

Dragon King 491

## **Chapter 491: Good Alliance!**

Hao Ren turned around and saw Zhao Yanzi standing behind them. She was in a white mini skirt.

Zhao Hongyu was beside her, dressed elegantly.

Second Uncle and his two sons were also there.

New York was a fashion city, and Zhao Yanzi's mini skirt that had lace and floral prints looked very fresh.

Under the sunlight, it projected many light spots onto her legs as if they were enjoying the bits of sunshine as well.

She was also wearing a black tank top and a pair of black sandals, and they look made her pop out from the crowd.

"Hehe, I didn't think we would bump into you here." Zhao Hongyu greeted Hao Zhonghua.

She looked very fashionable and had an elegant temperament. She wore a pair of silver earrings, which was enough to give out the grace of femininity.

"We're just wandering around and were just about to get coffee," Hao Zhonghua said with a smile.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Xie Yujia and saw that she dressed up today, making her look prettier.

The short jeans she wore made her legs look long and slender, and the white shirt made her look graceful. She paired her look with runners, which made her look energetic.

Compared to Zhao Yanzi who was pouting, Xie Yujia looked more energetic and mature.

Zhao Hongyu thought to himself that if she were Hao Ren, she would like Xie Yujia more.

"They are Yujia's mom and dad, Cheng Qian and Xie Ming. This is the boss of LOM Architectural Design Studio, Zhao Hongyu," Hao Zhonghua introduced.

"Hello." Zhao Hongyu reached out her hand.

"Hello." Xie Ming shook her hand.

Xie Ming had a relatively successful business in the U.S. Even though he wasn't accomplished enough to be in the upper-class here, he was well-mannered so that he wouldn't turn stiff like how ordinary men do when they saw Zhao Hongyu for the first time. After all, ordinary men were all stunned by her beauty.

"Let me introduce you guys to each other." After shaking hands, Zhao Hongyu walked to the side and said, "This is my brother-in-law, Zhao Kuan. He's currently the president of Mingri Group's international business unit."

Xie Ming nodded and shook Zhao Kuan's hand.

Zhao Kuan was in a pair of gold-framed glasses. He looked like a gentleman and an accomplished leader of the Chinese American circle.

“Mr. Xie, you should have worked with Mingri Group’s subsidiary in New York a month ago, right?” Zhao Kuan asked while looking at Xie Ming.

“Yes. Our factory signed a contract with one of your subsidiaries,” Xie Ming said.

“I hope we can work well with each other.” Zhao Kuan nodded and said with a smile.

“Absolutely.” Xie Ming also smiled.

A month ago, his business had received a contract from a subsidiary of Mingri Group, a company that they had never worked with before. That order made Xie Ming’s factories incredibly busy, but Xie Ming reaped hundreds of thousands of profits from it.

He didn’t understand how he got the contract, but now he understood... It was Hao Zhonghua who got him the relationship!

“This Zhao Hongyu is the sister-in-law of this president of Mingri Group’s international business unit, so that means her husband is the CEO of Mingri Group!” Xie Ming thought.

Xie Ming had completed the contract very successfully, delivering the products on time and passing all inspections! That was why Xie Ming was confident that Mingri Group would work with him again.

Others could help him build relationships, but the actual business dealings depend on oneself. Xie Ming learned this principle through tens of years of doing business.

“Zhao Kuan appeared on a magazine cover before,” Cheng Qian whispered after she bumped Xie Ming’s arm.

She read American business magazines often, so she remembered Zhao Kuan. Last week, she bought Fortune Magazine, and it featured Zhao Kuan on its cover as ‘One of Top Ten Business Leaders in America’.

The Chinese in New York had their own chamber of commerce, and Zhao Kuan was its president. Cheng Qian had gone to the Chinese New Year event hosted by them in Xie Ming’s place, and she had seen Zhao Kuan giving a speech there.

If Xie Ming was a small businessman in America, then Zhao Kuan was a business tycoon.

“Zi, you are beautiful today,” Zhao Zhonghua looked at Zhao Yanzi and praised.

Zhao Yanzi smiled happily but then turned displeased all of a sudden.

It was no use for Hao Zhonghua to say these things to her; it needed to be Hao Ren!

However, Hao Ren just stood stiffly by his dad, and he looked at her but didn’t say anything.

Zhao Yanzi’s two cousins stood by Zhao Kuan’s sides, and they looked at Xie Yujia cautiously.

Xie Yujia looked prettier than when they saw her at the airport. Her appearance today gave out the best of her.

“Hehe, since we bumped into each other, let’s go take a look at Mingri Group’s New York headquarters,” Zhao Hongyu said after everyone finished introducing themselves.

“OK,” Zhao Zhonghua immediately agreed.

He had no interest in the New York headquarters of Mingri Group, but if he went along today, he could help his best friend Xie Ming build a good relationship with them.

Zhao Hongyu nodded with a smile as she moved toward, and Zhao Kuan hurried and walked passed her to lead the way.

Zhao Kuan respected this sister-in-law very much. He knew that he was losing the dragon essence and chose to marry a mortal. His direct family would never step foot in the East Ocean Dragon Palace ever again, and his descendants would probably need to rely on the East Ocean Dragon Clan to protect them.

Hao Ren walked in the back, with Zhao Yanzi on his left and Xie Yujia on his right.

Zhao Yanzi’s two cousins walked slower, trying to talk to Xie Yujia. However, they saw that she was walking with Hao Ren closely, so they walked faster and caught up with their dad.

Hao Ren looked at the backs of Zhao Yanzi’s two cousins and knew that they couldn’t cultivate. They would never know that they were descendants of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and their future goals would be to become elites in the business world in the U.S. under Zhao Kuan’s watch.

This might be a blessing in disguise.

Since they weren’t eligible of inheriting the throne of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and Zhao Kuo didn’t have kids, the future of the East Ocean Dragon Clan depended on Zhao Yanzi.

Because of this, Zhao Guang had to find different ways to test Hao Ren to see what his abilities and personality were like.

Zhao Yanzi didn’t realize these things. All she cared about was that Hao Ren was hers, and she didn’t want him to be stolen away by Xie Yujia.

She intentionally walked closer to Hao Ren, forcing him to go a bit more to the right so he would push Xie Yujia away.

Xie Yujia didn’t expect that, and she almost tripped.

She bit her lower lip and walked closer to Hao Ren as well.

She initially wanted to go along with Zhao Yanzi, but the latter was agitated from the moment she saw her.

Hao Ren walked ahead, and his feet moved left and right.

When he bumped into Zhao Yanzi, she didn’t give up and bumped Hao Ren on the shoulder.

