puppet popped out and brandished its fist towards Wu Yazi.

This puppet was at least of the Heavenly Axis Realm!

There was no treasure; instead, Wu Yazi had been attacked. Wu Yazi was surprised and he returned the puppet's fist.

Boom!

A shockwave resulted from the powerful impact. Even though the golden-armoured puppet had a 5-stage Heavenly Axis Realm strength, it was still too weak compared to Wu Yazi. He destroyed it in a single punch.

Wu Yazi patted his chest, sighed in relief, and said, "That startled me! There wasn't any treasure at all! I almost got killed by that damn thing instead!"

Nie Li smiled and said, “The master of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace must be playing a prank on you! Stay where you are. I’ll let Xiao Yu go next!”

Wu Yazi called to them, “There aren’t any treasures in these chests, only these damned things. You’re just a Heavenly Fate Realm. Aren’t you afraid of getting killed? It’ll be safer if you leave them to me!”

“The first chest has been opened. You can go ahead and take a step, but I’ll guarantee you a gruesome death! The only way you can move is if we open the second chest! Xiao Yu, make sure you move according to my instructions!”

Xiao Yu nodded. She didn’t know if there’d be another golden puppet hidden in the second chest, but she had extreme confidence in Nie Li; she didn’t doubt his words in the slightest. Either way, the most that would happen was that she’d be sent back upon death.

“Forward three steps. Left six. Back two. Left three…” Nie Li commanded Xiao Yu.

Xiao Yu moved forward, arrived before the second chest, and carefully lifted the lid.

A brilliant sheen lit the room and a majestic Heavenly Energy poured out, both stemming from the treasure within the chest.

Xiao Yu peered into the chest and exclaimed in astonishment, “They’re gold spiritual stone essences! There must be dozens of them!”

Gold spiritual stone essences are extremely rare and can be used for cultivation, much like ordinary spiritual stones. A single piece of gold spiritual stone essence is equivalent to a hundred spiritual stone essences, which is also equivalent to hundreds of thousands of regular spiritual stones. If used to forge artifacts, the results would be Grade 8 or 9, at the very least!

The Heavenly Energy had been thinning out over the past tens of thousands of years. Even regular spiritual stone essence had become hard to come by, not to mention gold spiritual stone essence!

Dozens of precious gold spiritual stone essence!

That was an absolutely frightening wealth!

Wu Yazi’s eyes turned red the instant he saw them. Even a single piece of gold spiritual stone essence would be extremely valuable, not to mention dozens of them!

Xiao Yu stored them away.

Wu Yazi watched Xiao Yu put the spiritual stone essences away in her interspatial ring, and couldn’t help trying to console himself.

‘It’s stored inside Xiao Yu’s ring, so it’ll be mine, sooner or later!’ He felt a little better when he thought that.

He couldn’t wait to open another one. He then turned back to Nie Li and said, “Hurry up, can we get to the third chest?”

Nie Li glanced at Wu Yazi and said, “The third one is mine…” before he took his steps toward the third treasure chest.

Chapter 387: Unlucky

Nie Li had thoroughly studied the Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array.

Densely packed inscription patterns reconstructed themselves within his mind. Nie Li had fully grasped the layout of the entire chamber, and knew exactly where the traps and safe spots were located. As for earlier, when he told Wu Yazi that one misstep could activate the Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array... he was bluffing.

Wu Yazi was completely in the dark, and probably frightened of Nie Li.

Since one wrong step could get him bound to death by the Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array, how could he dare move independently?

Nie Li stood before the third treasure chest, which was located at the heart of the Celestial Bound Inscription Pattern Array. This spot was surrounded by traps, and was the one with the most security measures.

It was very likely that this chest contained the most valuable treasure!

Nie Li lowered his head to study the chest that was covered with strange inscription patterns, different from the chests that Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi had unlocked. This pattern was rigged; if you couldn’t

unlock it on the first try, it would trigger the traps!

Nie Li began writing inscription patterns onto the chest. The lid creaked open, inch by inch.

Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi were dumbfounded. Neither of them would ever be able to crack such a complex array of inscription patterns.

Thump

The inscription pattern lock opened all the way.

Nie Li leaned down and lifted the chest's lid away. The instant he did so, the brilliant glow of the treasure within leapt out of the chest and dazzled their eyes.

A flood of Heavenly Energy saturated the hall.

Wu Yazi's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. Just what kind of treasure could possibly contain such majestic Heavenly Energy?

Nie Li peered into the chest and saw a jade strip[1] with the image of a mysterious demon spirit engraved upon it. It looked simple and unadorned on the outside, but still held an imposing presence.

Nie Li stared at the unadorned jade strip and traces of emotions flashed through his eyes.

He never expected to find this in a such a place!

According to the legends, there are ten Evil Warding Jade Strips, created by the first ancestor of the human clans and scattered throughout the worlds. Each strip contains thirty-six thousand inscription pattern incantations, each of which has a different use. Once in awhile, one of the strips would turn up somewhere and thus would begin an intense battle for ownership.

Most of the inscription patterns were used to suppress the demon clans. For example, the Evil Warding Jade Strip could be activated to suppress the aura of an enemy demon by at least thirty percent. He could also inject his demon opponent with the strip's inscription pattern incantations, which could then suppress the demon's bloodline.

Those were only a few examples. There were many, many more uses to the Evil Warding Jade Strip; even the ancient records didn't know all of them.

This was definitely an extraordinary find!

With a flick of his right hand, Nie Li tossed the Evil Warding Jade Strip into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. Having obtained this Evil Warding Jade Strip made everything worth it, even if he ended up killed by Wu Yazi.

Wu Yazi hastily called, "Hey, hey, hey! I didn't get to see what kind of treasure you found. Why'd you put it away already?"

Nie Li didn’t even let him take a look!

The Heavenly Energy had surged when Nie Li opened the chest; it proved that the treasure wasn’t something ordinary. However, Nie Li had put it away without giving Wu Yazi a single look!

Nie Li waved his hand in dismissal. “It’s just something ordinary. There’s no need to worry about it!”

Wu Yazi showed a bitter expression. Nie Li was just too cruel. But either way, whatever Nie Li found would end up as his in the end. Wu Yazi thought that to himself, restrained his curiosity, and let it pass. “Fine. How do I open the fourth treasure chest?”

“Alright. Follow my instructions. Left three, forward six…” Nie Li began instructing Wu Yazi until he reached the fourth treasure chest, lowered his head, and opened it.

Woosh!

Another golden puppet popped out from the treasure chest and pounced towards Wu Yazi.

Wu Yazi’s fist landed on the golden puppet, shattering it.

Another one, dammit!

Aside from the puppet, the treasure chest was empty. There was nothing inside.

Wu Yazi almost wailed at that. Why him? Why did Nie Li and Xiao Yu's treasure chests have all the amazing treasures, while his only had puppets?

Wu Yazi forlornly glared at Nie Li. "You're doing this on purpose!"

Nie Li looked back at him and said, "Wu Yazi, are you trying to break our agreement? There are over twenty unopened chests; how was I supposed to know what's inside? We agreed that we'd all pick a chest and try our luck! Furthermore, my chest had an inscription pattern lock on it. Even if I gave it to you, you wouldn't be able to open it!"

Xiao Yu couldn't help herself from secretly laughing. She'd also noticed that Nie Li was doing it on purpose! Otherwise, the situation never could've turned out that way — that her chest and Nie Li's held astounding treasures, while Wu Yazi had landed two puppets in a row.

"Fine, fine. I won't argue with you!" Wu Yazi couldn't help mumbling to himself as he thought more ruthlessly in his heart. 'They can hold onto the treasures for now. I'll take it back later. It'll be the same, anyways.'

What Wu Yazi didn't know was that Nie Li's treasures had been stored away into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Therefore, Wu Yazi wouldn't be able to get it back, even if he killed Nie Li.

Nie Li knew what Wu Yazi was planning; that was why he'd been stringing Wu Yazi along. Wu Yazi was thinking of killing them after they exited the Void Illusionary Divine Palace; otherwise, he would've lost his temper a long time ago. How else could he watch one treasure after another land in someone else's pocket?

Xiao Yu opened another chest. It was a Grade 7 artifact, a set of battle armour. It had to be worth millions of spiritual stones, at the very least!

Wu Yazi's heart trembled with envy!

'Take, take. I'll let you take all you want, after we get out of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, it'll all be mine!' Wu Yazi thought hatefully. Only then did his jealousy lessen.

Nie Li opened the fifth treasure chest, which held a Grade 7 artifact, a Long Sword. Another considerably priced treasure. It wasn't as great as his Thunder God's Meteorite Sword, so he didn't have much of a use for it. But it was still better than nothing.

Wu Yazi's eyes almost fell out as he stared. He could only stand by and watch as Nie Li put away the Grade 7 Long Sword artifact. Afterwards, he followed Nie Li's instructions and moved to the seventh[2]. Another puppet popped out.

Wu Yazi punched and destroyed it.

He was much more calm and collected this time. He didn't expect anything after killing the puppet.

Nie Li shook his head and sighed. "Brother Wu Yazi really has terrible luck. To think you opened three puppets in a row!"

Wu Yazi's brows twitched at that. If he didn't have other plans, he would've already exploded and started a fight with Nie Li. To think Nie Li was still heaping insults on him!

Notes:

[1] The ancient Chinese wrote on thin strips of bamboo, then strung them together into books. Except this one seems to be made of jade. Google "Chinese bamboo book".

[2] The raws said he moved to the seventh.

Chapter 388: Life Gate

Wu Yazi was well aware that Nie Li was playing him, but he still feigned ignorance without a word.

Nie Li continued to provoke Wu Yazi.

They opened one chest after another. By the time each person had opened five, Nie Li and Xiao Yu had collectively obtained several Grade 7 Artifacts, gold spiritual stone essences, Divine Scarlet Bloodstones, and various other rare and valuable materials. Wu Yazi, on the other hand, had encountered five puppets.

Wu Yazi wanted to cry, but there were no tears.

Nie Li hadn't left him a single treasure!

That was too cruel!

If he'd known of this earlier, he would've asked to split the treasures evenly amongst them. That way, he still would've been able to get a third of it, right?

Nie Li maneuvered around the traps to Xiao Yu's side. "Pass your treasures over here. I'll keep them safe for you and give them back later!"

"Alright," Xiao Yu responded as she passed everything over

without the slightest hesitation. Without Nie Li, she couldn't have obtained any of it, anyways.

Nie Li received the items from Xiao Yu and placed them into the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

That way, they no longer needed to worry about losing their treasures, even if they were killed by Wu Yazi.

Nie Li looked at Wu Yazi and said, "Since your luck was awful, I'll let you open the last ten chests!"

Wu Yazi glared at Nie Li with resentment. Did Nie Li still have a conscience after all, or were the last ten chests just filled with trash? But even so, Wu Yazi's curiosity urged him to open them.

Wu Yazi followed Nie Li's instructions, opened the next chest, and encountered yet another golden puppet.

Boom!

Wu Yazi killed it.

The second, third, fourth, fifth...

All of them had puppets inside.

Wu Yazi diagnosed himself with clinical depression.

He continued on to the sixth chest and was surprised to find that it actually wasn't a puppet. He peer inside the seemingly empty chest and saw a single piece of gold spiritual stone essence.

A single piece of gold spiritual stone essence...

Tears streamed down Wu Yazi's face. Why did Nie Li and Xiao Yu's chests always have dozens of pieces, yet his only had one?

By the time Wu Yazi finished opening all ten chests, he'd obtained one gold spiritual stone essence and two Divine Scarlet Bloodrocks. It was true that these things were quite valuable; however, they were much too inferior compared to Nie Li and Xiao Yu's findings.

