

Invincible Conqueror Chapter 156-160

Chapter 156: Zhao Shu and Yu Ming's Arrival

Almost immediately after returning to Tianxuan Mansion from the Guo Mansion, Huang Xiaolong activated the God Binding Ring and entered the ancient battlefield to cultivate.

For the time being, Huang Xiaolong concentrated on practicing his Asura Tactics instead of his battle skills, such as the Asura Sword Skills, Asura Demon Claw, Golden Linglong Body, and God Binding Palm, among others.

For Huang Xiaolong, strengthening his battle qi and breaking into the Xiantian realm was the only goal at the moment.

These battle skills were supplementary!

Moreover, his battle skills' power would not enhance much in one year's time.

As long as he was successful in breaking through to the Xiantian realm with his battle qi, his strength would increase by leaps and bounds.

Other than Asura Tactics, Huang Xiaolong allocated two hours every day to spar with Fei Hou, and if not with Fei Hou then alternatively with Marshal Haotian.

While sparring with these two mighty Xiantian experts, Huang Xiaolong's control and understanding in battle qi deepened.

Another nine days passed.

On this particular morning, Fei Hou and Haotian were beaming as they walked into Huang Xiaolong's yard, reporting: "Sovereign, Master gave word that he and Zhao Shu will arrive in one hour's time!"

"Oh, one more hour!" Huang Xiaolong was happy hearing this and drew in a deep breath, "Let's go to the Royal City gates!"

Huang Xiaolong might be the Asura's Gate Sovereign, but Zhao Shu was a Saint realm expert. With Zhao Shu arriving, it was common sense to Huang Xiaolong that he should go receive him at the city gates.

"Yes, Sovereign!" Fei Hou and Haotian answered. Neither one felt it was weird that Huang Xiaolong wanted to go and receive Zhao Shu at the city gates.

Even someone as exalted as the Duanren Emperor must show courtesy when meeting a Saint realm expert, moreover, Zhao Shu wasn't some ordinary early Saint realm expert.

Therefore, Huang Xiaolong stepped out of Tianxuan Mansion together with Fei Hou and Haotian and headed towards the city gates, waiting for Yu Ming and Zhao Shu's arrival.

Thinking they would soon be able to meet a Saint realm expert, both Fei Hou and Haotian were excited and their palms began to sweat from nervousness. As a Xiantian realm expert, both enjoyed immense respect and high-class treatment in the kingdom, especially Haotian, but before a Saint realm expert, crudely speaking, they were nothing. If this was the past, they wouldn't even have the qualifications to meet a Saint realm expert.

Not long after the three of them arrived at the city gates, two silhouettes appeared from the mountainous path in the distance.

Watching as these two silhouettes grew closer, three pairs of eyes lit up when they noticed Yu Ming!

Yu Ming was seen riding slightly behind a burly, robust man that appeared to be somewhere around his fifties. Both of them were riding on beast mounts that looked similar to a rhinoceros, but the difference was that these beast mounts had no tails. Instead, there was a sphere with a lustrous glow that resembled flames.

The distance between them and the city gates was still quite far, yet Huang Xiaolong, Fei Hou, and Haotian already felt the terrifying pressure emanating from that middle-aged man.

Huang Xiaolong knew this middle-aged man had to be the Asura's Gate Left Custodian, Zhao Shu!

The beast mounts Yu Ming and Zhao Shu were riding moved seemingly slow, but in fact were extremely fast. In just a few breaths, Yu Ming and Zhao Shu were within a several hundred meter range of Huang Xiaolong's position.

Upon closer inspection, Huang Xiaolong noticed that Zhao Shu's eyes were round and large, akin to an Iron Eagle's: sharp, cold, and unfathomable.

While Huang Xiaolong was observing Zhao Shu, Zhao Shu was doing the same to Huang Xiaolong. From the details of Yu Ming's report to him, he already guessed this tall youth of no more than twenty should be Old Sovereign's personal disciple, the one with the Asura Ring—Huang Xiaolong.

The three people waiting walked up to the approaching two.

Yu Ming and Zhao Shu dismounted from their beasts.

"Asura's Gate Elder, Yu Ming greets Sovereign!" Yu Ming said respectfully as he dropped before Huang Xiaolong, saluting on bended knee and in proper form.

On the other hand, Zhao Shu approached and bowed respectfully, and said to Huang Xiaolong "Asura's Gate Left Custodian Zhao Shu, greets Sovereign!"

In Asura's Gate, Saint realm experts only needed to bow in greeting to the Sovereign.

"Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Elder Yu Ming, please rise!" Huang Xiaolong swiftly moved forward to excuse them from such salutes.

At this time, Fei Hou and Haotian also came forward speedily, saying their greetings with great respect to Zhao Shu, "Asura's Gate disciple Fei Hou (Haotian) greets Left Custodian Zhao Shu!"

Zhao Shu nodded and let them rise.

Then, Fei Hou and Haotian turned towards their Master, bowing respectfully: "Master!"

Yu Ming nodded.

Without much of an exchange of words, everyone turned and headed in Tianxuan Mansion's direction.

On the way, Zhao Shu said to Yu Ming, "These two disciples of yours are not bad." Zhao Shu could easily see that both Fei Hou and Haotian's physiques and other aspects were much stronger than other warriors at the same level.