Hao Ren was in the middle, being pushed left and right. He didn’t want to be stuck here forever, so he moved forward a little.

Zhao Yanzi missed Hao Ren, so she almost fell and bumped into Xie Yujia directly.

Xie Yujia got bumped and almost collided with someone else on the street.

“Zi!” Zhao Hongyu turned around and scolded her.

Zhao Yanzi wrinkled her nose and massaged her shoulders. Then, she ran a few steps and caught up to Zhao Hongyu.

She didn’t hurt herself from the bump because her head bumped into Xie Yujia’s chest, which was incredibly soft.

However, this bump also told her the gap between her and Xie Yujia, making her felt inferior instantly.

Therefore, she ran back to her mom to prevent further contrast from Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia and Hao Ren had no clue what weird thoughts were going on in Zhao Yanzi’s mind. Xie Yujia didn’t want to fight with Zhao Yanzi, so she walked a few steps in front to catch up to her parents.

Hao Zhonghua smiled helplessly as he turned around and looked at Hao Ren.

He deeply understood Hao Ren’s troubles... Over 20 years ago at East Ocean University, Hao Zhonghua was the center of attention, and a lot of girls pursued him. Xie Ming, his best friend, was somewhat envious over his charm.

“Genetics, genetics...” Hao Zhonghua repeated this word to herself and continued to chat with Zhao Hongyu.

The New York headquarters of Mingri Group was in the famous Empire State Building, located on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Such an expensive location and building... One could tell Mingri Group’s status.

Yesterday when Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were touring New York, they had passed by the Empire State Building. However, they only saw the exterior because they didn’t have time to line up to go inside. Now under Zhao Kuan’s lead, they were able to go directly inside without waiting.

Mingri Group’s international headquarters was on the 96th floor, only six floors away from the rooftop, 102nd floor.

From here, they could see the best sceneries of New York.

The entire 96th floor was all Mingri Group’s territory. It was decorated with high-class marble and fancy designs. Everything showed off how powerful Mingri Group was.

“Mingri Group has two headquarters. One is in China at the center of East Ocean City, and the international headquarters is situated here in the center of New York. The one in China oversees the domestic market while the international headquarters is in charge of global expansions...” Zhao Kuan explained as he led them around.

Zhao Guang was the Chairman of Mingri Group and the CEO of the domestic business unit. Zhao Kuan, whose whole family was in New York, was the CEO of the international business unit. He was in charge of everything outside of China, so he was extremely powerful and rich.

One of his sons was still in high school, while the older son had graduated from a prestigious American university and worked under him in the New York headquarters.

Xie Ming wanted to create his own family business, so he had Xie Wanjun's parents come over to New York to help out. Mingri Group was a huge corporation but was still a large family business.

Xie Ming toured this headquarters and quietly tried to absorb as much information as possible.

He had a daughter and a nephew who was studying at Stanford. He was going to let his brother oversee the San Francisco factory...

Even though his business was far from reaching the size of Mingri Group, the family business structures were similar. As long as he was able to build good relationships with Mingri Group, there would be no problem earning three or four times the profit.

"Mingri Group's Chairman and CEO, Zhao Guang, must have a headache in choosing the proper successor. Haha, I'm ok because I already have a good candidate..." Xie Ming thought as he looked over at Hao Ren and smiled.

#### **Chapter 492: Zhao Haoran's Mansion**

After walking out of the Empire State Building, everyone was more familiar and no longer looked like they were strangers.

"Mr. Xie. About the factory you want to build in the West Coast, I'm a bit interested. Why don't we find another place to discuss this in more detail?" Zhao Kuan smiled and said to Xie Ming.

"If Mr. Zhao is interested, we could definitely sit down and chat about it," Xie Ming said politely.

They had already sat down and chatted in Mingri Group's office. Now that they left, Zhao Kuan still wanted to continue talking with Xie Ming.

Since he couldn't return to the Dragon Tribe, he wanted to do his best as a mortal, focusing all his energy on becoming more successful in the business world.

After talking with Xie Ming, he felt that Xie Ming had good business acumen. Not only did Xie Ming have interesting ideas, but he also had the execution abilities.

Creating a factory on the West Coast was not an impulse. The idea was from understanding the American economy and seeing which areas could be further developed.

Now that Xie Ming had the expertise, experience, and ambition, he was only missing capital investments.

Zhao Kuan was willing to fund this investment to support Xie Ming's plan.

Mingri Group was quite successful in its international expansions, and a lot of it had to do with Zhao Kuan's intelligence and vision.

Zhao Kuan would never let go of an opportunity that could expand and strengthen Mingri Group. The U.S. was full of risks and opportunities, and one business deal could lead to more significant business opportunities.

Compared with Zhao Guang who still had the East Ocean Dragon Clan, Zhao Kuan was now in the U.S., and there was no turning back for him. Mingri Group was his future, and it could bring prosperity for the generations after him.

Of course, Zhao Kuan could tell that Zhao Hongyu and Xie Yujia were close. Therefore, working with Xie Yujia's dad could also satisfy Zhao Hongyu.

"Hehe, since you guys have to talk business, you guys should take your time." Zhao Hongyu seemed happy, and she looked at Hao Zhonghua and asked with a smile, "Mr. Hao, you don't mind if I take Hao Ren with me for a while, do you?"

"Of course not," Hao Zhonghua replied casually.

Zhao Hongyu turned around and looked at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren didn't know where Zhao Hongyu was taking him, but he didn't ask.

"Yujia, you stay here. Hao Ren, Zi, and I will be back soon," Zhao Hongyu said to Xie Yujia.

"OK." Xie Yujia nodded elegantly. Zhao Kuan and Xie Ming needed to find a coffee shop to sit down and chat, so she went along with them.

Zhao Hongyu, Hao Ren, and Zhao Yanzi walked toward the parking lot underground.

Zhao Yanzi also looked confused; she did not know where Zhao Hongyu was taking them as well.

A red Porsche drove out from the garage.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi looked at each other and jumped into the car.

Zhao Hongyu didn't say anything as she drove the Porsche across the Hudson River in New York.

The car drove across bridges and entered a beautiful valley. This valley had many ranches and farms, which was very different from Manhattan that had many skyscrapers.

Zhao Yanzi softly nodded, and it looked like she already knew where Zhao Hongyu was going to take them.

"Where are we going?" Hao Ren asked Zhao Yanzi quietly.

"Humph!" Zhao Yanzi was still mad at Hao Ren for being so close with Xie Yujia.

"Sigh..." Hao Ren bumped into a wall and could only shut up.

He didn't know what to do with Zhao Yanzi. Every time he tried to be nice to her, she wouldn't accept it. However, every time he was close with Xie Yujia, she would be extremely jealous.