Nie Li pondered for a brief moment, then said, "It's been a pretty good harvest. Wu Yazi, Xiao Yu, I'll instruct the two of you to move and close all the chests back up!"

"Why close them?"

"There are still a lot of people wandering inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. These chests could help us lessen the competitors!" he replied. There were quite a few human and demon competitors inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. It would be worth it if they could catch a few demons.

Wu Yazi and Xiao Yu understood Nie Li's explanation. They followed his instructions and closed the chests.

The three walked together towards the exit of the side chamber and headed off to explore other areas.

The trio searched through various other side chambers and discovered a decent stash of treasures, which included a total of fifty or sixty thousand spiritual stones. It was an astonishing amount of wealth.

And they hadn't even searched through a tenth of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, yet.

All the other treasures were split evenly between the three of them.

Xiao Yu handed all her treasures over to Nie Li, who stored them inside the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting.

Wu Yazi patted Nie Li on the shoulder. "What a good brother you have! He listens to you and gives all his treasures to you! You must be really lucky. Make sure to treat him well!"

Nie Li nodded. "That's for sure!"

Xiao Yu's face flushed at their conversation. Nie Li already knew that she was a girl, so why'd he have to respond to Wu Yazi like that?

Nie Li, on the other hand, didn't catch the possible alternative reading in Wu Yazi's words. He turned towards the heart of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace and announced, "I've found the way into the center! Follow me!"

Wu Yazi's eyes lit up at that. So they could finally enter the main hall of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace?

The three of them flew onward and landed before a stone door.

Nie Li explained, "The Void Illusionary Divine Palace itself is a massive array. The main hall should have a hundred stone doors, and this one happens to coincide with the life gate. This door must be the entrance!"

Wu Yazi's eyes widened. "There are so many stone doors here. How could you tell that this one is the life gate? And you said that the entire Void Illusionary Divine Palace is an array? Why don't I see it?" Even though Wu Yazi hated learning, he still knew a thing or two about arrays. Thanks to his bloodline as part of the Raccoon Clan, he'd already inherited plenty of knowledge concerning arrays, and he'd already unlocked a good portion of it. However, regardless of how hard he stared at his surroundings, he just couldn't picture how the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was similar to an array.

"Just trust me!" Nie Li said, as he placed his hand on the stone door, which slowly swung open.

There weren't any inscription patterns on the door, or anything of that sort.

The door opened to a pitch-black tunnel that led straight into the darkness. A chilly breeze wafted through that made their hair stand on end.

"Let's go!" said Nie Li as he calmly proceeded through the tunnel.

Xiao Yu immediately followed behind him. Wu Yazi hesitated for a brief moment, then followed up as well.

Over an hour later, the barrier outside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace began to shake from a number of explosions. At long last, the barrier couldn't hold up any longer.

Without the protection of the Thousand Illusionary Array, this barrier couldn't keep so many experts out!

Tens of thousands of experts attacked the barrier with various methods, and cracks finally spiderwebbed their way across its surface. Finally, with a boom, the barrier was blown to fragments.

"It's open! Finally!"

"Charge!"

Countless experts dove into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

The experts charged in herds towards the various side chambers. Since there was still a barrier around the main hall, they decided to just sack the side chambers, for the time being. Soon, fights broke out over the discovered treasures.

In reality, Nie Li had already taken the best items; however, the scraps left behind were still extremely valuable in the eyes of these experts. Thus, they incited fights over the treasures.

Long Tianming and Long Liu also joined the battles. However, there were simply too many opponents; they only managed to snatch the leftovers of the leftovers, such as a handful of spiritual stone essences. To them, there was really no point.

Long Tianming looked around and his eyes lit up as he noticed one particular door. “What rich Heavenly Energy coming from that side chamber!”

He flew up to it with Long Liu in tow.

Hundreds of experts from the various divine sects were already gathered at that entrance.

Over twenty Gold Jade Treasure Chests were placed in the center of the hall, each emitting an alluring aura that captivated their hearts.

Notes:

1] Chinese feng shui superstitions split the cardinal and intermediate directions by elements. The “life gate” is the southwest direction; of the one hundred doors to the main hall, Nie Li’s door is facing exactly southwest. By comparison, the northeast direction (directly opposite to the life gate) corresponds to the element of death.

Chapter 389: Holy Son Li Huo

Hordes of people charged the side chamber.

Long Tianming and Long Liu were among them.

Everyone charged towards the treasure chests.

Then suddenly, someone activated that trap within the room. With a bang, the inscription pattern arrays exploded and vaporized a dozen experts.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Numerous chains, woven from inscription patterns, snaked towards the experts.

In the next instant, the trap caught another dozen people.

“Young Master, be careful!” Long Liu anxiously warned as he stood in front of Long Tianming to shield him. He’d already been caught by the inscription pattern chains and was struggling to fly away.

Long Tianming scowled at the sight, then quickly backed off. He didn’t know what those inscription pattern chains were; therefore, he didn’t dare to carelessly touch them. He stayed in place as he watched them pull Long Liu away.

Long Liu was just an underling, after all. Furthermore, he would revive.

Something flickered in Long Tianming's eyes. It looked like opening the treasure chests wasn't going to be easy.

As all of that was going on inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, an army that consisted of thousands of demon clan experts was gathering on the outside. Their leader was a youth who wore a set of Scarlet Flame Divine Armour and was enveloped in a shroud of blazing flames that were so heated that no one dared to stand within three meters of him.

This youth had red skin and an arrogant temperament between his brows. His Heavenly Energy roiled around him in a terrifying sea of blood, and his frightening killing intent could easily suffocate a person.

A demon clad in silver armour respectfully report to him, "Holy Son Li Huo, as of now, we still don't know who opened the Thousand Illusionary Array. There are over a hundred people inside the main hall, but we've still yet to determine the location of the life gate!"

The Holy Son Li Huo replied, "Whoever it is, he or she definitely isn't an ordinary person, to be able to open the Thousand Illusionary Array. Send a messenger to the army that's on its way: surround the entire Void Illusionary Divine Palace and complete the seal within half an hour. No one is to leave! For those who try,

kill them without mercy!”

“Yes, sir!”

“Everyone else, follow me into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!” Li Huo ordered as he took the lead.

Back in the various side chambers, the experts from various sects were fighting over the treasures. A Skyblaze Sect Heavenly Axis Realm expert had snatched several pieces and was being pursued.

The Holy Son Li Huo coldly snorted and a troop of flame dragons swooped towards that Heavenly Axis Realm expert.

He was instantly engulfed in dragon fire.

Li Huo coldly snorted again and made a fist in the air. “Only those who are capable deserve to have treasures.”

A frightening and suffocating pressure bore down on that Heavenly Axis Realm expert. He tried to struggle free from the flame dragon’s bind; however, the blazing energy felt like tens of thousands of needles that pierced his body.

Fwooosh! Boom!

The Heavenly Axis Realm expert exploded.

His interspatial ring flew towards the Holy Son Li Huo.

The dozen experts who were chasing that Heavenly Axis Realm saw this scene and stopped in their tracks. Their brows twitched like mad.

“Dammit! Why is the Holy Son here?”

The sight of the Holy Son Li Huo had curbed their greed for the treasures. Trying to steal from Li Huo was the same as asking for death!

The Holy Son Li Huo swept an eye over them and coldly snorted, “Slaughter the ones from the six Divine clans without mercy. For the ones from the Demon God’s Sect, search their interspatial rings. Kill the ones who’re hiding treasures!”

“Yes, sir!”

The experts standing behind Li Huo spoke as one.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Hordes of demon clan experts charged towards the various side chambers.

The moment the Holy Son threw himself into the fray, the combat escalated to its climax.

Li Huo stared off into the main hall and said, “Have the Masters arrived?”

One of his subordinates respectfully replied, “Report to the Holy Son Li Huo! They’ll be here soon!”

“Once they arrive, order them to immediately search the palace’s layout for the life gate!” Li Huo commanded. His eyes blazed with divine fire and fell ahead of him.

“Yes!” his subordinates acknowledged.

Roughly fifty meters away, another army was gathering. This one was from the Skyblaze Sect, and numbered a few thousand people.

“Senior Brother Yan Yang, I’ve just received news that the Holy Son Li Huo has led an army into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace ahead of us!”

Yan Yang’s brows slightly furrowed. “Execute the Godstream technique and hurry after them into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!”

Aside from the Demon God’s and Skyblaze Sects, there were experts from several other forces, who also hurried into the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

On the secret path to the main hall

Nie Li and Xiao Yu walked along with light steps, while Wu Yazi was blood-soaked and brandishing his sword.

This secret path was filled with Blackwater Venom Spiders, all at the Heavenly Star Realm with few at Heavenly Axis Realm. There'd been so many of them that Wu Yazi was about to collapse from exhaustion.

But even then, there were still more patches of Blackwater Venom Spiders that blocked their way. And the end of the path was still nowhere in sight.

"Nie Li, are you sure we didn't take a wrong turn somewhere? Are we on the wrong path?" Wu Yazi asked gloomily as he continued to wave his sword and slaughter the spiders that pounced on them.

"I'm absolutely sure that we're on the right path. Don't worry, we'll reach the end soon!" Nie Li leisurely replied. These Blackwater Venom Spiders were only Heavenly Star Realms, so there wasn't a need for them to join Wu Yazi in the fighting. Nie Li brought out the Green Poison Pearl and mobilised it. Traces of green gas gathered on the Blackwater Venom Spiders and slowly converged towards the Green Poison Pearl.

The gem emitted a dazzling luster.

Nie Li's eyes lit up at the glow from the Green Poison Pearl.

"Why do I feel like I've become your source of manual labor?" Wu Yazi called out, gloomily.

"We've already promised you a third of the treasure in the main hall! I'm doing my part by showing you the way, so why can't you do something useful?" Nie Li calmly replied.

Wu Yazi considered Nie Li's words, but could only admit to its truth. Without Nie Li guiding him, he wouldn't even be able to enter the main hall! Even though he was just manual labor, the only thing he could do was accept it and move on.

Wu Yazi eyed the Green Poison Pearl that was floating in Nie Li's palm and asked, "What kind of treasure is that, in your hand?" This item also seemed to be a valuable treasure.

"You don't need to know about that!" Nie Li lightly said.

Wu Yazi couldn't help feeling crestfallen at those words. Nie Li wouldn't tell him anything. But the more he thought about it, the more it made sense; they'd just met each other and had formed an alliance of mutual benefit. So, of course, Nie Li would be unwilling to divulge all his secrets.

Nie Li continued using the Green Poison Pearl to absorb the venom from the Blackwater Venom Spiders.

With anticipation in his heart, Nie Li brought out some of Wu Yazi's demon blood and began to lay down a set of inscription patterns on the surface of the Green Poison Pearl. He brought out a gold spiritual stone essence and poured its Heavenly Energy into the Green Poison Pearl.

As a treasure, the Green Poison Pearl was far inferior to the Thunder God's Meteorite Sword; but even so, Nie Li could still use a special method to unleash some of its mysterious abilities.

After absorbing a large amount of venom from the Blackwater Venom Spiders, the Green Poison Pearl violent surged with energy.

Chapter 390: Silver Fate Soul

Nie Li poured his Heavenly Energy into the inscription pattern array and established a connection with the Green Poison Pearl. He noted that the treasure itself seemed to possess its own sort of spiritual nature.

With a flick of his right hand, Nie Li shot the Green Poison Pearl at a Heavenly Star Realm Blackwater Venom Spider.

Fwooosh!

The Green Poison Pearl pierced through the spider's body. The spider itself immediately turned green, staggered a few steps, then weakly collapsed on the ground.

With a single thought, Nie Li returned the Green Poison Pearl from the Blackwater Venom Spider back to his palm, where it floated calmly.