Yu Ming quickly replied respectfully, "Left Custodian Zhao Shu praises them too highly!"

The truth was, even Yu Ming himself was startled at the changes he saw in Fei Hou and Haotian.

However, after hearing Zhao Shu's words of praise, Fei Hou and Haotian were actually apprehensive rather than overjoyed.

At this point, Haotian admitted honestly, "Left Custodian, the truth is, we could achieve this level of cultivation all thanks to Sovereign's generosity."

"Oh?" This revelation was unexpected for Zhao Shu and Yu Ming.

Huang Xiaolong smiled, "I didn't do much except pass the both of them a set of cultivation techniques. Their achievements are the results of their own hard work."

Huang Xiaolong's words may have seemed modest, but at the same time, it indirectly confirmed what Haotian had just said.

This raised a strong curiosity in Zhao Shu and Yu Ming towards the cultivation techniques Huang Xiaolong passed to Fei Hou and Haotian.

A short while later, the group of people reached Tianxuan Mansion.

Back in Tianxuan Mansion, on the way to the main hall, the group of five ran into Huang Peng and Su Yan, and Huang Xiaolong solemnly introduced Zhao Shu and Yu Ming's identities to his parents.

Especially so when he was introducing Zhao Shu to them.

Though it was not the first time Yu Ming came to Tianxuan Mansion, Huang Peng and Su Yan had never met him prior to this. Hearing Huang Xiaolong state Yu Ming was Fei Hou and Haotian's Master, both were astonished.

Even though Huang Xiaolong did not clearly say Zhao Shu's identity when he introduced them to his parents, Huang Peng and Su Yan were awed when detecting the seriousness from their son's voice.

Their first reaction was to greet, "Senior Zhao Shu, Senior Yu Ming!"

Huang Peng and Su Yan were Huang Xiaolong's parents, Zhao Shu and Yu Ming dared not display any superior attitude and greeted Huang Peng and Su Yan in return.

Knowing their son had matters to discuss, they left the main hall to avoid disturbing them.

After Huang Peng and Su Yan left the hall, Huang Xiaolong inquired about what happened to Yu Ming in the last few years. If Yu Ming was not delayed, he would've returned to Luo Tong Kingdom six years ago.

Yu Ming quickly reported the events that happened to him these past years.

When Yu Ming left Snow Wind Continent, he needed to cross a place called Death Sea Gorge to return to Star Cloud Continent. While passing through Death Sea Gorge, he encountered a terrifying whirlpool, sucking him into another unknown space within Death Sea Gorge and became trapped inside of it for six years!

Six years later, a spatial crack formed which provided an opportunity for Yu Ming to escape.

Huang Xiaolong was flabbergasted hearing this.

Yu Ming was delayed for six years because of this?

A wry smile escaped Huang Xiaolong's face; he wasn't sure if he should say Yu Ming was lucky or unlucky. At that time, he thought Chen Tianqi found out about him and that Yu Ming was then locked up by him.

Fei Hou and Haotian were also dumbfounded hearing their Master's experience.

Understanding Yu Ming's reason for the delay, Huang Xiaolong changed the topic, "Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Elder Yu Ming, have you ever heard of a Heavenly Treasure called God Binding Ring?"

"God Binding Ring!" Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were shocked at the sudden mention.

Chapter 157: The God Binding Ring's Previous Master

Watching the strong reaction coming from Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, Huang Xiaolong was sure they had heard about the God Binding Ring.

And sure enough, Zhao Shu spoke up, "Sovereign, the God Binding Ring is one of the top ten Heavenly Treasures and is placed at number six."

"Number six!" Huang Xiaolong's eye slit up and was delighted within.

Prior to this, he had guessed the God Binding Ring was higher than the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, but he did not expect it would be number six on the Heavenly Treasures List.

There was a vast chasm separating the strengths and power provided by each Heavenly Treasure on the list. The higher the rank, the larger the gap, which in turn meant that it would increase the owner's power exponentially the higher ranked the treasure was.

And the God Binding Ring was actually three ranks higher than the Linglong Treasure Pagoda!

"Left Custodian Zhao Shu is right." Yu Ming took over the explanation at this point, "Sovereign, the Heavenly Treasure, God Binding Ring, once appeared in Martial Spirit World somewhere around three thousand years ago, triggering a period of terror. At that time, the master of the God Binding Ring was someone named Lin Shengjie. He was the Lord of an evil sect, favoring slaughter and massacre by nature, which invoked the wrath of numerous forces of Martial Spirit World who decided to join hands and besiege Lin Shengjie. Although Lin Shengjie was very powerful, under the continuous attacks of so many forces, he was still killed in the end. Even the evil sect that he built was annihilated overnight!"

"Lord of an evil sect, Lin Shengjie?!" Huang Xiaolong was taken aback. The previous master of the God Binding Ring being the Lord of an evil sect truly came as a surprise to him.

"Yes." Zhao Shu said, "At that time, Lin Shengjie was at the peak of the Ninth Order Saint realm with one foot into the God Realm. The number of Xiantian and Saint realm experts under him at that time were innumerable. In that joint attack of Martial Spirits there were many forces. Although they successfully killed him, they also lost half of their experts in that battle!"

"A peak Ninth Order Saint realm master!"

"Half of their experts!"

Huang Xiaolong's understanding was once again jarred.

And there was that realm—God Realm!