The Porsche stopped in front of a large mansion, and it had a large and refined black steel gate that automatically opened.

This mansion was situated by the river, and everywhere around it was filled with natural sceneries.

The car quietly drove on the smooth roads, and Hao Ren estimated that this gorgeous land the mansion was situated on was tens of thousands of acres big, which was larger than ten East Ocean University put together!

Besides the mansion, there were several other structures. There was also a private golf course, a small forest, and a few natural lakes!

Zhao Hongyu stopped the car in front of the large white mansion.

When inside this four-story mansion, one could see the entire surroundings from here.

In this beautiful place, one could no longer feel the hot weather of summer. Instead, it could calm one's soul.

"Azure Dragon Guard! Black Tortoise Guard! White Tiger Guard! And Vermilion Bird Guard! Greetings, Madam!"

Four strong men in suits walked out from the mansion and greeted Zhao Hongyu.

"You've done great, four generals." Zhao Hongyu nodded at them.

She turned around and said to Hao Ren who was getting off the car, "This was Zi's Grandpa's living space in New York."

Hao Ren looked around, and this peaceful scenery calmed him down.

Hao Ren only met Zhao Haoran a few times, but the latter left a vivid impression on his mind.

Even now, there was Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength in Hao Ren's body. From the perspective that Hao Ren owed Zhao Haoran and was of a younger generation, he should treat Zhao Haoran like a grandpa as well.

Zhao Hongyu led Hao Ren into the mansion.

The flooring was all marble, so it looked very high-class but was also incredibly cool. The decorations on the first floor made this place look like an art gallery more than a home.

Zhao Hongyu led Hao Ren to the second floor.

Zhao Haoran's four guards followed closely. They were all Qian-level cultivators. When Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi, and Hao Ren were still tens of kilometers away, they already knew they were approaching.

Since this mansion was protected by four Qian-level cultivators, even inspectors didn't dare to go near this mansion by the Hudson River. This area became a restricted area for cultivators in New York.

This area along with Remote Immortal Mountains, Demon Sea, and Kunlun Mountain became the few places even the Dragon God Shrine couldn't touch.

"This is where Grandpa cultivated," Zhao Hongyu said as they reached the second floor.

There was a large empty room on the second floor. From the glass walls, one could see the green golf course outside.

Zhao Yanzi followed behind Hao Ren and looked a bit nervous.

“The third floor is Grandpa’s living area,” Zhao Hongyu said as they walked up toward the third floor.

Hao Ren followed Zhao Hongyu, and the footsteps echoed in the mansion as they walked up the stairs.

“The old dragon king, Zhao Haoran, was a hero of the century. After he retired and started living in New York, he was actually very lonely.” Hao Ren had sympathy for him.

Thinking about Zhao Haoran made him think about his grandma.

Before, Grandma lived in the house by the sea. Although it seemed like life went well, she was actually very lonely.

Even though Zhao Haoran had his gorgeous mansion and was extremely wealthy, he was for sure lonely.

However, Grandma would always nag and try to get Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang to stay in East Ocean City with her. She could also get the girls to spend time with her and chat with her.

Zhao Haoran, on the other hand, couldn’t give up his pride, so he couldn’t keep his children and grandchildren by his side.

Zhao Kuo was aiming for the Heavenly Dragon Realm and was addicted to cultivation, Zhao Kuan was in charge of Mingri Group’s international business unit and was busy with his work, and Zhao Guang was busy managing the domestic operations of Mingri Group as well as the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

Zhao Haoran also didn’t want to disturb his three sons, so he chose to retire in New York. He didn’t want to affect Zhao Guang’s authority in the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and he didn’t let Zhao Kuan’s family come and visit him often.

He had high hopes for Zhao Kuo, but he never called him over, afraid that it would interrupt his cultivation.

Looking through the door, Hao Ren saw that the bed and room were well organized, and he felt a bit sad.

The room was empty... Here lived an old man who used to be a great ruler in the Dragon Tribe.

“The fourth floor is where Grandpa paid respect to the Dragon God.” Zhao Hongyu led Hao Ren up.

The style upstairs suddenly changed to an ancient Chinese theme.

There was a huge statue of the Dragon God on the fourth floor.

The Dragon God was the ancestor of all five-elemental dragon clans.

In front of the statue of Dragon God was a small memorial tablet with the words, ‘Zhao Haoran’, written on it.



Zhao Hongyu went over quietly, picked up three incense sticks, and lit them up before placing them in the incense burner.

Hao Ren also moved forward and lit three incense sticks as well. He was paying respect to the Dragon God as well as Zhao Haoran.

Zhao Yanzi looked at her mom and hesitated a bit before doing the same.

Azure Dragon, Black Tortoise, White Tiger, and Vermilion Bird stood quietly by the door. They had been by Zhao Haoran's side for hundreds of years and were the closest with Zhao Haoran.

When Zhao Haoran took them in, they were still children. They had all reached Qian-level under Zhao Haoran's teaching and instructions.

Time slowly passed by. Zhao Hongyu stared at the incense sticks as they burned down bit by bit. She seemed to be praying quietly.

Hao Ren was also paying respect to Zhao Haoran. He had Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength and still remembered how Zhao Haoran put his essence dragon soul into the Black Dragon Spike.

"I brought you here today because Grandpa said that if Zi has a Fuma, we should bring him here to let him see," Zhao Hongyu said suddenly.

Hao Ren turned around and looked at her.

"But it seems like I've been too slow. Zhao Guang and I were scared that Grandpa wouldn't be satisfied with you, so we were trying to find a good time to explain this to Grandpa. That was why we didn't bring you here right away. If it weren't for him going back to East Ocean, he wouldn't have seen you," Zhao Hongyu continued to explain.

Hao Ren stared at the black memorial tablet. He knew Zhao Hongyu regretted things like this; she shouldn't have kept this secret from Zhao Haoran.

"Wa..." Zhao Yanzi suddenly cried out loud.

When she discovered the news that Zhao Haoran had passed away in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, she was only shocked and didn't have other thoughts. She was only in her teens, so she didn't have deep feelings for her grandpa who was far away.

However, now that she was standing in this mansion, she remembered a lot from the past.

Zhao Haoran always looked stern and didn't smile or say much. However, when Zhao Yanzi visited him twice a year during the summer, she could eat and do whatever she wanted in this mansion. Zhao Haoran satisfied all her desires.

Zhao Yanzi once broke a rare porcelain jar from the Song Dynasty. When she was so scared and tried to hide the broken pieces, Zhao Haoran walked by calmly and didn't scold her at all.

Also, Zhao Yanzi once suddenly wanted to cultivate so she ran over to the golf course, destroy all the grasses. Not only did Zhao Haoran not scold her, he even taught her how to cultivate in happiness.