Since Nie Li had just used the Green Poison Pearl, he no longer dared to touch it with his bare skin. The pearl's poison was too great; even Nie Li wouldn't be able resist it.

Wu Yazi's heart trembled at the sight of the Blackwater Venom Spider lying on the floor in a green heap. The pearl that Nie Li wielded was a fearsome treasure indeed. Wu Yazi himself was afraid to touch the Blackwater Venom Spiders, but Nie Li's Green Poison Pearl could even poison them to death!

Later, when they exited the Void Illusionary Array, Wu Yazi would definitely have to be wary of that pearl in Nie Li's hand.

In addition to working with the Green Poison Pearl, Nie Li was also studying the Evil Warding Jade Strip. He poured in a bit of his Heavenly Energy and established connection to it slowly.

The Evil Warding Jade Strip could be used to suppress a demon's bloodline; it just so happens that it'd come in handy against Wu Yazi!

However, he could only use either the Evil Warding Jade Strip or the demon blood one at a time.

After establishing the connection to the Evil Warding Jade Strip, Nie Li could sense the thirty-six thousand inscription patterns that were concealed within and being able to control them.

Each inscription pattern had its own purpose; he'd take his time to study them later.

A mysterious energy also back flowed from the Evil Warding Jade Strip and slowly permeated Nie Li's body. He sensed the energy of inscription patterns envelope his fate soul and protect it.

The energy from the various other treasures caused his soul realm to surge even more violently than before.

Whooosh!

Another fate soul ignited, this one silver.

The eighth fate soul!

Since performing the Demon Blood Sacrifice, his rank had jumped by a total of three levels. Even though some of that was due to the Evil Warding Jade Strip, there was no doubt that most of it was thanks to the Primordial Bloodline.

Nie Li already possessed many powerful treasures that an ordinary Heavenly Fate Realm would never be able to get his hands on. All he needed to do was slightly draw on their powers. Any one of those treasures had enough power to support Nie Li in breaking through his current realm.

The colour of the eighth fate soul slightly surprised him.

Nie Li knew that the combination of the various treasures had increased the growth of his soul realm to an insane level.

He could become much stronger!

Nie Li strengthened his cultivation and continued activating the Evil Warding Jade Strip.

Mysterious inscription patterns flowed into Nie Li’s soul realm,

one after another.

His power began charging towards 9-fate.

Mysterious inscription patterns spiraled towards the Shadow Devil, Fanged Panda, and the Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon, and bound them tightly.

The three demon spirits struggled.

What was going on?

Nie Li was startled. The Shadow Devil, Fanged Panda and Bloodwing Saint Jiao-dragon were all demon spirits. The Evil Warding Jade Strip had the ability to suppress demon beasts, so didn't that mean it could suppress demon spirits too?

As Nie Li realised that, his brows furrowed tightly. He studied the inscription pattern chains.

If all three of his demon spirits were sealed away, wouldn't that be bad for him?

Nie Li weighed the pros and cons. The Evil Warding Jade Strip could suppress demon spirits. On the other hand, the blood from the Demon Blood Sacrifice could strengthen their power. In that case...

Nie Li poured the power of the Demon Blood Sacrifice into the three demon spirits.

The three demon spirits received the Demon Blood Sacrifice and began struggling harder against their bondages.

The power of the Primordial Bloodline was amazing!

The three demon spirits had received the Demon Blood Sacrifice, and their power began to surge.

8-fate, 9-fate...

Upon reaching the pinnacle of 9-fate, the three demon spirits destabilised as they struggled harder to free themselves from Nie Li's soul realm. At the same time, Nie Li's soul realm continued expanding as it pull back the three demon spirits.

However, it couldn't prevent the demon spirits from struggling; the Primordial Bloodline was simply too powerful!

The demon spirits continued to grow stronger, until they were equivalent to 1-stage Heavenly Star Realm in strength. Even the vine looked like it would give way at any moment.

Suddenly, the Evil Warding Jade Strip emitted a dazzling light and a torrent of inscription patterns poured towards the three demon spirits and tied them back in place, as if nothing had ever happened.

If the strength of the demon spirits exceeded Nie Li's capacity, then they'd break free from his soul realm. However, the Evil Warding Jade Strip had helped him bind them back in place.

The two forces had achieved a working balance.

The three demon spirits continued to grow stronger, only to stop after they'd reached the 3-stage Heavenly Star Realm.

Nie Li had many methods that he could use to strengthen his demon spirits. However, he hadn't used any of them yet, because his own strength wasn't enough to restrain them if they went out of control. If that happened, the consequences would be extremely severe. But now that he had the Evil Warding Jade Strip, he no longer had to worry about that.

Nie Li stopped at the 3-stage Heavenly Star Realm to consolidate his cultivation. Even though it wasn't his limit.

Wu Yazi was trying his best to fend off the Blackwater Venom Spiders, when he was suddenly confused by the release of aura from Nie Li. Nie Li's cultivation had risen by three levels in such a short time! He was now an 8-fate!

Even the greatest genius from the demon clans would have to sigh and admit inferiority to that.

Wu Yazi had no idea how Nie Li could've done it.

Even he felt pressured by Nie Li's rapid rank-ups.

Xiao Yu had also glanced at Nie Li with astonishment in her eyes. Nie Li's cultivation was rising so fast that she had a hard time just keeping track of it. It caused her some anxiety.

"Look ahead!" Wu Yazi exclaimed as he point off into the distance.

Nie Li and Xiao Yu both turned towards that direction and couldn't pull their eyes away from the band of light that reflected towards them.

It was just a single ray of light, but Wu Yazi was so moved that tears streamed down his cheeks. They'd been travelling along this Blackwater Venom Spider-infested tunnel for so long that his hand was cramping!

Nie Li and Xiao Yu had been leisurely walking behind him. There's no way they'd understand his feelings!

They'd finally reached the exit!

Nie Li began talking to himself as he did a few calculations. After the secret path would be the Void Illusionary Divine Palace's main hall! It should take at least half an hour for the other experts to break through the second barrier. After that, it'd take them at least another two hours to calculate the position of the life gate. And

that was at their fastest speed.

Nie Li lightly smiled and said to his companions, “Don’t worry. We’ve still got plenty of time.”

Chapter 391: Spiritual Void Wall

They walked for another several hundred meters before they finally reached a set of stairs and headed up.

The trio slowly ascended the flight of steps and entered a majestic hall.

This hall was several hundred meters in radius, and extremely spacious without a single stone pillar in sight. At the other end of the hall was a mysterious mural depicting a fierce demon beast and a shirtless human in intense combat. Behind them was a vast starry sky where a pair of eyes calmly observed everything.

Nie Li stared at the painting. It wasn't the demon beast or the human that caught his attention; it was the eyes in the starry sky. An existence akin to the king of gods.

Even though it was only a mural, Nie Li felt a massive pressure bearing down on him, so heavy that it nearly stopped his breathing.

Even though it was just a pair of eyes, Nie Li knew that they belonged to the Sage Emperor.

Some people claimed that the Sage Emperor wasn't all that powerful. However, countless numbers of supreme experts had challenged him in the past tens of thousands of years; yet the Sage Emperor still stands, while those supreme experts vanished.

This so-called endless realm of space and time was completely under the Sage Emperor's control.

No one could threaten his absolute authority.

In Nie Li's previous life, the Sage Emperor had incited a massacre right after the destruction of the Ancestral God Land. The Draconic Ruins Realm were slaughtered until there were only a few hundred thousand people left alive. Countless experts gathered from the four corners in an attempt to defeat the Sage Emperor, but they all perished. However, back then, Nie Li had single-handedly torn through the limits of humanity and obtained the godlike power that allowed him to fight on par with the Sage Emperor. Even so, he still died by the Sage Emperor's hands.

If it hadn't been for the Temporal Demon Spirit Book, Nie Li would've turned to ashes long ago.

"What's with those eyes? I'm only looking at them, but I can still feel a frightening pressure, like thousands of fine needles pricking my skin." Xiao Yu asked Nie Li in a soft voice.

"Are you asking about those eyes? Those belong to the great God Ancestor!" Wu Yazi smiled. "He's the almighty ruler of the ancestral Demonic Saint Land and the most sincerely worshipped amongst our demon clans. There's no human who could ever compare to our God Ancestor!"

Nie Li's brows slightly twitched. The demon clans worshipped

the Sage Emperor; however, the Sage Emperor probably didn't care about the demons in the least. They were nothing but tools to him. But even if Nie Li told them that, none of the demons would ever believe him.

He had no idea why such a painting would be inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

Nie Li thought about everything that the Sage Emperor had done, back in his previous life, and unconsciously clenched his fist so hard that veins popped out from his arm. Indeed, confronting the Sage Emperor wasn't an easy feat.

Therefore, Nie Li would slowly lay down his plans over the next two hundred years. He wouldn't be rushing into things as he'd done in his previous life.

A single crystal jade wall, five or six meters tall, stood in the center of the main hall. The jade wall was sparkling and translucent as illusions flowed off its surface in rays of multicoloured lights. It was a truly magnificent and dazzling sight.

Over a hundred experts, both human and demon, sat cross-legged on the ground, staring at the crystal jade wall that loomed above them. Each had an expression of strenuous pondering.

Wu Yazi was surprised by the sight. "Why are there so many people in here?"

There were some Heavenly Star, Heavenly Axis, and even Dao of Dragon Realm experts mixed in the crowd. But for some reason, all of them were quietly seated under the crystal jade walls, thinking hard over something.

How did these people get here?

To Nie Li's best guess, these experts had entered the palace during previous events. However, after entering, they became trapped as they tried to comprehend the crystal jade wall before them.

This crystal jade wall was a Spiritual Void Wall. Only by deciphering the puzzle on the wall could they gain access to the true interior of the Void Illusionary Array!

Nie Li and co. continued forward towards the crystal jade wall, until they were within fifty meters of it. They sensed no changes to their cultivation, but the three of them suddenly realised that the Heavenly Energy within their bodies had become stagnant, as though they had frozen over.

If they got too close to the crystal jade wall, they'd lose all of their combat abilities!

So that's why all those humans and demons could sit there peacefully, without any sort of conflict.

The other experts only briefly afforded a glance to the newcomer

trio, before returning their attentions to the puzzle on the crystal jade wall.

Wu Yazi was astounded by the scene. What could possibly keep all these experts in such a place for so long?

He too, sat down and raised his head towards the crystal jade wall above him. Inscribed on its surface was a set of mysterious inscription patterns, as well as some chants. The latter attracted his attention.

Could it be a record of some amazing cultivation technique?

Wu Yazi instantly showed an expression of deep contemplation as he beheld the crystal jade wall before him.

Nie Li was rather surprised by Wu Yazi's actions, and copied him. He also sat cross-legged on the floor and prepared to comprehend the Spiritual Void Wall before him.

Xiao Yu also lowered herself down, next to Nie Li.

A demon clan youth sitting nearby glanced up and asked, "Which sect are you guys from? I haven't seen a new demon for a while now. I wonder how many years it's been?"

He'd apparently mistaken Nie Li and Xiao Yu to be demon clan members, as well.

“We’re from the Demon God’s Sect.” Nie Li replied, since they were still disguised as demons.

“I’m from the Demon God’s Sect, too!” Excitement reflected on that demon clan youth’s face.

“How long have you been comprehending this crystal jade wall for?” Nie Li asked that demon clan youth.

“I don’t know myself, but I’d say at least six years. It’s a pity that I’m not very bright. I still can’t comprehend the profound intent on this crystal jade wall!” he replied as he shook his head. The corner of his mouth curled into a smile. “However, my cultivation speed is extremely fast in this place. I was originally a 1-stage Heavenly Axis Realm, but I’m already a 3-stage!”