Above the Saint realm was God Realm?!

This was his first time hearing about this. So, the realm above the Saint realm was called the God Realm!

Zhao Shu continued, "The battle that year was truly full of blood flowing like a river." Then, Zhao Shu suddenly smiled at Huang Xiaolong at this time, saying "That year, Lin Shengjie died under the Old Sovereign's hand."

"Master?" This piece of information was outside the bounds of Huang Xiaolong's expectation.

Zhao Shu nodded, "Old Sovereign was a peak late-Eighth Order Saint realm master at that time and joined in the siege on Lin Shengjie." As he was saying this, Zhao Shu's tone suddenly mellowed down as if remembering something, "Lin Shengjie died on the Snowless Mountain if I'm not mistaken."

Huang Xiaolong looked at Zhao Shu.

“At that time, Duanren Empire had yet to come into existence, but now, that Snowless Mountains is located within Duanren Empire’s territory. However, it has been more than three thousand years, and the exact location of the Snowless Mountains would be hard to determine.” Zhao Shu went on, “After Lin Shengjie died that year, the God Binding Ring became a masterless item, and many forces coveted it. Man and resources were spent in search of it, yet until today there was no news about anyone finding it.”

Huang Xiaolong’s emotions were surging.

Snowless Mountains... Could that be the mountain range that surrounds the Enlightenment Lake of Yuwai Kingdom?

It must be!

Otherwise, it would be exceedingly difficult to explain how the God Binding Ring had appeared at the Enlightenment Lake.

Another issue that caught Huang Xiaolong’s attention was his Master, Ren Wokuang. Three thousand years ago, his Master was a peak late-Eighth Order Saint realm master. Then, before Master disappeared, which was around sixty years ago, how high had his strength reached?

Could Master have reached the God Realm?!

If indeed he advanced into God Realm, then how did he die?

Someone killed him?

Who could possibly have the power to do so?

Wait! There is a possibility that Master did not die! Suddenly, this thought flashed across Huang Xiaolong’s mind. All this time, he had presumed his Master Ren Wokuang was dead, what if it wasn’t so? He just went somewhere? Just like the people from Asura’s Gate had been saying all along, he was just missing.

“Sovereign, why did you suddenly ask about the God Binding Ring?” At this time, Yu Ming suddenly asked.

Everyone in the hall turned to look at Huang Xiaolong.

“To be honest, I have the God Binding Ring!” Facing everyone’s puzzled expression, Huang Xiaolong spoke frankly. Since he asked Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, he did not plan to conceal the matter from them.

With regards to the matter about him acquiring and refining the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, he was one hundred percent certain that Yu Ming mentioned it to Zhao Shu. Since Zhao Shu knew he had the number nine Linglong Treasure Pagoda, adding one more treasure to the list wouldn’t make much of a difference.

“What?!” The four people were shocked and they all immediately shot up from their seats, which of course included Fei Hou and Haotian. Both of them were in the dark and had no idea that Huang Xiaolong also successfully acquired and refined the God Binding Ring.

Before the four pairs of shocked eyes, Huang Xiaolong summoned the God Binding Ring.

Watching the golden ring that exuded an aureate glow hovering silently above Huang Xiaolong, all eyes fell on the God Binding Ring that was floating in the air.

It was as if there was an inexplicable allure coming from the aureate glow, captivating their minds.

Zhao Shu was hit with waves of emotions. A year before, when Yu Ming returned to the headquarters and reported to him regarding Huang Xiaolong, describing in detail about Huang Xiaolong’s superb talent twin martial spirits and the fact that he refined the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, both he and Zhang Fu were astounded. Now, he was seeing it with his own eyes: another Heavenly Treasure, the number six God Binding Ring was owned by Huang Xiaolong!

The excitement in Zhao Shu’s heart was hard to contain.

The two Heavenly Treasures on the list, number nine and number six were refined by Huang Xiaolong. On top of that, Huang Xiaolong had superb talent twin martial spirits, so his achievements in the future were hard to imagine!

“Sovereign invincible throughout!” After a long time, Zhao Shu repressed his excitement and suddenly knelt down in salute towards Huang Xiaolong.

“Sovereign invincible throughout!” Yu Ming, Fei Hou, and Haotian reacted, and followed suit, kneeling down in salute towards Huang Xiaolong, lauding the long unheard phrase.

Invincible throughout!

Huang Xiaolong looked helplessly at the four people that suddenly knelt down in salute.

“The four of you, stand up.” Huang Xiaolong could only tell them to stand after the fact.

“Thanks to Sovereign!” Zhao Shu was the first one to rise, followed by Yu Ming, Fei Hou, and Haotian.

After that, Huang Xiaolong asked Zhao Shu and Yu Ming what they knew about the God Binding Ring, as well as matters related to Asura’s Gate.

Zhao Shu and Yu Ming hid nothing and spoke everything they knew about what was asked.

Gaining an understanding of the information regarding the God Binding Ring and Asura’s Gate, Huang Xiaolong said to Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, “Ten days later, we’re setting off to Duanren Empire.”

“Sovereign wants to go to the Imperial City?” Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were surprised.

At this point, Haotian interjected, “Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Master, Sovereign won the Cosmic Star Academy overall championship, so he will be heading to Duanren Empire to participate in the Imperial City Battle!”