She was scared of this stern-looking grandpa and just came every summer to see him because she had to. However, she missed him a lot now after he was gone.

“Madam, the Old Dragon King has something to give to Fuma,” Azure Dragon Guard said.

### **Chapter 493: Having Children~ (1.3 for 1 Chapter)**

Zhao Hongyu turned around and asked, “What is it?”

Azure Dragon took a square box from his storage ring and put it in Zhao Hongyu’s hand.

Zhao Hongyu looked down at it but didn’t open the box. She directly handed it over to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren didn’t think Zhao Haoran would leave things for him.

Surprised, he opened the box right there. Everyone here was close to him; four were Zhao Haoran’s trusted aides, and two were his ‘family’.

In the box, there was a jade slip that was only the size of a palm.

Hao Ren grabbed the jade slip and found that it was blank without a single word.

He tried to inject his nature essence and spiritual sense into it, and he felt some mysterious characters spinning in front of his senses.

Floating atop these densely packed characters were four words, Mystic Water Sword Technique.

Among these characters were some moving pictures.

Hao Ren only observed for a brief moment, and he already felt dizzy. Therefore, he pulled his spiritual senses out of the jade slip instantly.

He had seen all kinds of techniques before, but they were all printed in scrolls or books. This was his first time reading a jade slip which required spiritual senses.

The four guards saw Hao Ren’s facial expression, and they were somewhat surprised that he could read the jade slip.

They didn’t think that with Hao Ren’s low-tier Gen-level realm, he could still read the jade slip. They were loyal to Zhao Haoran and didn’t read the jade slip unauthorized. Still, they knew this kind of jade slip imposed a high requirement on spiritual senses.

Cultivators whose realms were too low couldn’t even open it.

Rumors said that this method of embedding techniques or records into jade slips was once very popular in the cultivation world. But after that great war, this method was slowly lost over time. Some said that it was because spirit stones were becoming more precious, and the sects didn’t want to waste materials. Other said that cultivators were afraid that their descendants and disciples couldn’t access stored techniques due to their low realms, and outsiders might rob the techniques. In sum, jade slips became obsolete.

“Ren, keep it,” Zhao Hongyu said.

“Eh...” Hao Ren put the jade slip into his storage space.

This jade slip initially had dozens of arrays protecting it, but they were all broken. When Hao Ren’s spiritual senses entered the jade slip, he sensed faint layers of resistance, but he still reached the deepest place in the jade slip and saw the floating characters and pictures.

“What did my father-in-law say?” Zhao Hongyu asked them.

“The Old Dragon King said that if Fuma is here one day, hand this to him,” Azure Dragon said.

Zhao Hongyu nodded. She finally knew that Zhao Haoran prepared to die when going back to East Ocean Dragon Palace from the U.S. Depended on whether Zhao Hongyu or Zhao Guang would bring Hao Ren along to where he lived, Hao Ren may or may not receive this treasure.

Zhao Yanzi sobbed, and her eyes turned red as she walked over to Hao Ren and Zhao Hongyu.

She just saw the black memorial tablet with Zhao Haoran’s name on it and got more heart-broken. Although she was willful, she was still a good person. Especially in these months, she got closer with Hao Ren’s grandma and began to understand the feelings of elders. Now, she could only think of Zhao Haoran’s loneliness.

“Third Lord... came a few days ago,” Azure Dragon said after some thought.

“Oh?” Zhao Hongyu was a little surprised.

“Third Lord had been sitting on the hill outside for three days now. He didn’t eat, didn’t drink, and didn’t sleep. There was pouring rain two days ago, but Third Lord didn’t repel it using his cultivation strength.”

Zhao Hongyu went silent, and her expression was sad.

Among Zhao Haoran’s three sons, Zhao Kuo was closest to him and had the highest realm. Zhao Kuo would visit Zhao Haoran three or four times a year and spend some time with his dad.

But ever since Zhao Kuo failed to reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm, he thought he didn’t have the face to see Zhao Haoran again, so he had never visited him afterward.

Now, Zhao Kuo must feel immense regret in his heart.

Thinking that Zhao Kuo was silently sitting in the rain to wash away his regret, tears poured down Zhao Yanzi’s face again.

She and Zhao Haoran were separated by generations, and now she finally felt how considerate Zhao Haoran was toward her.

Hao Ren could imagine Zhao Kuo in the pouring rain, clenching his fists, and sitting motionlessly. Perhaps in the rain, this iron-like man could hide his tears with the rainwater.

“Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Black Tortoise, Vermilion Bird, aren’t you coming back to the East Ocean Dragon Clan with us?” Zhao Hongyu looked at them and asked.

They all shook their heads.

Zhao Hongyu faced Zhao Haoran's tablet and bowed deeply.

"Father-in-law, Zhao Guang is not coming because he's afraid he'd get too heart-broken. You know his personality; he looks cold on the outside but is soft on the inside. Zhao Kuan already left the East Ocean Dragon Clan and is peacefully conducting his mortal business. As for Zhao Kuo, he swore to become a Heavenly Dragon and take you to the Dragon Tomb in the Heavenly Realm," Zhao Hongyu said calmly.

After that, Zhao Hongyu slowly turned around and took the crying Zhao Yanzi out of this big room that had the statue of the Dragon God.

Hao Ren followed Zhao Hongyu out. However, he turned around and stared at the memorial tablet; he felt like Zhao Haoran was watching him.

"Madam, take care," Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Black Tortoise, Vermilion Bird stood at the door and said respectfully.

The red Porsche started slowly and leisurely cruised through the road.

Along the private highway, the car passed by a lake.

The car suddenly slowed down and parked on the side of the road.

Zhao Hongyu looked at her hands on the wheel and said gently, "Zi, go ahead."

Zhao Yanzi opened the car door and ran to the lake.

Sitting in the car, Hao Ren went blank for half a second before hurriedly following her out of the car.

Zhao Yanzi ran forward wildly in her mini-skirt, and Hao Ren stepped on the grasses beside the lake and instantly caught up to Zhao Yanzi's side nimbly.

Zhao Yanzi suddenly sat on a patch of grasses beside the lake, and tears rushed out of her red eyes.

Hao Ren stopped and sat down beside her.

Zhao Yanzi wiped her tears with her hands and felt sadder as she cried. Zhao Haoran was her only grand-level family member, and now he was gone.

Thinking of this, her tears slid down her face uncontrollably.

She lived with Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang and didn't think much of it at the beginning. But now that she was back at Zhao Haoran's mansion, saw the place where her grandpa used to live, and thought back to the times when she played here as a child, Zhao Yanzi's tears could not be held back.