His cultivation had risen two stages in six years; under normal circumstances, that’d be extremely fast. No wonder he’d stayed here for six years, reluctant to leave.

It wasn’t just this demon clan youth; the others were also unwilling to leave.

Wu Yazi pulled his eyes away from the crystal jade wall. “I wonder what this Senior Brother’s name is?”

The demon clan youth smiled as he replied, “Zhen Yuan.”

“Senior Brother Zhen Yuan, could I ask what’s recorded on this crystal jade wall?” Wu Yazi probed. He sensed that the chants were extraordinary, so he wanted to gather some information to avoid missteps.

“It’s the record of an extraordinary cultivation technique that probably belonged to the owner of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. If you can comprehend a tenth, or two-tenths, then you’d be the strongest expert in your entire region!” Zhen Yuan sighed. “I grew from 1-stage to 3-stage Heavenly Axis Realm just by comprehending one verse of the chant. If only I could comprehend more of it… sigh”

Wu Yazi’s heart skipped a beat at Zhen Yuan’s words in excitement. If that was true, then this was truly an extraordinary find!

Wu Yazi didn’t know what kind of existence the owner of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was, but he knew that they must’ve been some supreme expert who surpassed their imaginations. He or she definitely couldn’t have been a simple person, if they could afford leave behind such an extraordinary cultivation technique!

Chapter 392: Encounter With The Demon Lord, Again

Nie Li sat under the Spiritual Void Wall with the verses of the chant projected on his retinas.

It was the [God Tongue] cultivation technique!

This cultivation technique was created by a supreme expert. Reaching the limit, you'd be able to gain Deity ranked power.

The [God Tongue] cultivation technique was on par with the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique.

Could the owner of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace be the legendary Ancestral Master Daozang, the same one who'd created the [God Tongue] cultivation technique?

The Ancestral Master Daozang was an extremely formidable figure.

He was also one of the most mysterious figures lost to history. No one knew anything about his life, only that he'd fought and held his own against the full-strength Sage Emperor. He hadn't won, but he'd manage to fully escape. Afterwards, he sealed away the Sage Emperor's demonic bone, and vanished without a trace.

Nie Li wondered whether this Void Illusionary Divine Palace was

actually the tomb of the Ancestral Master Daozang.

The [God Tongue] technique is even harder to cultivate than the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique, as it requires the practitioner to have a sincere heart. Even though Nie Li had experienced two lifetimes' worth of cultivation, he was still human. It was extremely difficult for him to cultivate the [God Tongue] to its full extent.

Nie Li quietly sat before the Spiritual Void Wall and stared at the various inscription patterns.

As Nie Li and his group quietly comprehended the wall, a pale-faced youth appeared.

Nie Li's pupils shrank and a chilling bloodlust flashed through his eyes.

It's the Demon Lord!

He never expected to encounter him in a place like this.

The Demon Lord clearly hadn't entered through the life gate. So how did he get in?

The Demon Lord swept an eye over his surroundings and ignored the cultivators as he approached the Spiritual Void Wall. Nie Li was still disguised as a demon clan expert, so the Demon Lord didn't recognise him as he seated himself amongst the crowd.

The Demon Lord sat only a dozen meters away from Nie Li. Surges of a mysterious aura curled around the Demon Lord.

Based on that aura, Nie Li could tell that the Demon Lord had reached 8-fate; however, there was something else inside that aura, something mysterious and powerful that caused a chill in Nie Li's heart.

Thanks to the vine inside Nie Li's body, his cultivation wasn't that fast. If it hadn't been for the Demon Blood Sacrifice, he'd still be at 5-fate. However, the Demon Lord possessed the Supreme Physique; therefore, his cultivation had soared by leaps and bounds.

Nie Li remembered how Ye Zong had died at the hands of the Demon Lord, and his heart was filled with cold bloodlust. If it wasn't for him not being able to kill anyone here, he would've already taken action. Even though there was something cold and mysterious inside the Demon Lord's body, Nie Li did not fear him.

The problem was that if he killed the Demon Lord now, the best he could do was lower the Demon Lord's cultivation by one stage.

The Demon Lord paid no attention to anything as he sat cross-legged and stared at the crystal jade wall with a deep expression.

Xiao Yu had met the Demon Lord once, back in the Tiny World. She recognised him, and knew that there was bad blood between him and Nie Li. She couldn't help glancing at Nie Li with concern.

She sensed that the Demon Lord was a dangerous opponent.

The Demon Lord looked around him in disdain, then said, “I never expected there to be so many people gathered around here. But you guys are stuck at such a low level; it just means that you’re not fated for the Ancestral Master Daozang’s secret treasure!”

The Demon Lord stood up, and approached the crystal jade wall.

Everyone’s attention was focused on the Demon Lord.

“Someone’s trying to break the crystal jade wall!”

“Hahaha! He’s so full of himself. It’s impossible to break the crystal jade wall!”

“He’ll probably go crying home about his failure!”

Countless people had tried to break the inscription patterns before. All of them had ended in failure.

So, of course, they didn’t think that the Demon Lord could accomplish it.

Nie Li watched the Demon Lord, and noted that his opponent felt a little different than before. However, he couldn’t pinpoint exactly what was off.

The Demon Lord stopped before the crystal jade wall and placed his palm on its surface. Traces of mysterious light started to spread through the air.

The crystal jade wall immediately glowed with a harsh light that made everyone shield their eyes.

“What’s going on?” Zhen Yuan said in astonishment.

Even Wu Yazi was astonished. What was that guy going?

Nie Li’s heart slightly shook as he immediately stood up and shouted in a deep tone, “Quick, stop him!”

Hearing Nie Li’s words, two demon clan experts who were closest to the Demon Lord had a flash of understanding. They stood up and pounced towards the Demon Lord.

However, the Demon Lord’s body rapidly turned illusory and vanished into the crystal jade wall. He’d disappeared, like a drop of water that had fallen into a lake.

The two demon clan experts missed their target and dumbfoundedly stared at the crystal jade wall.

“What happened?”

“He disappeared?”

“He entered the crystal jade wall!”

At the sight of this, all of the experts were inwardly vexed. They’d been comprehending this crystal jade wall for so long, but none of them had ever been able to enter. But someone who’d appeared just a few minutes ago had actually managed to solve the inscription patterns in one go.

Nie Li tightly clenched his fists. Even he didn’t know how the Demon Lord had managed to open and enter the crystal jade wall.

According to his calculations, the other experts who were gathered outside the Divine Illusionary Palace should’ve already broken the barrier and rushed in!

Could the Demon Lord have entered the Void Illusionary Divine Palace before Nie Li had shattered the Thousand Illusionary Array?

It looked like Nie Li had greatly underestimated the Demon Lord.

The crowd had watched the Demon Lord disappear, but the only thing they could do was return to comprehending the crystal jade wall with indignation.

Nie Li fixed his eyes on the crystal jade wall and rapidly tried to figure out the inscription patterns on it. It only took him a brief moment before he found the solution.

Nie Li transmitted his voice to Xiao Yu. “Stay here, next to the jade wall and focus on comprehending it! Don’t leave before I get back. The outside is just too dangerous!”

“En.” Xiao Yu acknowledged. She was puzzled. Could Nie Li have solved the puzzle?

Nie Li approached the crystal jade wall.

“Someone’s trying to break the inscription pattern array! Again!”

“The only ones who can break the inscription pattern array are geniuses that appear once in ten thousand. You’d be lucky to find one of them in a hundred thousand years. How’d we get two in a row?!”

Everyone scrutinised Nie Li, with the ones seated the closest eyeing him like tigers eyeing their prey. Earlier, the Demon Lord had opened the door too fast, so they didn’t have time to stop him. But if Nie Li managed to open the crystal jade wall, they definitely wouldn’t let him through.

Nie Li lifted his hand and knocked on the crystal jade wall.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

The sounds echoed off the crystal jade wall.

The experts next to him laughed involuntarily. Nie Li was acting like such an amateur! No matter how you explained it, it didn’t look like Nie Li knew how to break the crystal jade wall.

Chapter 393: Mysterious Aura

The experts returned to the task at hand: staring at the crystal jade wall and attempting to comprehend the chant inscribed on it.

Suddenly, Nie Li began to rapidly write inscription patterns, which imprinted themselves upon the crystal jade wall.

At first, everyone thought that Nie Li was only fooling around. But suddenly, the crystal jade wall began glowing and Nie Li's figure began to fade.

"What's going on?"

"Stop him!"

Several experts stood up at the same time and tried to stop Nie Li.

However, they could only watch as Nie Li swiftly entered the crystal jade wall and disappeared.

The crowd was dumbfounded. Could the method for entering the crystal jade wall actually be something easy? It's just that no one had attempted it before? If they'd known that this was going to happen, then they would've detained Nie Li and interrogated him!

Wu Yazi was also dumbfounded; he never expected Nie Li to be able to enter. He turned to Xiao Yu and asked, "So, Nie Li knew

how to enter?”

Xiao Yu shrugged. “I don’t know, either. Maybe it was by luck?”

Wu Yazi was extremely crestfallen. Nie Li had gone in without him! Wouldn’t Nie Li go ahead and snatch all the main hall’s treasures, leaving nothing for himself?

Wu Yazi glanced at Xiao Yu. Xiao Yu was still here. He didn’t know if Nie Li would return, but he could only patiently wait.

Some of the experts approached the crystal jade wall to study it.

One expert copied Nie Li and knocked on the surface a few times. Aside from the echoes, he found nothing.

He thought about it a little. Those two person wrote some inscription patterns before entering... Therefore, he too, began writing on the wall. The inscription patterns glowed brightly as they sunk into the crystal jade wall.

Success?

That expert couldn’t help showing an expression of glee as he watched the wall in excitement.

Suddenly, with a boom, that expert was sent flying by a surge of energy that shot out from the crystal jade wall. He soared for a few

dozen meters before he landed heavily on the floor. His entire body was charred and smoking. His legs twitched a few times before his entire body stilled.

At the sight of that, the other experts who were trying to enter all decided to back off. Their hearts were stunned and their scalps tingled as they no longer dared to experiment.

The crystal jade wall wasn't that easy to solve. One wrong move and a price must be paid.

They'd managed to enter the Void Illusionary Divine Palace only with great effort, and had been given a chance to comprehend an exceptional cultivation technique. How could they bear to leave?

The experts returned to their seats and continued comprehending the crystal jade wall.

Wu Yazi glanced at the charred corpse. Nie Li was extremely knowledgeable; it wasn't surprising that he knew how to enter the crystal jade wall. Wu Yazi then wondered about the person who'd gone in before Nie Li. But either way, Wu Yazi himself didn't have a shot at entering, so he decided to stay there and comprehend the crystal jade wall.

Xiao Yu looked at the crystal jade wall in a daze. She didn't know why, but she felt a pang of sadness. Nie Li was like a comet, a bright star that would appear, then disappear from her life.

Right now, she was two ranks beneath Nie Li in cultivation. And that gap would only grow wider in the future.

Suddenly, she sensed two mysterious auras flowing together within her soul realm, which then rushed through her four limbs and all her meridians. These two auras definitely had some sort of connection to the ring on her right hand.

Xiao Yu had always been aware of those two auras inside herself, protecting her. Whenever she suffered a setback or encountered a difficulty in her cultivation, they would always appear to her aid.

She didn't know where they were from, but she sensed that they were related to her origins. They were a part of the reason she pursued the origins of her birth.

An energy rushed into her soul realm and stimulated the Demon Blood Sacrifice.

Xiao Yu's cultivation shot like an arrow as it surged and raged.

Even Xiao Yu was astonished by the development, and realised she couldn't completely control the energy.

Poooof!

The eighth fate soul ignited inside her soul realm, followed by the ninth.