“Participating in the Imperial City Battle?!” Both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Imperial City Battle of the Duanren Empire, both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming had heard a little about it. In the Star Cloud Continent where they came from, the empires also held something like a battle or competition amongst its geniuses.

But, wasn’t Sovereign only seventeen this year? At seventeen, he could snatch the Academy champion title and represent the Academy in the Imperial City Battle of Duanren Empire?

“Sovereign, you already broke into the Tenth Order?” Yu Ming ventured cautiously.

In Yu Ming’s opinion, for Huang Xiaolong to be the Academy overall champion, he must at least be a Tenth Order warrior.

How old was Huang Xiaolong at the moment? This young man was practically still a boy, which made it hard for Yu Ming to believe. Even Zhao Shu was looking at Huang Xiaolong suspiciously.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, “Two months ago, I advanced to peak late-Tenth Order, now, just half a step more and I will be able to break through into the Xiantian realm.”

Two months ago, peak late-Tenth Order!

Only half a foot and he could break through into the Xiantian realm!

Zhao Shu and Yu Ming’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets before a sharp intake of air could be heard coming from them. A seventeen-year-old peak late-Tenth Order warrior? No, wait! Two months ago, that means, Sovereign was still sixteen, right?!

Chapter 158: Journeying to Duanren Empire

Hearing in person that Huang Xiaolong was half a step from breaking into the Xiantian realm, both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were greatly shocked in their hearts. But then again, Huang Xiaolong did not mention that his internal force had already reached a level comparable to a Xiantian realm expert’s strength. Perhaps if Zhao Shu and Yu Ming knew that the Xiantian Second Order Haotian was no longer an opponent for Huang Xiaolong and exceeded Fei Hou in strength, they would be dumbstruck like wooden chickens!

With all of that said and done, it was decided that Zhao Shu and Yu Ming would stay in Tianxuan Mansion.

Ten days later, both will be accompanying Huang Xiaolong to Duanren Empire.

During these ten days, Huang Xiaolong tasked Fei Hou with a lot of things in preparation for this journey to Duanren Empire; he wasn't sure when he would be able to return to Luo Tong Kingdom. Therefore, there were many things to prepare.

The Nine Tripod Commerce's direction and management, his parents and younger siblings' future... these things all required advanced preparation from Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong planned to settle in Duanren Empire's Imperial City in the future, and for that, the Nine Tripod Commerce's headquarters needed to be relocated as well.

After Huang Xiaolong established himself in the Duanren Empire, his plan was to bring the Huang Family over.

Ten days quickly passed.

Most of his time was spent going over the plans with Fei Hou about the preparations, as well as practicing Asura Tactics.

At the moment, there were roughly ten thousand Stage Ten beast cores inside the Asura Ring, enough to nurture Huang Xiaolong's cultivation for the next ten years.

Ten thousand Stage Ten beast cores might sound like a huge amount, but for the current financial power of Nine Tripod Commerce, this much was nothing.

The current Huang Xiaolong need not hunt for beast cores himself for cultivation.

With his crazed practicing regimen, Huang Xiaolong's battle qi enhanced on a minuscule level in these ten days.

Today was beautiful and sunny with an occasional breeze blowing.

Outside the big city gates of Luo Tong Royal City stood a group of people.

Other than the members of Huang Family, Luo Tong King's Lu Zhe and his son, Prince Lu Kai, as well as Cosmic Star Academy's Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were all present to send Huang Xiaolong off.

On this journey heading to Duanren Empire's Imperial City, Huang Xiaolong did not bring many people with him. Other than Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, there was only Fei Hou.

The four stood close to one another in a row.

Haotian was Luo Tong Kingdom's only Marshal, bearing high status and responsibility. Hence, Marshal Haotian could not journey to Duanren Empire with Huang Xiaolong. Moreover, the Luo Tong Kingdom and Tianxuan Mansion's security needed him here.

Luo Tong's King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the rest didn't recognize Zhao Shu and Yu Ming standing beside Huang Xiaolong. But Sun Zhang had seen Yu Ming before, so when he saw Yu Ming this time, Sun Zhang was surprised and he hurried forward, greeting Yu Ming respectfully: "Senior Yu Ming!"

Hearing Sun Zhang cry out the ‘senior’ towards the unassuming middle-aged man standing behind Huang Xiaolong, King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the others were astounded.

Sun Zhang briefly explained Yu Ming’s identity to King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the rest. When they heard that Yu Ming was Marshal Haotian and Fei Hou’s Master, all had the same shocked expression and hastened to greet Yu Ming. All of them were aware that Marshal Haotian’s Master was someone infinitely close to the terrifying existence of the Saint realm!

Yet, when all realized Yu Ming referred to Huang Xiaolong as ‘Young Lord’, drops of sweat bubbled out from their foreheads, including Sun Zhang’s.

There was another thing these people noticed—Yu Ming’s respectful demeanor towards the other just as unassuming middle-aged man, Zhao Shu.

Marshal Haotian and Fei Hou were uneasy in front of this man, like naughty children being found guilty, fidgety.

But, this Zhao Shu also called Huang Xiaolong, Young Lord.

A short while later, Huang Xiaolong, Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, and Fei Hou moved further away on their beast mounts. Even after a long time, King Lu Zhe, Sun Zhang, Xiong Chu, and the rest were still standing in the same spot watching Huang Xiaolong’s silhouette in a daze.