"Wa..." Zhao Yanzi turned into Hao Ren's arms, and her hands pulled on his sleeves and almost tore his buttons.

Hao Ren reached his arms and hugged her around her round shoulders. Then, he patted her back and tried to comfort her.

Zhao Haoran was Zhao Yanzi's last grand-leveled family member. They had the same type of relationship as Hao Ren and his grandma. The difference was, Zhao Haoran was in the U.S. so that Zhao Yanzi couldn't always see him, but Hao Ren could always accompany Grandma.

"I used to think he was stern..." In Hao Ren's embrace, Zhao Yanzi grabbed his sleeves to wipe off her tears.

"Eh..." Hao Ren gently massaged her shoulder.

Her body was soft and gave out a faint fragrance. But now, Hao Ren was hugging her out of pity and sympathy. He didn't think of anything else.

The scenery here was beautiful with chirping birds and fragrant flowers.

Since Zhao Yanzi's childhood, she had intermittent memories of this place. Because she thought Zhao Haoran was too scary, she rarely interacted with her grandpa. Therefore, Zhao Haoran mostly watched her play in the yard from the balcony.

Now that Zhao Yanzi thought of these scenes, she felt a pain in her heart.

Actually, this grandpa of hers who always looked expressionless and didn't say a good word about Zhao Guang wanted to play with her... If she knew this day would come, she would bring out her pettish charm and cling onto her grandpa, try to get him to talk about the past...

"Grandpa..." Zhao Yanzi cried and was sadder than when she heard about Zhao Haoran's death.

"Alright, don't cry." Hao Ren wiped off the tears at the edges of Zhao Yanzi's eyes with his finger.

Zhao Yanzi sometimes wanted to prove that she was independent and not a child, but she was still not an adult.

"Wa..." Zhao Yanzi only cried harder. Hanging onto Hao Ren's neck, she directly jumped into his arms.

Hao Ren was knocked back on the grasses, and Zhao Yanzi lied on Hao Ren's body, taking it as her mattress to cry on.

Zhao Hongyu stood on the highway dozens of meters away from the lake. She had her back against the Porsche, and her eyes turned red when seeing Zhao Yanzi crying so hard.

"Wa..." Zhao Yanzi cried out all her emotions and finally wiped her tears. Then, she got up from Hao Ren's body.

Hao Ren's shirt was entirely ruined by her, and a few buttons were missing.

Little White jumped out from Hao Ren's storage space and licked Zhao Yanzi's wrist.

"Little White..." Zhao Yanzi hugged Little White tightly, and her tears slowly stopped.

She knew that Zhao Haoran was already 1,000 years old and would die one day, but she couldn't help but feel sad when her grandpa passed away.

Hao Ren stood up and pulled up Zhao Yanzi from the grasses.

Zhao Yanzi wanted to get rid of Hao Ren's arm instinctively, but she suddenly felt deeply dependent on him and in turn held on to his wrist.

When she was sad, only Hao Ren could comfort her. Hao Ren had too good of a relationship with Xie Yujia, which made her jealous. But on the other hand, Hao Ren cared about her as well.

When they returned to the highway, Zhao Hongyu was already in the car.

The red Porsche drove toward the gate of the mansion on the private highway.

Little White snuggled into Zhao Yanzi's arms and gently licked her palm.

When the Porsche crossed the bridge on the Hudson River, Zhao Yanzi was already asleep.

"Auntie, there is one thing I'm not sure if I can ask. Zi... has she ever met her grandma?" From the back seat, Hao Ren asked Zhao Hongyu.

Hao Ren thought back to how close Zhao Yanzi was to his grandma, and he wondered, "Had she ever met her grandma?"

"Zi's grandma passed away after giving birth to Zhao Kuo," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Oh..." Hao Ren nodded slightly.

"In fact," Zhao Hongyu paused for a few seconds and peeked at Zhao Yanzi through the rear-view mirror. After seeing that she was completely asleep, Zhao Hongyu continued, "The stronger the individual and the race, the harder it is to reproduce. That is a natural law."

"What Auntie means is..." Hao Ren was a little confused.

"In a sense, dragons are a kind of demon beasts, but we are different from ordinary demon beasts. Dragons are born in the human form and have the cultivation treasures – dragon cores. The stronger the demon beasts, the harder it is for them to have offspring. For example, in the Demon Sea, one demon king may have dozens of demon queens, but he would be fortunate to have more than one kids. However, for those demon beasts that couldn't transform into the human form, it is easier for them to reproduce," Zhao Hongyu said while driving.

"Eh..." Hao Ren had some ideas now.

"Zi's grandma spent all her energy in the process of giving birth to Zhao Kuo. This risk is hard for you to understand. The higher the realms of the parents, the greater the risk it is to reproduce. However, the benefit of that is the offspring would be much more talented and stronger."

"For the dragon kings, to guarantee the strengths of the descendants, they always decide to reproduce when their powers are at the peak. Zi's grandpa reached Qian-level when he was 700 years old, and then he decided to have children," Zhao Hongyu said.

Hao Ren nodded. He looked at Zhao Yanzi who was asleep beside him and understood why Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu had her when they were almost 300 years old.

Zhao Hongyu took the risk of dying for Zhao Yanzi to have better talents.

"In fact... on whether I should give birth to a son, Zhao Guang had some disagreements with his dad, and it affected their father-son relationship," Zhao Hongyu said calmly.

Hao Ren understood it.

For Zhao Kuan, due to loss of dragon essence, his descendants lost the chance of inheriting the East Ocean Dragon Clan. Zhao Kuo was determined to reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm and also decided not to have children so that the East Ocean Dragon Clan wouldn't have a potential civil war when it came to the right of inheriting the throne.

Among the three brothers, only the elder son Zhao Guang could inherit the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and his descendants were the most suitable to become the next generation dragon king.

However, since Zhao Guang was worried about Zhao Hongyu's safety and didn't want to have another child, it separated the father and the son.

"Cultivation is inherently going against heaven's will. My realm is not as high as Zi's grandma, and it was already very dangerous when I gave birth to Zi. If I have another child, it's hard to say whether I can keep my life."

Zhao Hongyu slowly pulled over and turned to look at Hao Ren. "So, I hope you treat Zi well."

Hao Ren looked at her and suddenly realized that they were already back at the center of New York City.

Zi was still asleep with Little White in her arms, and her lips glittered in pink.

"I know." Hao Ren suddenly understood Zhao Hongyu's request more deeply.

#### **Chapter 494: An Item of the Immortals??**

When Zhao Hongyu found Zhao Kuan again, Zhao Kuan and Xie Ming were chatting happily in an outdoor café on Fifth Avenue.