In the center of the ninth fate soul, a small star quietly appeared, filled with boundless energy.

It was the fate star!

Once a person comprehends their fate soul's energy, they can step into the Heavenly Star Realm!

Wu Yazi was peacefully cultivating when he suddenly sensed Xiao Yu's aura surge to 9-fate. He even had the vague feeling that she'd broken through to the Heavenly Star Realm.

Nie Li and Xiao Yu, those bastards! This cultivation speed was too insane. How could they possibly make consecutive ranks? Usually, it takes dozens of years to break through a single rank. At the very least, it takes a few months. How could these two possibly exist in this universe?

Even Xiao Yu was inwardly surprised by her progress. The power of the Demon Blood Sacrifice was great, indeed, but she sensed that her two mysterious auras were even stronger than that.

The two auras danced within her soul realm for a while longer, before rushing from her chest to her eyes. Suddenly, Xiao Yu's eyes were filled with divine light.

The crystal jade wall suddenly became strange and contorted to her, while the inscription patterns clearly displayed themselves

before her.

She suddenly understood it all. So that's the method to entering the crystal jade wall!

Xiao Yu stood up and approached the wall.

"Wait up!" Wu Yazi called out to Xiao Yu.

Wu Yazi had a feeling that Xiao Yu knew how to open the crystal jade wall.

"What is it?" Xiao Yu halted her steps and looked at Wu Yazi.

Wu Yazi rubbed his hands and chuckled as he transmitted his voice to Xiao Yu. "Brother Xiao Yu, please tell me how to enter the crystal jade wall. You can't just both go in and leave me out here, all alone. Besides, since I'm a Heavenly Axis Realm, I can protect you!"

Xiao Yu thought about it for a moment, then decided that there was no harm in letting Wu Yazi follow them; on the contrary, it might even benefit them. Nie Li might end up fighting the Demon Lord, so it'd be nice to have an extra fighter. She lifted her right hand and pointed at Wu Yazi. Lines of inscription patterns flowed into Wu Yazi's mind.

It's the method for entering the crystal jade wall!

Wu Yazi's heart shook. It looked like he'd really underestimated Xiao Yu. This guy was capable of transmitting inscription patterns directly into his mind. A Dao of Dragon Realm expert might not even be able to do that, but Xiao Yu wasn't even a Heavenly Star Realm, yet. Wu Yazi felt cold shivers all over his body, despite the normal temperature in the room.

Both Nie Li and Xiao Yu were too mysterious and impossible to predict.

Chapter 394: Ancestral Master Daozang

Void Illusionary Divine Palace, Main Hall

A long scarlet carpet led directly between the towering pillars and into the main hall.

Even inside, everyone's auras seemed to be frozen and their soul realms remained useless.

Nie Li looked out in front of him. At the end of the main hall sat a cross-legged statue of a white-bearded elder, five or six meters in height. Even though it was only a statue, its craftsmanship was vivid and lifelike, as if it was a real person.

The statue was imposing and majestic, influencing others to have thoughts of worshipping him.

This was the Ancestral Master Daozang, spoken of in legends!

The Demon Lord stood only a dozen meters away from Ancestor Master Daozang's statue as he quietly gazed up at it.

A murderous intent flashed through Nie Li's eyes as he watched the Demon Lord. However, this wasn't the right place for battle.

It's very likely that Ancestral Master Daozang had hidden his true inheritance inside this main hall. Nie Li couldn't let the

Demon Lord get it, no matter what!

The Demon Lord sensed Nie Li's presence and turned around to face him. The two briefly met eyes, then the Demon Lord turned back to face the statue, not minding Nie Li.

The Demon Lord's aura used to be as sharp as a blade, but now it was more reserved. However, Nie Li sensed that the Demon Lord had become even more dangerous.

Nie Li didn't know what kinds of opportunities the Demon Lord had received since entering the Draconic Ruins Realm. He was on high alert.

Suddenly, an endless sea of energy descended from above. Nie Li felt as though he could be drowned by this aura anytime.

Nie Li felt like he was going to be crushed by this energy, so he moblised the vine and the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting to confront it.

"Hmm?"

A vast and distant voice sounded from the end of the main hall. It sounded surprised.

The voice spoke with a clear, booming tone. "I've waited for tens of millions of years. All the ones who've come before you were members of the demon clan. But now, I've finally received two

young members of the human clan, both with good talent. Are the two of willing to succeed my legacy and serve mankind?”

The sound of this voice seemed to cleanse all wicked thoughts from their hearts.

“Human?” The Demon Lord glanced at Nie Li, who obviously looked like a demon to him.

Nie Li had used the Demon Blood Sacrifice to disguise himself as a demon, but this supreme power had seen through his disguise with a single glance.

The Demon Lord nodded and responded with indifference. “I’ll serve mankind.”

Wouldn’t it be bad if the Demon Lord obtained Ancestral Master Daozang’s legacy? Nie Li raised his head, stared into the empty air, and said, “I’m willing to serve mankind! However…” he pointed towards the Demon Lord and said, “I don’t believe that he can serve mankind. I implore the Ancestral Master to see clearly!”

The Demon Lord frowned as he looked at Nie Li, and a chilling ray flashed across his eyes. He clearly didn’t know how he’d offended Nie Li.

Ancestral Master Daozang’s voice was long and inuous, but penetrated their hearts. “Matters in the mortal world are closely tailed by karma. The two of you entered the Void Illusionary

Divine Palace together, which means that fate has brought the two of you to me. The evil and good of the universe cannot be seen through. Why do we need to spent our efforts in futility?”

Nie Li furrowed his brows for a moment. Ancestral Master Daozang should definitely be able to see through the Demon Lord’s Spiritual Constellation Technique and realise that the Demon Lord had achieved his power through massacre. Yet Ancestral Master Daozang still wanted to accept such a despicable person as a disciple?

The Ancestral Master unhurriedly explained, “If you become my disciple, you will have the Daozang Secret Command, which allows you to command anyone of the Daozang lineage. However, a certain person will always be after your life, regardless of what you’ve done. That person can easily destroy the six major divine sects. If you’re afraid, you may back out now.”

“I’m willing.” the Demon Lord calmly replied without the slightest hesitation.

Nie Li, however, furrowed his brows. Since his reincarnation, he’d amassed quite an arsenal, from the [Heavenly God] cultivation technique to the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting. With that, he could work his way to the pinnacle, until he was strong enough to confront the Sage Emperor. Right now, the Sage Emperor probably hadn’t even noticed him!

However, if Nie Li decided to join the Daozang lineage, then there was a high risk of being exposed. With his current position, challenging the Sage Emperor meant seeking death!

Even Ancestral Master Daozang, at his pinnacle, couldn't to defeat the Sage Emperor!

Nie Li made his decision, cupped his hands, and said, "Please forgive me, Ancestral Master Daozang. I cannot become your disciple!"

"Oh?" Ancestral Master Daozang didn't sound surprised. "Very well, then. The one to inherit my legacy will be him alone!"

Nie Li was crestfallen. If he couldn't stop the Demon Lord from acquiring Ancestral Master Daozang's strength, then it'd be even harder to deal with the Demon Lord in the future. After all, Nie Li definitely wouldn't stoop to borrowing the Sage Emperor's hand to deal with the Demon Lord. The members of the Daozang lineage were innocent; furthermore, they'd be a core strength in his fight against the Sage Emperor.

Nie Li was inwardly quite irritated by the situation. It seemed that there were things he couldn't control, even though he'd come back to life.

Nie Li recalled how Ye Zong had died at the hands of the Demon Lord, and his heart was filled with rage. There would be a day of reckoning.

Ancestral Master Daozang spoke in a distant voice, as if he was calling from another dimension. ""Although you are unable to inherit my legacy, you are still fated to me. I sense the [Heavenly

God] cultivation technique, the Myriad Miles Rivers and Mountains Painting, as well as the Profound Chant of Kong Ming.

It couldn't have been easy to achieve so much in so little time. I do not know where you came from, but I can guess where you're going. But regardless of how high your cultivation is, I doubt you can match the Sage Emperor. In these tens of thousands of years, countless numbers have tried to shatter the Sage Emperor's seal on space and time, but none have succeeded.

You can kill the Sage Emperor a million times over, but he will always reconstruct his body and come back stronger. That is, unless you break his seal on time and space. On the other hand, you can only die once inside this space-time. However, if you can find the other reincarnations, then your chances may be different at ten percent."

Nie Li was shocked. He never expected Ancestral Master Daozang to see through him so clearly.

"Reincarnations? Who are these reincarnations?" Nie Li pursued.

"Since the beginning of time and space, there are six people who have the power to confront the Sage Emperor. I am one of them. We six coexisted in harmony as we comprehend the Heavenly Dao. However, none of us ever expected the Sage Emperor to have such wild ambitions as to lay down a Heavenly Dao Inscription Array of the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths to seal time and space.

We fought him, but if it hadn't been for the Goddess Jin Yan, the

rest of us would've been destroyed. She used her body to create the Ancestral God Land and seal one of the Sage Emperor's demonic bones. As of now, the rest of us are using our divine intent to cycle through reincarnation. If you can find the others, then perhaps you can break the Sage Emperor's seal on time and space. But whether or not you can achieve that depends on your luck and your fate!"

Nie Li's mind drifted at the new information that Ancestral Master Daozang had imparted upon him. It wasn't until today that he'd found a whisper of the Sage Emperor's true nature.

Chapter 395: Reincarnation

Ancestral Master Daozang's voice drifted. "I am only a remnant of intent left behind inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Like the others, I also have a reincarnation. However, I do not know where my reincarnation is, at this moment."

How would it be easy to find the reincarnations of six people?

If Nie Li couldn't break the Sage Emperor's seal on time and space, then he wouldn't be able to kill the Sage Emperor. Nie Li felt even more pressured.

After all, the Sage Emperor had controlled this space-time for tens of millions of years already. No matter how Nie Li tried to plan things out, destroying the Sage Emperor's law was still a momentous task. However, his chances would increase if he could find those six reincarnations.

After all, those six were supreme experts from ancient times. Even though they were reincarnations, they'd still possess frightening bloodlines.

Nie Li asked, "Is there no other way to challenge the Sage Emperor?"

Ancestral Master Daozang pondered a little, then replied, "There are other methods. If you could find a supreme treasure..."

“Supreme treasure? What supreme treasure?” Nie Li’s heart skipped a beat.

Ancestral Master Daozang reminisced. “Back in the primordial times, when the six of us fought the Sage Emperor, we’d only recently stepped into the Deity rank. However, an absolute expert suddenly descended to this realm. He’d escaped from a huge battle and was grievously injured, on the verge of death. He brought a mysterious book with him, which contained boundless energy and could control time and space.”

Nie Li’s heart shook at Ancestral Master’s words. A book that could control time and space? Was Ancestral Master Daozang talking about the Temporal Demon Spirit Book?

“What happened next?” Nie Li couldn’t help asking.

The Demon Lord also listened attentively, in silence.

“That absolute expert tried to steal our soul essences to treat his wounds. Naturally, we counterattacked. The seven of us fought as one and finally defeated him. However, before he died, he tore the mysterious book to shreds. Some of the pages streaked across the sky and disappeared from our reaches. Only eight remained in our hands, which we divided amongst ourselves.” Ancestral Master Daozang calmly explained.

A book that could streak across the sky. Nie Li was certain that Ancestral Master Daozang was speaking of the Temporal Demon Spirit Book.

However, Nie Li didn't know where the book was, either.

"What became of the remaining eight pages?"

"Three of them are the hands of the Sage Emperor. One is here, inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. As for the remaining four, I do not know. However, the Sage Emperor's ability to seal space-time must be thanks to the pages in his hands. He must have comprehended the power of space-time from them."