King Lu Zhe may have acted this way, but the impact Lu Kai felt was greater. Lu Kai stood dazedly, his mind remained as vacant as a blank sheet of paper.

Seeing neither King Lu Zhe nor anyone else making a move after what seemed like half a day, Huang Peng cautiously spoke, “Your Highness, shall we return?”

Only then did King Lu Zhe, Sun Zhang, and the others wake from their daze.

King Lu Zhe was startled at the sudden sound, and quickly covered it up, “Right, right, Brother Huang Peng, let us return.”

Brother Huang Peng?

Huang Peng was also startled... but it was due to the reference. The Luo Tong Kingdom’s King actually called him brother? Did he hear correctly? If this was the Huang Clan Manor in the past, Huang Peng would not even dare to dream about this, not even if it was just letting it out as a fart.

“Your Highness, I dare not. Your Highness, after you!” Huang Peng hastened to reply.

Huang Peng knew King Lu Zhe calling him brother was due to his son, Huang Xiaolong, but Huang Peng dared not assume to be brothers with the King of Luo Tong Kingdom.

Although Huang Peng courteously made way for King Lu Zhe, the King himself insisted on walking parallelly with Huang Peng, warmly holding Huang Peng’s arm as they made their way into the city.

Watching King Lu Zhe holding Huang Peng's arm, neither Sun Zhang nor Xiong Chu felt it was ludicrous or funny. Instead, they were envious. And the target of their envy was not Huang Peng, but King Lu Zhe himself!

Returning to the Royal City, King Lu Zhe did not rush back to the palace, but rather decided to pay a visit to Tianxuan Mansion. In Tianxuan Mansion, King Lu Zhe chatted enthusiastically with Huang Peng for several hours before making his way back to the palace.

Personally seeing King Lu Zhe off from Tianxuan Mansion, Huang Peng felt like he was dreaming while he watched the disappearing back of the kingdom's ruler.

This person that treated him so warmly and full of enthusiasm while holding his arm caused goosebumps to rise on Huang Peng's skin. Was that really the same Luo Tong Kingdom's King Lu Zhe?

Though it was true, Huang Peng still had trouble believing it.

After returning to the palace, King Lu Zhe summoned Marshal Haotian.

Marshal Haotian entered the palace, and after discussing some matters related to the kingdom's borders and army, King Lu Zhe paused with hesitation, "Marshal, can this King ask you something regarding one matter?"

"Your Highness, please ask." Marshal Haotian said. He didn't know what King Lu Zhe wanted to ask, but he could more or less guess what it was about.

Just as Marshal Haotian expected, King Lu Zhe asked, "That... what is that Zhao Shu's identity?" King Lu Zhe was even a little nervous waiting for Marshal Haotian's answer.

"This one doesn't dare reveal Senior Zhao Shu's identity. But, I can say that Senior Zhao Shu's strength is much stronger than my Master's."

Much stronger?!

Lu Zhe was dumbstruck.

Haotian's Master, Yu Ming, was an existence infinitely close to the Saint realm. Someone much stronger than Yu Ming... didn't that mean that Zhao Shu was...? King Lu Zhe's face paled slightly. Thinking of the possibility, he shivered and broke out in a cold sweat, nearly falling off of his dragon throne. King Lu Zhe felt his heart beating madly.

Zhao Shu was actually a-?! He halted his own train of thought.

What about Huang Xiaolong then? What is Huang Xiaolong's true identity?! Even someone like Zhao Shu called him Young Lord!

Cold sweat dampened Lu Zhe's back. At that same time, he was immensely happy that he treated Huang Peng 'warmly', becoming 'brothers' with him. If he offended Huang Peng somehow, causing Huang

Xiaolong's ire, just a simple fart from that Zhao Shu was enough to annihilate the entire Luo Tong Kingdom.

“Carry out this order: confer the rank of Grand Duke to Huang Peng, it will be a hereditary title.” Lu Zhe recovered his senses, and quickly ordered the eunuch next to him: “Also, make Su Yan a First-rank Lady! [1]”

The eunuch was shocked, “Your Highness, this doesn't seem right, does it?”

In the entire Luo Tong Kingdom, there were only three Grand Dukes, and all of them were conferred during the founding of the kingdom.

Now, conferring Huang Peng with the title of Grand Duke for no rhyme or reason would cause the entire hierarchy of civil and military ministers to raise strong opposition.

But, just as the eunuch spoke, Lu Zhe's palm slapped across the eunuch's face, sending him flying.

“Are you the King, or am I the King?” Lu Zhe spat the words coldly.

Chapter 159: Passing Through Southern Cliffs City

Being struck so suddenly, the eunuch's face turned deathly pale and he quickly kowtowed again and again, begging for mercy, “This servant be damned, this servant be damned!”

Not long after that, the news of King Lu Zhe conferring Huang Peng with the title of Grand Duke spread throughout the Royal City, and the entire city boiled into commotion.

“Huang Peng? Huang Xiaolong's father? Even if Huang Xiaolong represented our Luo Tong Kingdom and won first place in Duanren Empire's Imperial City Battle, King Lu Zhe can't just confer such a high noble title as Grand Duke to Huang Peng, right?!”