Hao Zhonghua and Cheng Qian were talking about some latest development in technology. Zhao Kuan's two sons wanted to speak with Xie Yujia about China, but Xie Yujia was reading an English magazine and had no intention of engaging in a conversation with them. Therefore, they didn't bother Xie Yujia and instead talked about the NBA match with each other next week.

"What's going on, who's bullying you?" Zhao Kuan looked up and saw Zhao Yanzi's red eyes.

"Cousin! Who's bullying you; we'll fight him for you!" Zhao Yanzi's two cousins hurriedly stood up.

Zhao Yanzi was a few years younger, and her two cousins were protective over their cute cousin even though they didn't see each other often.

"It's nothing!" Zhao Yanzi rubbed her eyes and turned to look at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren was wearing a new shirt. It was bought in a nearby store when Zhao Hongyu was looking for Zhao Kuan.

Things sold on Fifth Avenue were expensive, and an ordinary shirt cost more than US\$1,000. But Zhao Hongyu didn't even flinch when she slid her credit card.

"Ren, why don't you stay the night at our place," Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren and said.

Hao Ren looked to Zhao Yanzi who was pouting and didn't speak.

"That is ok. I'll stay at Uncle Xie's place tonight," Hao Ren said.

"You..." Zhao Yanzi tilted her head to the side and widened her eyes.

She thought, "I was heartbroken today, and I still haven't recovered. I thought he would at least..."

"Haha, that's fine. The return trip is tomorrow. Just like before, we'll meet at the airport," Zhao Hongyu didn't force Hao Ren and said gently.

"Sure," Hao Ren answered.

He was not familiar with Zhao Yanzi's second uncle, so he didn't want to spend the night over.

Xie Ming and Zhao Kuan were almost done chatting. The remaining details for their partnership would be discussed another day.

The two groups went separate ways, and Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren with a wronged expression on her face. The few times that she cried her heart out were all in Hao Ren's arms, so she developed an indescribable dependence on him.

Xie Ming was especially happy after chatting with Zhao Kuan, and he showed Hao Zhonghua around New York. With help from Mingri Group, his expansion plan in the U.S. would soon begin.

They went home and had a great farewell dinner. Xie Ming wanted Hao Zhonghua to stay longer, but he knew the latter was busy in China and coming to the U.S. for a reunion was already an achievement.

Xie Yujia was reluctant to let go of Hao Ren for a while, but she wanted Hao Ren to become more powerful. She didn't need Hao Ren's protection, but if Hao Ren became more powerful, he could protect himself better.

Considering this, Xie Yujia didn't force him to stay. After all, it was an excellent opportunity to have a master guide his cultivation.

Xie Ming drank with Hao Zhonghua lamentingly, and the two drank until their ears were red. Xie Wanjun and his parents also joined, making the atmosphere even more turned up.

"Let's go out for a walk!" Xie Yujia gently pulled Hao Ren's arm.

"Eh..." Hao Ren was dragged outside by Xie Yujia.

The streets in this residential area were very quiet, and two-story houses of the same style were aligned in a straight line on either side of the roads.

Since it was close to the Independence Day in the U.S., many families had the U.S. flags on their balconies which were fluttering in the wind.

The two walked along the street in silence.

At the end of the residential street were the busy city streets. Hao Ren and Xie Yujia turned back as they walked in the night's breeze, still not talking.



However, this silence was somehow heart-warming. Everything was said in silence.

When they went back to the house, Hao Zhonghua and the others were still drinking. Xie Yujia and Hao Ren went up to the second floor, and Hao Ren took Little White out of his necklace and put it by Xie Yujia's hand.

"In the following month, Little White is yours to take care of."

"Eh." Xie Yujia took Little White between her arms.

Little White was struggling when it was held up by Hao Ren, but it immediately became tame in Xie Yujia's arms.

"Many cultivators are requesting elixir pills on Fifth Heaven. Don't work too hard and take care of your body first," Hao Ren said.

"Ok." Xie Yujia put Little White in her bracelet.

Her bracelet was modified by Zhen Congming as well. This jade bracelet was given to her by Old Grandma when they were at the trading convention on Fifth Heaven, and it was later turned into a storage space by Zhen Congming. Even though its storage size was incomparable to Hao Ren's necklace, it was more than enough for Little White.

Hao Ren smiled and walked into his room.

Today, he got the jade slip Zhao Haoran left him, but he had not properly studied it. Worrying that his dad would come and check on him, Hao Ren didn't plan on going to Fifth Heaven but instead stayed in his room.

After locking the door, Hao Ren sat on his bed and meditated quietly so that his body returned to its calmest state. Then, he gradually released his spiritual senses.

The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll required the cultivation of all five elements and the control of tens of thousands of sword energies at once. Since it was extremely demanding on the spiritual senses, Hao Ren's spiritual senses was a few times higher than cultivators in the same realm.

The spiritual senses slowly entered the jade slip, went through dozens of broken array formations, and accessed the core content.

This tiny jade slip contained dense characters and images. Through his spiritual senses, Hao Ren studied the jade slip and saw the content clearly little by little.

This Mystic Water Sword Techniques had no introduction and directly went to the techniques.

There were 32 sword techniques, and each of them had 18 variations. In sum, there were 576 strikes documented.

Hao Ren used to practice the fundamental boxing techniques of the East Ocean Dragon Palace. Compared with this Mystic Water Sword Technique, it was extremely crude and primitive.

Although the fundamental boxing techniques required the physical coordination with nature essence, it was far from any variations in this sword technique.

Hao Ren had helped Zhao Yanzi study the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll. That sword technique was also a cultivation technique. Zhao Yanzi could increase her realm by practicing the sword techniques.

Once the seventh-level, Yaoguang, was achieved, she would have mastered this technique and become very powerful.

As for this Mystic Water Sword Technique, there was no mentioning of how to gather nature essence and how to increase realms. Everything was about sword strikes.

The variations were hundreds and thousands of times more ingenious than the ones in Zhao Yanzi's Big Dipper Constellation Scroll!

Hao Ren concentrated on reading the first variation of the first sword technique. He deciphered the characters according to the images, and his hands moved and gestured in the air.

Hao Ren slowly practiced the movement of nature essence which was precise to acupoints, and he suddenly became exhausted.

His spiritual senses were entirely drained by the jade slip and got kicked out.

Hao Ren touched his chest and back and found that his whole body was drenched in sweat.

Reading the jade slip alone was more exhausting than practicing the fundamental boxing techniques dozens of times, not to mention practicing this sword technique!

It was completely silent outside. Hao Ren checked the time and realized that it was already midnight.