Nie Li's heart shook. He had two of the Temporal Demon Spirit Book's pages.

Nie Li pondered briefly, then said, "Ancestral Master Daozang, would you be willing to bestow your page to me?"

The Demon Lord also spoke up. "Lord Master, would you pass it to me?"

Now that the Demon Lord was Ancestral Master Daozang's disciple, he definitely couldn't let such a treasure fall into someone else's hands.

Ancestral Master Daozang said to the Demon Lord, "You've already inherited my legacy. Besides, the remaining page is an extremely dangerous item. Even if you had it, you wouldn't be able to comprehend its power of space-time. It could also implicate with karma easily."

The Demon Lord fell silent. He understood that the words of supreme experts like Ancestral Master Daozang held enormous weight and they would not go back on the words that they have said. Therefore, the Demon Lord could only give up.

Ancestral Master Daozang's intent then turned to Nie Li. "I can give you the page, if you provide sufficient evidence to persuade me. However, the page will only attract trouble for you without giving you benefits. Are you certain you want it?"

Nie Li lightly smiled and said, "I already have two of the other pages..."

The intent seemed to be dazed. He clearly hadn't expected Nie Li to already have two of the other pages.

"In that case, I might as well give you the third. But you must be cautious. Do not let yourself be caught by the Sage Emperor!" As long as Nie Li held the remnant pages, he would be pursued. There would be no difference whether he had two or three.

The Demon Lord looked at Nie Li in astonishment.

A single piece of paper slowly drifted down and landed before Nie Li.

Nie Li reached out, grabbed it, and stored it away.

The Demon Lord didn't get the remnant page, but he didn't mind it too much. As Nie Li received the page, the Demon Lord received a cultivation technique. The details slowly seeped into his mind as Nie Li stored away the piece of paper. It was an extremely powerful technique that surpassed his imagination. If he could successfully cultivate it, he'd definitely be able to surpass the Martial Ancestor Realm within a short amount of time.

"Many thanks, Master!"

The Demon Lord cupped his hands towards the void.

Nie Li clenched his fists until veins popped from his arms. The Demon Lord had inherited Ancestral Master Daozang's legacy. He'd be much harder to deal with in the future.

The Demon Lord sat down and his figure gradually faded away.

Nie Li knew that the Demon Lord had entered the Void Illusionary Divine Palace's secret location to cultivate.

He remained silent. He wasn't happy with how things had played out, but there was nothing he could do. The Demon Lord had obtained Ancestral Master Daozang's legacy. It'd be much harder to avenge Ye Zong, but he definitely wouldn't give up!

Ancestral Master Daozang's intent returned to Nie Li and lightly asked, "Are you curious as to why I accepted him as a disciple?"

“Yes.” Nie Li nodded. Ancestral Master Daozang is someone that possessed vast knowledge. Why would he choose to pass his legacy to the Demon Lord? The Demon Lord never hesitated to achieve power by fair means or foul, and even used the Spiritual Constellation Technique and sacrificed countless lives.

“In the vast Dao of heaven and earth, life and death are nothing more than a brief experience.” Ancestral Master Daozang sighed. “Even a pinnacle expert cannot escape death.”

Nie Li’s brows twitched. “Then from Ancestral Master’s point of view, were those people fated as sacrifices to the Spiritual Constellation Technique?” He definitely wouldn’t agree to that view: that the lives of other people are no more than grass.

“That is correct. Life and death are old news. But there’s no need for us to argue over this!” Ancestral Master Daozang seemed to shake his head and he continued, “I know that you have grand motives. But If you wish to defeat the Sage Emperor, then you must seek my disciple’s help, for he is one of the six reincarnations you are seeking!”

Nie Li’s eyes widened. He never expected the Demon Lord to be one of the six.

Then… Nie Li had to cooperate with the Demon Lord if he wanted to defeat the Sage Emperor?

A chilling ray of light flashed through Nie Li’s eyes. “I definitely won’t work with him! Cooperating with the Demon Lord is

impossible!”

Ancestral Master Daozang sighed. “Your grudge is only personal. The matter of the Sage Emperor concerns all lives between heaven and earth. Can you not put aside your differences for their sake?”

“Absolutely not!” Nie Li replied. “The Demon Lord and the Sage Emperor are the same! They’re both scum who walk over lives like grass!”

Chapter 396: Ganges Crystals

Ancestral Master Daozang sighed and spoke no more.

It was impossible for him to persuade Nie Li. And what Nie Li said did make sense as well.

The problem was, the current situation of the universe couldn't be explained in two or three sentences.

Nie Li stared into the void and firmly announced, "I can break the seal on time and space even without his help!"

Nie Li didn't care whether the Demon Lord had inherited Ancestral Master Daozang's legacy. He'd still kill the Demon Lord and avenge Ye Zong!

Since the Demon Lord was one of the reincarnations, the plan to search for the six reincarnations was no longer possible. Only the Temporal Demon Spirit Book could aid him now. However, Nie Li didn't know where the book was anymore.

Nie Li sighed inwardly. Fortunately, he still had two hundred years to go, so he could take his time to search for it.

Ancestral Master Daozang announced, "I've chosen the one to succeed my legacy and passed the remnant page of the Temporal Demon Spirit Book to you. My mission is complete, and soon my intent will dissipate. You have chosen a dangerous path that I have

no control over, so do your best.

One last thing. There are many treasures hidden here; take them if you wish. But remember that at least tens of millions of people have died here. Even though I control the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, I did not build it. Consider carefully!" As the voice spoke, it drifted away, and finally disappeared.

Nie Li realised that Ancestral Master Daozang had faded away. He fell silent as he tried to digest all the information he'd just received. He knew that the Sage Emperor was powerful, that couldn't deter him.

He wondered about the treasures still concealed in the Void Illusionary Divine Palace.

Nie Li decided that he'd search out those treasures first. Suddenly, a burst of laughter resounded off the walls.

"AHAHAHAHA! That Ancestral Master Daozang has finally kicked the bucket! From now on, I'm in charge!" the voice announced.

Nie Li's brows frowned. Who's that?

Everyone throughout the Void Illusionary Divine Palace could hear that thunderous voice. They raised their heads towards the empty air with puzzled expressions. No one knew what was going on.

The Holy Son of the Divine Flame furrowed his brows for a moment as he stared into space. His underlings had already determined the location of the life gate, and they were currently on their way to it. However, that voice made him hesitate. Could there be a supreme expert concealed in the Void Illusionary Divine Palace?

Yan Yang and his group had just reached the outside of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Aside from his Skyblaze Sect, the others had also arrived, including the Divine Feathers and Heavenly Note Sects.

They still didn't know how to break the massive array inside the main hall.

The voice laughed again. "I forgot to introduce myself. I'm the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Over the past ten million years, I gradually formed my own consciousness. I never showed myself because of that old fart, Ancestral Master Daozang. But now, I've gained my freedom. From now on, everyone inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace has to obey me!"

To think that this Void Illusionary Divine Palace had actually formed its own powerful intent!

The Void Illusion Palace shrieked with mocking laughter as it continued, "I've sealed all the exits. There are a total of twenty-three thousand six hundred and seventy-two people trapped in here! Now, let's play a game. You have two choices. First, die and

go home. Second, I've hidden a lot of Ganges Crystals inside the palace. The six people with the most Ganges Crystals will be allowed to distribute the treasures amongst themselves and leave the palace alive! You have three hours. The game starts... now!"

The Holy Son Li Huo's expression turned stone-cold. He still wasn't sure of what'd just happened.

Even Yan Yang was puzzled.

Nie Li remained silent, as he sensed that something was off. However, the exits had been sealed. If he wanted to obtain the treasures, then he'd have to fight for the Ganges Crystals. Otherwise, he'd have to die to go home.

Outer hall

Everyone was confused about the Ganges Crystals. Where were they supposed to be? Then suddenly, tens of thousands of Ganges Crystals rained down from the sky.

“Those are Ganges Crystals!”

A figure flew forward and pounced on the Ganges Crystals. “I am Venerable Godthunder of the Pentastrike Demon Sect. Those who oppose me will be killed!”

“We can’t let him have the Ganges Crystals!”

The other experts of the divine sects charged towards the rain of crystals.

Venerable Godthunder waved his right hand and aimed a bolt of divine lightning at the expert who was chasing him. “I already told you not to fight me for it!”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several Heavenly Star Realm experts didn’t manage to dodge in time. They were instantly blown to pieces by the lightning.

“He’s a Dao of the Dragon Realm expert!”

Everyone's expressions changed.

Dao of Dragon Realm experts rarely appeared in the outside world. The steps of cultivation are like this. Starting at the Heavenly Fate Realm, your fate souls begin gathering inside your body. Once you reach 9-fate, you can die a total of nine times. Therefore, dying wasn't a big deal. However, once you reached the Dao of Dragon Realm, your nine fates would become one. It be bad if you died again after that.

People usually cherish their lives, especially Dao of Dragon Realm experts. Most of them wouldn't be willing to risk their lives in the outside world, unless they had some secret technique up their sleeve.

But even if they did have a special technique to protect their life, they'd still have to be cautious.

Venerable Godthunder's expression was dead serious. "Hmph, hmph! Those who try to steal my Ganges Crystals will be killed!"

The moment his words landed on their ears, several Heavenly Axis Realm experts snatched up some other Ganges Crystals.

Even if Venerable Godthunder was strong, he wouldn't be able to stop so many people. Godthunder also quickly started snatch at the Ganges Crystals.

The others were afraid of Venerable Godthunder's strength, but they also pursued the Ganges Crystals like madmen.

There were tens of thousands of Ganges Crystals. A few battles cropped up, involving five or six thousand people, but only two or three thousand actually died.

As the scramble dragged on, the Void Illusionary Divine Palace made sure to 'mysteriously' drop massive quantities of Ganges Crystals in places where the crowds were largest. The fights intensified.

One subordinate turned to the Holy Son Li Huo and asked, "Holy Son, what should we do? The people in the outer halls are already fighting for the Ganges Crystals. Should we join them?" However, they'd already gone through great efforts to find the life gate!

The Holy Son Li Huo went silent, then solemnly ordered, "Forget about them. Let them fight amongst themselves. Everyone, follow me into the main hall!"

The Holy Son then turned around and led his men along the path.

As that was happening, Yan Yang and his Skyblaze Sect members were in the middle of a battle. They'd snatched thousands of Ganges Crystals, but had also suffered many losses. Hundreds of deaths occurred in just a brief moment.

Everyone was in a frenzy for the Ganges Crystals.

Chapter 397: You Cannot Take It With You

The massacre intensified as everyone scrambled for the Ganges Crystals.

Yan Yang looked down at the corpses that carpeted the ground. Strands of energy flowed off the bodies and into the earth.

He then looked to the frenzy, where people were slaughtering each other and snatching after the Ganges Crystals. Something wasn't right.

"Everyone, return! Leave the Ganges Crystals. Follow me!" Yan Yang commanded as he flew in a separate direction.

The members of the Skyblaze Sect were confused, as they didn't know why Yan Yang would make such an order. However, they still followed him.

Heart of the Main Hall

Nie Li looked around him, but didn't find any Ganges Crystals in the main hall. He moved through a small door as he headed for the depths of the hall.

At the far end of the hall stood dozens of statues, all covered in inscription patterns.

The corner of Nie Li's mouth twitched into a smile. According to his calculations, one statue among these dozens should be the right one.

These statues could've easily fool anyone but Nie Li. He stood still as he thought things through.

As Nie Li pondered, the towering crystal jade wall suddenly crumbled and a long passage opened before the eyes of everyone who was cultivating.

The crowd was stunned.

No matter how they'd tried, they could never enter the crystal jade wall. So why did it suddenly open all on its own?

"Let's go!"