“That's right. Moreover, that Huang Xiaolong has yet to win first place! Huang Xiaolong hasn't even broken through to the Xiantian realm, who's to say he will even stay alive until the end in the competition!”

“Did King Lu Zhe lose his marbles after being kicked in the head by a donkey?”

From the top of the social ladder to the very bottom, frenzied discussions took place between all of the large and small scale forces.

Even the commoners residing within the Royal City walls felt their King had gone crazy.

In the palace's main hall.

Both civil and military ministers filled the huge hall.

Marshal Haotian stood at the leading position on the military side, and standing at the same position opposite Marshal Haotian was a tall, robust old man with a full head of white hair who appeared to be in his eighties. This eighty-something year old fellow was the leader of the civilian faction, Prime Minister Wu Feng.

“Your Highness, conferring Huang Peng with the title of a Grand Duke is highly inappropriate.”

Highly inappropriate!

Perhaps amongst the many numerous ministers of the kingdom, only Prime Minister Wu Feng and Marshal Haotian would dare to speak in such manner with King Lu Zhe.

“That’s correct, Your Highness. Since the founding of our kingdom, only three people had the honor of being conferred with the title of a Grand Duke and each one of them performed great meritorious deeds towards the founding of the kingdom!” A civil minister stood out and said.

Following his example, more and more ministers spoke, which eventually led to most of them voicing their objections.

“Enough!” Just as another minister objected, Lu Zhe, who had been quiet the entire time suddenly stood up from his throne. One finger pointed at Wu Feng and the ministers behind him, snapping loudly in frustration, “All of you are blabbing dogfarts! Dogfarts in every word! I-am-Luo-Tong-Kingdom’s King, I get to say who gets conferred as Luo Tong Kingdom’s Grand Duke!”

All the ministers were struck speechless.

The palace’s main hall seemed crushed by a thick silence.

Dogfart?!

The perpetually dignified and calm King Lu Zhe actually behaved like a commoner thug on the streets, cursing at them and calling their words dogfarts?

While the Luo Tong Kingdom’s King was arguing about Huang Peng’s Grand Duke title, Huang Xiaolong’s small group of four had cut through Big Dawn County and arrived at one of Luo Tong Kingdom’s borders.

On the way, Huang Xiaolong also received news that Lu Zhe wanted to confer his father, Huang Peng, with the title of a Grand Duke, but he couldn’t be bothered with it. For him, whether his father had the title of Luo Tong Kingdom’s Grand Duke or not was moot.

When he settled down in Duanren Empire, he planned to move the Huang Family over to the Imperial City.

Half a month later, they arrived at Luo Tong Kingdom’s most southern border, Southern Cliffs City.

Arriving in Southern Cliffs City, Huang Xiaolong suddenly thought about the scene of the last Castellan of Southern Cliffs City, Wei Yang, and his concubine’s death. After Wei Yang died, the new Castellan who replaced him was named Sun Qing.

Before being promoted to this post, Sun Qing was a general guarding one of the kingdom's borders. A subordinate of Marshal Haotian's subordinate's subordinate.

By the time Huang Xiaolong's group entered Southern Cliffs City, it was already late. Thus, Huang Xiaolong decided to stay in the city for one night and continue his journey the next day.

Huang Xiaolong did not bother Sun Qing with his stay in Southern Cliffs City.

The four of them simply chose a passable inn close to the Castellan Manor called Warm Fragrance and rented four rooms for the night.

The night gradually deepened.

The surrounding was quiet with most of the people asleep.

Clear moonlight shone down like rippling water.

Huang Xiaolong was meditating in his room when suddenly, a light footstep sounded from the rooftop.

Huang Xiaolong was alerted and stepped out of his room. Searching for the source of the disturbance, he detected two black-clothed men with masked faces jumping over rooftops. And with agile leaps over the walls, the two black shadows snuck into the Castellan's Manor.

When Huang Xiaolong came out of his room, Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, and Fei Hou also came out from their rooms.

"Sovereign, do we...?" Zhao Shu took a step forward and asked.

Huang Xiaolong's voice sounded solemn, "First wait and see what's going on."

At this point, the two black-clothed men that snuck into the Castellan Manor came to a stop at a certain courtyard building. Standing there, one of the men quickly removed something from the clothing overlapping his chest that looked like a tube. Positioning the tube, the man blew into it. After some time, the other man jumped into the room and exited while carrying a sack over his shoulder.

Cautiously giving the surrounding a glance, the two men bypassed the Castellan Manor's patrolling guards and leaped over the walls, carrying the sack away from the manor.

Huang Xiaolong and the rest saw the two men's actions clearly. Judging from their actions, these two men rendered the person in that room unconscious using some drug and abducted them.

"Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, the two of you wait here; Fei Hou and I are going to have a look." Huang Xiaolong said.

"But!" Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were reluctant.

"Don't worry, it's just a few small shrimps, they won't be any problem." Huang Xiaolong reassured them.

“Yes, Sovereign!” Both of them relented.

Thus, Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou leaped out, following the two men quietly from behind.

Originally, Huang Xiaolong had no interest in meddling in these affairs.

However, since these people dared to trespass into the Castellan Manor to abduct a victim, Huang Xiaolong’s curiosity was piqued, wanting to see what these people were up to.

Huang Xiaolong vaguely guessed that this event wasn’t as simple as it seemed on the surface.

Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou followed the two black-clothed men the entire time, and an hour later, the two men entered an abandoned, dilapidated courtyard on the northern side of Southern Cliffs City.

Inside the courtyard, six people stood waiting. Seeing these people, Huang Xiaolong immediately took notice of their sect uniform: it belonged to Big Sword Sect.

Big Sword Sect!

“Senior Brother Wei!” At this time, the two black-clothed men called out towards one of the young men, putting the sack down on the ground.

That young man asked, “Where is the person, did you bring them?” His eyes swept over the sack on the ground as he said this.

“Senior Brother Wei, don’t worry, Sun Qing’s daughter is right inside here.” One of the black-clothed men grinned and pointed at the sack, “She will probably wake up in an hour’s time.”

Hearing this, the young man laughed, “Not bad.” He walked towards the sack and untied the knot, revealing the pretty face of a seventeen to eighteen year old girl.

“After my father was killed, I didn’t expect they would give Sun Qing, that old fellow, the chance to seize the Castellan’s position. Since he doesn’t know what’s good for him, refusing to cooperate with our Big Sword Sect... Sun Qing, your youngest daughter is quite the beauty! Tonight, I will enjoy myself, and have a taste of your daughter.” That young man laughed wretchedly, “If you refuse again, then next will be your eldest daughter!”

The other disciples were looking enviously at that young man.

Huang Xiaolong was surprised as he observed this young man some distance away. He was the son of the previous Southern Cliffs City Castellan that he killed? The son that joined Big Sword Sect, Wei Xiaodong?

On the other side, Wei Xiaodong turned towards the several Big Sword Sect disciples with him saying, “All of you leave, keep an eye out.” Evidently, he was anxious to ‘deal’ with Sun Qing’s daughter in this dilapidated courtyard.

“Yes, Senior Brother Wei!” The disciples answered.

Just as their voices ended, another voice sounded suddenly. It came about too suddenly, and Wei Xiaodong’s body shuddered from being startled. Turning around, he saw a young man around seventeen to eighteen walking in their direction with a middle-aged man behind him.

Wei Xiaodong stood up quickly, and his eyes glared furiously at the two black-clothed men, “Can’t you do something right for once!” The two ‘guests’ surely tailed these two.

The two black-clothed men cast down their heads, not daring to utter any sounds.

Chapter 160: Heavily Surrounded from all Directions

Wei Xiaodong observed Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou for a moment before walking up to them with several Big Sword Sect disciples behind him.

“Who are you?” Wei Xiaodong asked as he looked directly at Huang Xiaolong.

As he asked this, his eyes signaled the two men in black, and they proceeded to secure the sack and hid it from view behind them.

Huang Xiaolong noticed the two black-clothed men’s actions, but he did not mind it. Looking at Wei Xiaodong, he said, “The person who wants your life!”

The person who wants your life!

Wei Xiaodong’s heart tightened; on the surface, however, he chuckled, “I think you’re joking, right? We’re Big Sword Sect’s disciples.”

“Look at me, do I look like I’m joking with you?” Huang Xiaolong shrugged nonchalantly, “Big Sword Sect disciples are exactly the ones I want to kill.”

While Huang Xiaolong was talking, Wei Xiaodong’s hands suddenly waved out towards him, countless cold darts whistled through the air, shooting at Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou. These cold darts shone with an eerie green color underneath the moonlight. Clearly, these cold darts were coated with toxic poison.

Watching this, Huang Xiaolong sneered, and both he and Fei Hou raised a palm at the same time. With a slight push forward, a gust of violent wind deflected the cold darts, slamming them down to the ground.

Seeing this result, Wei Xiaodong paled slightly. Without a word to the several Big Sword Sect disciples, he turned around and fled.

Without missing a beat, Huang Xiaolong’s body blurred into motion and appeared right in front of Wei Xiaodong. Wei Xiaodong formed a fist and punched out, but Huang Xiaolong raised a hand and firmly grasped Wei Xiaodong’s fist in his palm, then exerted a little pressure. The crackling of bones breaking rang out and Wei Xiaodong’s scream split the quiet surrounding.

With Huang Xiaolong's current strength, a little squeeze could crush a thousand-year-old tree, not to mention Wei Xiaodong's fist.

Crushing the bones in Wei Xiaodong's fist, Huang Xiaolong threw him back to the original spot he was in.

The several Big Sword Sect disciples also issued painful screams from being attacked, and in the blink of an eye all of them were 'taken care' of Fei Hou, including the two men in black.

The thick scent of blood filled the air, assailing the nose.

Wei Xiaodong smelled the scent of blood coming from the Big Sword Sect disciples and fear crept up his face. Ashen-faced, his backside fell to the ground, sliding across the soil, "Don't, don't kill me, I, I can give you anything!"

"Can give me anything?" Huang Xiaolong mocked, "What can you give me?"

Wei Xiaodong blanked.

"Beg, I beg you, please let me go, I can do whatever you want me to!" He quickly pleaded, head knocking loudly on the ground repeatedly.

Huang Xiaolong's cold voice ridiculed him, "You're wussier than your father."

"My father?" Wei Xiaodong dazed for a second at the sudden mention of his father.

"It's you!" Wei Xiaodong's eyes widened in shock.

"I'm the one that killed your father, don't you want to avenge your father?" Huang Xiaolong incited him.