Zhao Hongyu was knowledgeable and knew that the techniques stored in these types of jade slips were incredibly precious. Therefore, she told Hao Ren to cultivate on his own and never mention it to others.

Azure Dragon handed the jade slip to Hao Ren in the mansion because it was a place where even the inspectors from the Dragon God Shrine couldn't spy on.

It was said that treasures attracted misfortune. The jade slip Hao Ren got might catch the attention of the Dragon God Shrine.

In fact, there were some things about this jade slip that Azure Dragon didn't mention in detail.

About 20 years ago, Zhao Haoran got this jade slip from somewhere by chance and decided to live in seclusion in the U.S., handing the East Ocean Dragon Clan to Zhao Guang.

This tiny jade slip was protected by dozens of array formations. Zhao Haoran felt that this was the last chance for him to break through to the Heavenly Dragon Realm, so he spent 20 years carefully disarming the array formations one by one.

The ingenious and complex sword techniques within made Zhao Haoran realize that this was an item of the immortals. It was probably from the Heavenly Realm which was above Eighth Heaven, and Zhao Haoran dedicated himself to studying it.

However, his spirit was limited. Breaking the array formations took him 20 years. By the time he studied half of the sword techniques, his body was already on the brink of collapsing.

At this time, there was news about the West Ocean Dragon Clan invading the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and Zhao Haoran decided to give up on studying the jade slip and fight for East Ocean Dragon Clan one last time.

He passed the jade slip to Hao Ren because he saw Hao Ren practice Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, which was a type of sword cultivation. Also, whether Hao Ren would come to his mansion or not was the ultimate test.

If he had known that he could obtain a set of immortal sword techniques in his old age, he would have switched to cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll after the war ended several hundred years ago.

He handed his dying wish to Hao Ren, which was also why he passed on his 1,000 years of cultivation strength to Hao Ren.

It was all about fate.

When Zhao Haoran saw Hao Ren, even though the latter was weak, he knew that the kid was trustworthy and righteous.

Loyalty, faith, righteousness, benevolence, and courage were the five virtues Zhao Haoran valued the most, and Hao Ren had them all!

Hua... Hua... The night wind blew outside, and Hao Ren got up to close the windows.

Suddenly, he thought of something and tried to practice the first variation of the first sword technique. He picked up a feather duster by the window and activated his nature essence.

Following one acupoint after another, the feather duster drew a bright arc.

Hao Ren turned slightly and gently flicked with his fingertip, and the feathers on the duster all stood up straight, looking sharp like blades.

Hao Ren wanted to turn once more but found himself unable to do so. This one move drained all his nature essence.

#### **Chapter 495: Special Training with Zi**

Hao Ren's arms were sore, so he put down the feather duster and took a long breath.

The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was used to tune the body by absorbing nature essence. By the same principle, it could also release nature essence and condense sword energies.

Sword array formation was an effective way of organizing sword energies that amplified their power, but Hao Ren's only effective combat techniques against enemies in close-range were the fundamental boxing techniques and using his hundun lightning on his hands.

When fighting against a master like Zhao Kuo, there was no chance for him to use his sword array formation at all.

Zhao Kuo was very proficient in using tri-point double-edge swords. If he wanted, he could get someone to forge a tri-point double-edge sword for him that was as powerful as dharma treasures.

Then, he would be able to pressure Hao Ren and defeat him easily.

Human cultivators favored bombarding each other with dharma treasures, so Hao Ren's Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was sufficient for dealing with them. As for dragon cultivators, they were inclined to engage in close-range combat. For example, before Hao Ren could release a sword array formation, Su Han could already place her long sword on Hao Ren's technique even though her sword technique wasn't the best.

Hao Ren sat on his bedside and slowly restored his nature essence with the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. The dragon core was like a reservoir; with more openings, its capacity grew bigger.

It was difficult to expand the reservoir, but it only needed time to fill it up again. Also, the process of continually draining and filling it up again would put pressure on the reservoir, making it grow in size and potentially get another opening in the dragon core.

Hao Ren used to create openings on his dragon core using brute force. Even though it could increase the volume of the reservoir quickly, the reservoir may end up cracking and collapsing one day.

Chirp! Chirp! Chirp! The birds sang outside the window, waking up Hao Ren who was immersed in cultivation.

It was another sunny morning.

Hao Ren sorted his clothes and put them in his small luggage before walking outside of the room.

Downstairs, Xie Yujia was making breakfast with her mom.

"Hao Ren!" Seeing Hao Ren coming down the stairs, Xie Yujia waved enthusiastically.

In shorts, a cartoon t-shirt, and slippers, Xie Yujia looked casual and cute.

Cheng Qian saw Hao Ren and smiled as well.

Xie Wanjun was practicing boxing outside. In front of the garage hung a huge sandbag, and Xie Wanjun would practice for two hours to maintain his strength every morning.

A moment later, he came in full of sweat, and he nodded at Hao Ren. "Want to try?"

"No thanks." Hao Ren rejected with a smile.

"Look at your physique. You can jump, but you lack strength." Xie Wanjun slapped Hao Ren's shoulder with his strong arm and said.

"Hey..." Xie Yujia rolled her eyes.

She clearly knew Hao Ren's capabilities. Xie Wanjun thought he himself was strong, but he couldn't take on Hao Ren even if there were 100 of him. Therefore, Xie Yujia tried to stop Xie Wanjun from embarrassing himself.

“Haha! Just kidding! Just kidding!” Xie Wanjun thought Xie Yujia didn’t want him to tease Hao Ren, so he wiped his face with a towel and shut his mouth in a hurry.

After they had breakfast, Xie Wanjun drove Hao Ren and Hao Zhonghua to the John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The best of friends must part. Hao Zhonghua’s career was in China, and Xie Ming’s was in the U.S. Their gathering could only be brief.

“Yesterday when I called Zhao Jiayi, he said that the finals would be pushed back to mid-August because of issues with the venue. If I have time, I’ll go over to see him play,” Xie Wanjun looked at Hao Ren and said.

“Okay.” Hao Ren nodded, expecting Xie Wanjun to return to China again.

“If you play basketball, you would be a superstar,” Xie Wanjun said.

“Haha...” Hao Ren laughed but didn’t speak; his ambition wasn’t in basketball. Zhao Kuo and Su Han both pursued after the Heavenly Dragon Realm, and Hao Ren was silently aiming toward the same goal.

Zhao Hongyu appeared with Zhao Yanzi at the airport, and they were seen off by Zhao Kuan’s family. When Zhao Yanzi saw Hao Ren, she immediately ran over. However, she suddenly came to a halt and ran back to her mom’s side.

Xie Yujia saw Zhao Yanzi’s family and peeked at Hao Ren. After all, she was reluctant to see Hao Ren leave.