"Go in and take a look!"

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

One expert after another rushed through the entrance. In their minds, the Void Illusionary Divine Palace must conceal endless treasures.

The life gate also opened and torrents of experts rushed through.

Nie Li walked past one statue after another. He'd already determined that those seven weren't the right ones.

A deep and enraged snort sounded from the depths of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. "Who dares to disturb me? Leave this instant! Otherwise, don't blame me for getting impolite!"

The voice boomed like a thunderclap.

Nie Li looked up into the depths of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. "Who are you?"

The voice responded with a chilling murderous intent. "I am the Void Illusionary Divine Palace! Everything inside is controlled by me. If I wanted to, I could turn every living creature inside here into ashes. You should not be here. Leave now!"

"Oh!" Nie Li nodded. He kept examining these statues.

The voice grew more enraged. “Do you understand words? Get lost! Or else, don’t blame me for getting impolite!”

Nie Li calmly replied, “Well in that case, you don’t have to bother about being impolite. I’m just a Heavenly Fate Realm, after all. It’s not a big deal even if I die.”

Nie Li had totally discarded his cares for life and death!

The voice went silent for a brief moment before it said, “If you’re not afraid of death, why not fight for the Ganges Crystals in the outer hall? That way, you’d get a chance to obtain the treasures concealed within the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!”

“I’m just a lowly Heavenly Fate Realm, while the people outside are at least of the Heavenly Star or Axis Realms. How could I possibly compete with them?” Nie Li took a few steps forward. The eighth statue didn’t look right either.

The voice continued to reason. “Just because you’re a Heavenly Fate Realm doesn’t mean you don’t have a chance. I’ve hidden hundreds of thousands of Ganges Crystals in one of the secret chambers out in the main hall. If you listen to my instructions, I’ll lead you to them. That way, you can easily obtain the Void Illusionary Divine Palace’s treasures!”

“Really?” Nie Li said in astonishment.

“Of course!” the voice responded. “I am only a strand of the Void

Illusionary Divine Palace's intent. I have no use for such treasures. Why would I lie?"

"What kinds of treasures are hidden inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace?" Nie Li approached the ninth statue. It didn't look to be the array's crucial point either.

The voice responded with temptation. "There are tons of treasures in the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. There are tens of millions of gold spiritual stone essences alone. On top of that, there're countless artifacts. Just a small portion of them would rival the great wealth of a single divine sect!"

"But I'm not interested in those!" Nie Li responded, as he continued to study the statues.

"Aside from treasures, there are also many ancient divine artifacts inside the Void Illusionary Divine Palace. Powerful, ancient divine artifacts. All it takes is a drop of blood and a claim of ownership. Then, you could wield them and possess great strength!" the voice continued.

Nie Li shook his head. "Not interested!"

"Then, what are you interested in?!" the voice's tone was solemn and coldly angered.

"I think these statues are rather interesting. You see, I'm actually a travelling minstrel!" Nie Li replied as he studied the inscription

patterns on the statue before him with great interest.

Suddenly, Nie Li's eyes were attracted to one of the statues' legs. It was a stray piece of gold spiritual stone essence.

It was only a single piece, not some shocking wealth. However, it was still better than nothing. Nie Li bent down and picked it up.

The moment he did so, the voice changed to an ear-shattering hysteria.

"Put down that gold spiritual stone essence! It's mine!"

"If you dare to take it away, I'll kill you!"

"Everything in this Void Illusionary Divine Palace belongs to me! It's mine! All mine! No one is allowed to touch them! Whoever touches it will be killed! Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill! I'll kill all of you! No one is allowed to take my treasures away..." The voice wailed, like a demonic note entering Nie Li's ears.

Nie Li was still holding the gold spiritual stone essence in his right hand as he furrowed his brows at the ear-piercing voice. It almost destroyed his eardrums.

It was only a single piece of gold spiritual stone essence. Was there really a need to get so emotional?

Suddenly, an idea came to Nie Li and the corner of his mouth twitched. He went back to studying the statues.

“Did you not hear me? Put it down and beat it! Otherwise, I’ll give you a tragic end!” The voice snarled, like a shrew shouting curses on the street.

Nie Li wasn’t bothered in the least; he was focusing on the statues’ inscription patterns.

One figure after another smoothly flew into the main hall and charged forward without the least sign of hinderance.

“This is already the main hall!”

“Where are the palace’s treasures?”

They searched around hurriedly before they discovered a small door, tightly shut.

“Could it be here?”

Chapter 398: Two Holy Sons

Nie Li didn't know whether the voice really belonged to the Void Illusionary Divine Palace; however, he was certain that it wanted to slaughter everyone by using the Ganges Crystals to turn them on each other.

As for the six people who could gather the most Ganges Crystals being able to split the treasures of the palace — that was clearly a lie!

That voice was so stingy, it couldn't bear to part with even a single piece of gold spiritual stone essence. Forget about all the treasures!

Nie Li was certain that the voice had purposely distracted the experts outside in order to keep them from coming in here.

Soon, Nie Li would find the critical point of this inscription pattern array!

Suddenly, Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi flew in.

Xiao Yu saw Nie Li and said in an anxious voice, "Nie Li, the experts outside have made their way in. What should we do?"

Nie Li furrowed his brows for a moment. Now, it'd be harder for him to solve the inscription pattern array.

“Follow me!” Nie Li barked as he flew into a corner with Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi.

Hundreds of experts charged into the main hall and began searching for treasures. They scuttled back and forth over the inscription pattern array without realising what it really was.

Nie Li’s group of three huddled in the corner and watched them.

Wu Yazi was on full guard.

It should’ve been extremely difficult for someone to break the crystal jade wall and enter this chamber. However, the reality was that large numbers of experts had made their way here. Nie Li was sure that the Void Illusionary Divine Palace had done it on purpose, to keep him away from the inscription pattern array!

“There are Ganges Crystals!”

“So many of them!”

Hundreds of thousands of Ganges Crystals suddenly rained down in the center of the inscription pattern array. Everyone’s eyes turned red with greed as the slaughter resumed.

A chaotic battle broke out.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Energy swept through the room as the fresh blood splattered.

All of them seemed as though they'd gone insane as they fought over the Ganges Crystals.

After all, there were several hundreds of thousands of Ganges Crystals gathered here. If one of them managed to kill the others and collect all the crystals, they'd instantly jump into the top six.

Even Wu Yazi was affected by the eager frenzy. After all, there were so many Ganges Crystals here and he didn't want to miss out on the opportunity.

Nie Li pulled him back. "Don't do it. Let them fight!"

"Why?" Wu Yazi looked at Nie Li, puzzled.

Nie Li transmitted his voice back to Wu Yazi. "Don't you think it's strange? Those experts are all slaughtering each other over these Ganges Crystals!"

Realisation dawned on Wu Yazi and he shivered. He remained next to Nie Li and Xiao Yu, guarding them.

Nie Li had entered the room before them; it's very likely he'd noticed something! As long as Wu Yazi protected Nie Li, there was a high chance that they'd be able to obtain the Void Illusionary

Divine Palace's treasures!

Another five or six hundred experts flooded into the chamber and fueled the battle.

A brief moment later, another group flew in, bringing two or three hundred people. It was the Holy Son Li Huo and his men. The Holy Son swept an eye over the fighting experts and the Ganges Crystals littered on the ground and said, "Kill everyone. Don't let a single one go!"

The experts standing behind Li Huo leapt forward and began killing.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Demon God's Sect members slaughtered hundreds at a time. It was a one-sided massacre.

Five of them pounced towards Wu Yazi.

Wu Yazi brought out a medal and barked, "I'm from the Demon God's Sect!"

The five experts saw the medal and hesitated. Then they turned and charged in the other direction.

The Holy Son Li Huo had provoked the other experts. They

realised that if they continued fighting each other, then they'd all be killed by the Holy Son; therefore, they quickly joined forces to confront the Demon God's Sect.

The Holy Son Li Huo eyed the experts and coldly snorted, "You're overestimating yourselves!"

Nie Li transmitted his voice to Wu Yazi and asked, "Who's that guy?"

Wu Yazi appeared to be in a little lack of confidence and said, "He's the Holy Son Li Huo of the Demon God's Sect, and the one most likely to become the next Sect Master. You and Xiao Yu need to restrain your auras. You definitely can't let yourselves be discovered. If he finds out that I used the Demon Blood Sacrifice on you, then I'm doomed!"

The Holy Son Li Huo?

Nie Li had heard of him in his previous life. The Holy Son Li Huo had indeed become the Sect Master of the Demon God's Sect, and a domineering figure of the future. He was the one who led the Demon God Sect to destroy the Divine Feathers Sect's Soul Hall. That was the beginning of the fall of the Divine Feathers Sect.

Nie Li never expected to encounter him here!

Nie Li restrained his aura. If the Holy Son Li Huo found out that they'd used the Demon Blood Sacrifice, then the three of them

would all be killed!

The Holy Son Li Huo coldly swept his eyes over Wu Yazi's group of three, then looked away. Wu Yazi had a decent standing within the Demon God's Sect and even so, it was below Li Huo's. However, since he's also from the Demon God's Sect, the Holy Son Li Huo wasn't going to do anything to him.

The Holy Son Li Huo's subordinates were simply too powerful; on top of that, they possessed high-graded artifacts. The other experts were slaughtered so thoroughly that not even a fifth of them were left standing. The majority of the Ganges Crystals had fallen into Li Huo's hands.

Li Huo fixed his eyes on the ten statues and furrowed his brows. Corpses littered the ground and fresh blood flowed in rivers; however, the inscription patterns glowed even more brightly through the red.

Nie Li's heart shivered when he saw the Holy Son focusing on the inscription patterns. Could he be calculating the inscription pattern array?

As the Holy Son Li Huo pondered, another two or three hundred people entered the chamber, led by Yan Yang of the Skyblaze Sect!

Yan Yang observed his surroundings, and a chilly light flashed through his eyes when he saw the Holy Son Li Huo. Li Huo would definitely make a difficult opponent. However, there was no fear in Yan Yang's eyes, only blazing with fighting spirit.

One dark and one light. The Holy Son of the Demon God's Sect and the Holy Son of the Skyblaze Sect were gathered in this small back chamber!

Nie Li's heart shivered again at Yan Yang's entrance. He never thought that he'd be here too. It looked like things were about to get lively. The Holy Sons of two major sects. Neither would give way to the other. Nie Li wondered whether they'd have the opportunity to open the inscription pattern array?

Chapter 399: Balance

A freezing chill flashed through the Holy Son Li Huo's eyes as he stared at the Holy Son Yan Yang. "I don't want to cause any trouble today. Yan Yang, I'll let you take your men and leave. Otherwise, you and your men will leave your corpses right here!"

Yan Yang's brows twitched as his fighting spirit rose. "Holy Son Li Huo, I may not be as strong, but disciples of the Skyblaze Sect will never fear! If you choose peace, then we'll let it be. But if you want war, then the disciples of the Skyblaze Sect will gladly accompany you!"

The Holy Son Li Huo coldly snorted. "Hmph! Let's see just how capable your Skyblaze Sect is!"

A majestic aura surged towards Yan Yang.

Yan Yang growled and his body rapidly transformed into a massive Gold Horned Dragon Beast. His entire body was covered in golden scales that reflected a chilling might.

Rage flashed through the Holy Son Li Huo's eyes. "How dare you summon a demon spirit!"

Humans were naturally weaker than demons. To make up for it, then humans had devised a despicable method; they hunted down demon spirits and imprisoned them within their bodies.

Humans and demons have been irreconcilable enemies since time immemorable. Over the years, their wars intensified, as each race wished to thoroughly annihilate the other.