Different emotions flickered across Wei Xiaodong's face, but in the end, he squeezed out a smile saying, "This brother must be joking with me."

Huang Xiaolong shook his head. Calling out the Blades of Asura, he no longer bothered to talk nonsense; both hands swung out and two icy sharp rays of blade lights slashed out. One slit across Wei Xiaodong's throat, and the other drew blood from his eyebrows.

Wide-eyed, Wei Xiaodong tumbled to the ground with blood seeping into it.

"Sovereign, what do we do about the girl?" Fei Hou asked. A finger pointed toward the sack containing the Southern Cliffs City Castellan's daughter.

"Bring her back first." Huang Xiaolong said, sounding solemn.

"Yes, Sovereign!"

A while later, Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou disappeared from the dilapidated courtyard, bringing Sun Qing's daughter with them.

Soon, they returned to the inn with Fei Hou carrying Sun Qing's daughter.

Seeing them come back with a girl, Zhao Shu and Yu Ming asked Fei Hou what took place. Fei Hou respectfully recounted the events to the two seniors.

At that moment, Sun Qing's daughter regained consciousness, and when she saw four strange men in the room, she bolted up from the bed, frightened, "Who are you all? What do you want to do?!"

Huang Xiaolong looked over at Fei Hou, Fei Hou understood and briefly described the events of the night.

After Fei Hou finished, Sun Qing's daughter relaxed a little, but she did not let go of her wariness towards Huang Xiaolong and the three men. It seemed she did not fully trust Fei Hou's words.

"You can go back now." Huang Xiaolong spoke.

Whether the other party believed them or not, Huang Xiaolong didn't care, it was a moment of curiosity and coincidence, after all.

"I can go back?" Sun Lin repeated doubtfully, and then she cautiously walked to the door. Taking two steps, she looked over her shoulder at the four men before leaving.

She walked out from the room, then out of the inn, yet nothing happened, allowing her to release a sigh of relief as she hurried off.

Coming out onto the streets, she bolted back to the Castellan Manor.

At this time, people within the Castellan Manor had noticed Sun Lin's disappearance and all hell broke loose.

"Lin'er, what happened?" Sun Qing saw his daughter walking in through the entrance, his stretched nerves relaxed as he asked anxiously.

Sun Lin broke out in tears as she repeated through sobs what Fei Hou said to her father.

"Big Sword Sect!" Rage exploded in Sun Qing's eyes hearing what she said: "They think we're so weak to be bullied!"

"Castellan, I think there's a problem with those four people." At this time, the manor's steward stepped up and pointed out, "According to what the other party said, they saw two black-clothed men abduct little Miss, yet why didn't they stop them at that time? Why did they wait until little Miss was brought to an abandoned dilapidated courtyard before rescuing her?"

Sun Qing's brows furrowed deeply.

"What little Miss said came from the four people, we don't know the actual truth of what actually took place." Steward Liu Wen added: "Who knows if there were really any Big Sword Sect disciples. It is also a

possibility that they were the ones that abducted little Miss and then pushed the matter onto Big Sword Sect before letting little Miss come back!”

A sharp light flickered in Sun Qing’s eyes as he looked over his shoulder to a guard behind him, “Four of you go to the north side of the city, and search to see if there are any Big Sword Sect disciples’ corpses; the rest of you, follow me to Warm Fragrance Inn!”

“If what they said is true, then it’s fine!”

“However, if those four people truly planned all this deliberately and pushed the blame onto Big Sword Sect...!” The sharp light in Sun Qing’s eyes deepened.

Not long after, the Castellan Manor guards surrounded Warm Fragrance Inn.

Nearby commoners were awakened by the ruckus.

Inside one of the rooms, Fei Hou said to Huang Xiaolong, “Sovereign was right, that Sun Qing doesn’t believe we saved his daughter.”

Huang Xiaolong nodded.

The fact that Sun Qing didn’t believe what happened was something very normal.

“Sovereign, should this Subordinate handle the situation?” Yu Ming took a step forward, asking. If it was any other person, they would not believe it so easily as well. Huang Xiaolong waved his hand with an unperturbed manner, “No need.”

Suddenly at this time, the room door was broken open, and the Castellan Manor’s guards rushed inside with fierce expressions on their faces, followed by Sun Qing in the full grandeur of his Castellan robes.

When Sun Qing walked into the room, his sullen face abruptly turned blank, and it stayed blank for quite a while as he stared at Huang Xiaolong.

Two years ago, Sun Qing once followed a general to the Marshal Mansion in Luo Tong Royal City to report military matters to Marshal Haotian. At that time, he was just a low-ranked soldier, and he didn’t even qualify to enter the mansion, thus he stood outside the entrance. From far away, he caught a glimpse of Huang Xiaolong. Despite that, that scene stayed clear in his memory up to this day. The respectful demeanor Marshal Haotian had for the same young man in front of him was unmistakable. After that time, he asked around and found out that young man was Huang Xiaolong.

“Huang, Young, Young Master Huang!” Sun Qing snapped back to reality with an ashen face, and his legs went soft at the knees, “It, it was Young Master Huang that saved my youngest daughter?”

He actually brought an army to encircle Huang Xiaolong? If...if Marshal Haotian got wind of this, what would be his ending? He had heard that even their Luo Tong King referred to Huang Xiaolong’s father, Huang Peng, as brothers!