Blazing flames ignited over the Holy Son Li Huo, and his entire body became adorned with scarlet tongues of flame. His eyebrows twitched and a formless energy abruptly emanated from him.

The two Holy Sons suddenly took action at the exact same moment, and their figures turned into two streaks of light.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Rays of light scattered into the sky. It was as if the sky itself was being torn apart.

Wu Yazi sighed to himself. ‘Those two are truly worthy of the titles ‘Holy Son’ of the Skyblaze and Demon Sects. They dance like rays of light and fight with the might of thunder!’ He knew that he was far inferior to them.

The other experts also threw themselves into the fray. However, none of them dared to approach the spot where the two Holy Sons were clashing. A single shock wave from that fight could instantly kill them.

The situation intensified.

Nie Li furrowed his brows. He and Yan Yang have met once.

However, it'd still be too difficult for the Holy Son Yan Yang to defeat Li Huo. On the other hand, the Holy Son Li Huo wasn't going to find it easy to kill Yan Yang, either. They were pinned down by one another, but the battle itself was far too intense. Nie Li was going to have an even harder time opening the inscription patterns array.

Xiao Yu and Wu Yazi couldn't help turning to Nie Li. "What should we do next?"

"What else can we do? We wait, of course!" Nie Li said as he closed his eyes and recuperated. He began to refine his cultivation, pushing towards the Heavenly Star Realm.

Seeing Nie Li's actions, Wu Yazi bitterly smiled. Even in this sort of situation, Nie Li could peacefully cultivate. But not Wu Yazi; he had to be the bodyguard!

As the Holy Sons Yan Yang and Li Huo fought, another group made their way into the chamber, lead by Venerable Godthunder of the Pentastrike Demonic Sect.

Venerable Godthunder swept an eye over the room and said, "Oh? Who would've thought that two Holy Sons, one of the Skyblaze and Demon God's Sects, would be here? How lively!" His tone was rather patronizing, as he was proud of his age; he was ranked above both Yan Yang and Li Huo in terms of seniority.

Yan Yang and Li Huo continued their fight.

The Holy Son Li Huo took advantage of a slight pause in his fight and shouted towards Venerable Godthunder. “Venerable Godthunder, our Demon God’s and Pentastrike Demonic Sects are one under the banner of the Ancestral Demonic Saint Land. If you aid me in defeating the Skyblaze Sect, then these Ganges Crystals will be yours. What do you say?”

Venerable Godthunder sneered. “The Holy Son Li Huo is trying to make a deal with me? I was under the impression that the great Li Huo was a lone wolf who never asked for anyone’s help?”

Yan Yang was slightly anxious at Venerable Godthunder’s presence and faltered. Li Huo took advantage of the opening and sent him flying with a palm strike to the chest.

Yan Yang stomped his foot as his energy and blood surged violently. Li Huo was simply too powerful for him to take down. Not to mention Venerable Godthunder.

Venerable Godthunder appeared indifferent. “I don’t want to get involved in matters between the Skyblaze and Demon God’s Sects. I’m only here for the Void Illusionary Divine Palace’s treasures. I already have sixty thousand Ganges Crystals in my possession. If I obtain another portion, I will be in the top six. You two can do whatever you want.”

The Holy Son Li Huo coldy snorted. He knew exactly what kind of person Venerable Godthunder was: famed for being despicable and vile. Venerable Godthunder claimed that he wasn’t going to interfere, but Li Huo knew that he was only a fisherman waiting for the right moment. He’d wait until Li Huo and Yan Yang had

incapacitated each other, then swoop in and steal the profits. Li Huo glanced at Yan Yang. Even though he'd managed to injure Yan Yang, he didn't follow up.

The Holy son Li Huo gravely told him, "It's too early for you to try and fight me. I'll let you off this time!"

Yan Yang looked at Holy Son Li Huo, then at Venerable Godthunder. He knew that if he made any moves right now, he'd be signing his death warrant. He took his Skyblaze Sect men and flew off to observe the situation from a distance.

Venerable Godthunder furrowed his brows for a brief moment. He never expected the Holy Son Li Huo to do such a thing. No wonder everyone said that the Holy Son Li Huo wasn't easy to deal with and they are indeed true. Venerable Godthunder lightly smiled and said, "The only ones qualified to split the Void Illusionary Divine Palace's treasures are the three of us. Why don't we cooperate to take the remaining Ganges Crystals?"

The corner of Yan Yang's mouth twitched. There was no way that he'd cooperate with the Demon God's or Pentastrike Sects!

The Holy Son Li Huo slowly approached the end of the chamber. "If you guys are interested the Ganges Crystals, then feel free to help yourselves. I have no interest in them!"

Venerable Godthunder furrowed his brows. What was Li Huo planning to do?

Nie Li's eyes widened at the Holy Son Li Huo's actions. Could he have seen through the profound intent of the inscription pattern array?

The Holy Son Li Huo seemed to have sensed something as he glanced back in Nie Li's direction. Those demonic green eyes seemed as though they could suck your soul out. Nie Li immediately looked away calmly. He couldn't afford to let Li Huo find out about the Demon Blood Sacrifice; otherwise, things could get extremely dangerous!

Li Huo also looked away and back towards the statues. He seemed to have figured something out.

Venerable Godthunder originally planned to fight over the Ganges Crystals; however, he lost interest when he noticed that the Holy Son Li Huo and Yan Yang weren't interested. He suddenly sensed that something was off, but he couldn't put his finger on what it was.

Yan Yang stared at the Holy Son Li Huo with blank eyes. He seemed to have vaguely understood something. If Venerable Godthunder wanted the Ganges Crystals, he could help himself to them.

The entire hall reached an uneasy balance. No one moved.

Chapter 400: Broken Array?

Nie Li narrowed his eyes. It looked like the Holy Son Li Huo really had noticed something.

Yan Yang also seemed to have noticed something, too.

Truly, these Holy Sons of major sects weren't ordinary people.

The Holy Son Li Huo wrinkled his brows as he studied the inscription patterns on the statues. However, Li Huo clearly couldn't work as fast as Nie Li. He stayed before the first statue for a long time without moving a step.

Of course the Holy Son Li Huo's knowledge on inscription patterns couldn't match Nie Li's.

Nie Li had spent a large amount of time studying inside the Temporal Demon Spirit Book. The various inscription patterns in that book weren't things that others could match up to.

There was no way the Holy Son Li Huo could break this inscription pattern array in under half a month!

Venerable Godthunder waited impatiently on the sidelines, then leapt forward and resumed fighting over the Ganges Crystals. He didn't know why the Holy Sons Yan Yang and Li Huo had stopped, but he didn't care anymore. Doesn't matter if they are useful, he'd go ahead and take them for himself!

One of Yan Yang's subordinates asked him, "Holy Son, what should we do next? Should we continue waiting?"

Yan Yang looked at Li Huo, who was standing some distance away. After a brief pause, Yan Yang replied, "We'll search other places. For now, there's no need to fight for Ganges Crystals!"

On the other hand, Venerable Godthunder continued fighting for the Ganges Crystals, and massacred without restraint. If Yan Yang and his men joined the fight, there was no way they could avoid a fight with Venerable Godthunder. If that happened, then they'd suffer great casualties.

But there was no reason to wait here, either.

It'd be better to first search the Void Illusionary Divine Palace for other treasures.

Suddenly, a dark voice echoed throughout the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, "Since you've come to my Void Illusionary Divine Palace, then you must follow the rules. Don't blame me for being impolite towards those who break my rules. To those who've barged into the back hall — get out! Only death awaits!"

The Void Illusionary Divine Palace started violently shaking, as if doomsday had arrived.

Nie Li didn't know what the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was

trying to do, but he sensed that it was afraid that someone would break the inscription pattern array. It wanted to stop them at all costs!

Nie Li didn't know exactly what the Void Illusionary Divine Palace was going to, but he sensed an unseen pressure bearing down on him. The Void Illusionary Divine Palace must have activated some powerful array — this bloodlust was just too powerful. If this continued, then everyone standing in the back hall would be killed!

The Holy Son Li Huo, the Holy Son Yan Yang, and Venerable Godthunder all stopped their movements. It looked like the Void Illusionary Divine Palace didn't want them in the back hall; it's very likely that there was something valuable concealed here. But with their personalities, there was no way they'd leave now.

Everyone of the Skyblaze Sect looked at Yan Yang. "Holy Son, what should we do?"

Yan Yang commanded, "Obey my orders. Prepare to retreat at a moment's notice. But for that, we will wait!" His eyes fell onto the Holy Son Li Huo.

The Holy Son Li Huo's expression was unreadable. He sensed that these statues held some sort of secret, but he couldn't solve it in only a short amount of time. But if he stayed here too long, then that frighteningly murderous aura would kill him.

However, he wasn't willing to leave, just like that.

If there really was a great treasure concealed within the Void Illusionary Divine Palace, then he'd make sure that none of it would fall into anyone else's hands.

Nie Li swept his eyes past Li Huo, Yan Yang, and Venerable Godthunder. Their forces perfectly balanced each other. Something flickered in Nie Li's eyes. Maybe he'd take the risk!

Nie Li transmitted his voice over to Wu Yazi. "Could the Holy Son Li Huo see through the Demon Blood Sacrificial on me?"

Wu Yazi glanced back at Nie Li, unsure of what he was planning. "No, not under normal circumstances. If the Demon Blood Sacrifice was that easy to see through, then it wouldn't be called the Demon Blood Sacrifice. Not unless the Holy Son has some sort of special divine artifact!"

"In that case, let's risk it!" Nie Li stepped up.

Li Huo, Yan Yang, and Venerable Godthunder were torn on whether or not they should leave. At that moment, Nie Li spoke up. "I can break the inscription pattern array!"

All eyes gathered on Nie Li.

"A Heavenly Fate Realm claims he can break the inscription patterns array?"

The majority of expressions were doubtful.

After all, even the Holy Son Li Huo hadn't been able to figure it out, even though he'd spent so long pondering over it.

Meanwhile, Yan Yang and Venerable Godthunder studied him.

As Yan Yang looked upon this demonic youth, he was suddenly reminded of a certain event during the exchange between sects. That one absolutely brilliant youth. Sometimes, a person's knowledge and experience had nothing to do with their age or cultivation.

The Holy Son Li Huo looked at Nie Li in silence.

Holy Son Li Huo's gaze fell onto Nie Li as he went silent for a moment.

Then he said, "Do it!" as he stepped aside.

Nie Li looked over the three of them and replied, "I'm certain that the intent of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace doesn't want us to open this inscription pattern array. It's probably prepared a few methods to deal with us. I have one request; please put down your grudges for the time being!"

"No problem!" Venerable Godthunder shrugged. Either way, he was only there for the treasures and didn't care about the people present.

Yan Yang glanced at Li Huo. Although he was on guard, he also understood that there was nothing he could do to the Holy Son Li Huo.

“I don’t have a problem with it, either!” Yan Yang said calmly.

“I won’t fight them. That’s all!” the Holy Son Li Huo indifferently replied.

Nie Li knew that total cooperation was impossible for those three, but he’d already planned ahead. He didn’t know whether they’d start fighting, but at least, they had no reason to fight him. Nie Li wasn’t a threat to them; on the contrary, he might even open the protective mechanisms of the Void Illusionary Divine Palace!

Nie Li quickly studied the array.

Before Li Huo’s party had arrived, Nie Li had already studied the inscription patterns of the first three statues. As they fought, Nie Li had finished studying another five. He’d already figured out where the critical point was!

Now, all he had to do was open the array!

However, it wasn’t a good idea to open the array right in front of those three, that was like asking a tiger for its hide!

Nie Li transmitted his voice to Xiao Yu. “If you get a chance, try to escape. I might die, but I can just revive back in the Soul Hall. I just don’t want to get you caught up in this, too!