“Mr. Hao.” Zhao Hongyu gently waved her hand and walked over.

Zhao Yanzi followed her mom tightly. It seemed like she was unwilling to see Hao Ren, but she had to come over.

“The plane tickets are booked, and there is only one hour before boarding.” Zhao Hongyu handed the plane tickets to Hao Zhonghua. Booking plane tickets through Mingri Group was effortless.

“Take care.” Xie Yujia looked at Hao Ren. The thousands of words on her mind could only be condensed into two.

“Eh.” Hao Ren nodded, peacefully looking at Xie Yujia.

“Humph...” Zhao Yanzi put her hands on her waist and snorted.

She was Hao Ren’s fiancée. “How is it Xie Yujia’s turn to care for Hao Ren?” she thought.

But then again, she didn’t seem to care about Hao Ren this way...

Hao Zhonghua waved goodbye to Xie Ming, and Hao Ren took one last look at Xie Yujia. Zhao Yanzi couldn’t hold it anymore, so she reached over and dragged Hao Ren over to the security check.

Standing beside Xie Yujia, Cheng Qian looked at Zhao Yanzi and said to Xie Ming jokingly, “That little girl’s relationship with Ren is not bad.”

“Eh, Zhonghua got me another big contract. It’s going to be busy.” Xie Ming looked at his daughter and then at Hao Ren at the security check. Then, he looked down and chuckled.

Xie Ming thought about his business, and then his daughter. However, Cheng Qian from was thinking about her daughter’s happiness from the beginning to end.

This time seeing Hao Ren after many years, she was extremely satisfied with this boy, such that she wanted her daughter to marry him tomorrow.

She thought to herself, “My dumb daughter is in the same class as Hao Ren, but she still hasn’t gotten him. She isn’t like me at all when I was chasing after her dad.”

After about a dozen hours of airtime, the plane landed in East Ocean City.

East Ocean City was not as busy as New York, but Hao Ren felt exceptionally comfortable when he returned to the land that spoke Chinese since he wasn’t that great at English.

“Mr. Hao, in the following month, I’m going on a vacation to an island with Zi. Ren is coming with us as well. I talked to Yue Yang about this already,” Zhao Hongyu said to Hao Zhonghua as they walked out of the airport.

“Yue Yang mentioned it to me,” Hao Zhonghua responded.

He initially intended to let Hao Ren stay at Xie Ming’s place and experience the American life, but he also had no issue with Hao Ren going on vacation with Zhao Yanzi’s family. With Hao Ren away, Grandma taking a summer vacation at the countryside, and Zhen Congming staying at the Mayor’s home, he could finally work on his science research project day and night, and Yue Yang could work with 100% focus as well.

If Hao Ren knew that his parents wanted to work on scientific research projects and were more than happy to leave him to Zhao Yanzi’s family, he would puke up blood.

“Ren, follow your auntie, Hongyu, and behave!” Hao Zhonghua said before jumping on a taxi and going to the Ocean Research Institute.

Zhao Hongyu turned to look at the stunned Hao Ren and smiled gently. “Ren, let’s go!”

Boom! Boom... Suddenly, rain poured from the sky.

The crowd outside the airport went into hiding, and the rain turned the streets white while quickly decreasing visibility.

Zhao Hongyu raised her hand, and the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting was laid out beneath the three. A red energy sphere was created, and they soared toward the ocean in the rain.

After a few moments, they flew out of the rain zone, crossed the coast, and went deeper into areas of the ocean.

Soon, a large island appeared in Hao Ren’s vision.

At the center of the island stood a palace, and a red energy sphere surrounded the island with waves crashing against it.

Zhao Hongyu drove the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting straight into the island.

“Your humble servant meets you, Dragon Queen!” Premier Xia performed a full-body bow.

“Get up.” Zhao Hongyu put away the painting and asked, “Are Elder Lu and others here yet?”

“Dragon Queen, everyone including Elder Lu, Elder Sun, and Elder Xingyue have already arrived on Purple Bamboo Island. They are now patrolling East Ocean with Dragon King.”

“Good!” Zhao Hongyu waved her hand. “Premier, you may mind your business.”

This Purple Bamboo Island was one of the secret islands of East Ocean Dragon Clan that had palaces on them, and it got this name since purple bamboos growing all over the island.

Different from Coral Island, Purple Bamboo Island was in the red energy shield and couldn't be discovered by mortals.

Every Summer, Zhao Guang would stay here for a month or two. He managed all affairs of the dragon clan on the island and supervised the training of the soldiers; this was called, Summer Patrol.

During Summer Patrol, Zhao Guang usually took with him Elder Lu, Elder Sun, Elder Xingyue, and Premier Xia.

“You're finally here! I've been waiting for a long time!” A loud voice suddenly sounded.

Zhao Kuo in a grey robe flew down from the palace on the mountain, and it took him just a moment to reach Hao Ren. The, he punched toward Hao Ren's chest.

Hao Ren sidestepped and used the fundamental boxing techniques to counter it.

After blocking Zhao Kuo's iron fist and leaving a dozen footsteps on the beach, Hao Ren immediately chopped at the back of Zhao Kuo's head.

“Not bad!” Zhao Kuo groaned and released a strong aura from his body, directly pushing Hao Ren away.

Five-elemental essences gathered on his fist and went straight toward Hao Ren's face.

“Third Uncle!” Zhao Yanzi shouted in a hurry.

She did ask Zhao Kuo to train Hao Ren in the cruelest way possible in private, but how could they fight when they just met?

“Would Third Uncle's fist deform Hao Ren's face?” she thought.

Hua! Hua!

Hao Ren took two steps back and was prepared to use one technique from the fundamental boxing techniques. Suddenly, an idea flashed in his mind.

A sword energy appeared on the tip of his finger, and he used the first variation of the first sword technique from the Mystic Water Sword Techniques.

Nature essence went through Hao Ren's acupoints in a unique pattern, and the sword energy drew a bright arc along Hao Ren's finger.

“What...?” Zhao Kuo was somewhat surprised, and that moment of hesitation made his fist wounded by Hao Ren’s sword energy.

Blood instantly gushed out.

“Hao Ren! You dare to injure my third uncle!” Zhao Yanzi who was worried about Hao Ren suddenly took Zhao Kuo’s side after seeing Zhao Kuo being injured.

Zhao Kuo retracted his fist and covered the injury with his nature essence. The bleeding immediately stopped.

He glared at Hao Ren and said, “No rest. Run 20 laps around the island, now!”

“Good! Good! Third Uncle should teach him a lesson like this!” Zhao Yanzi clapped happily.

She had been jealous of how intimate Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were at New York, and she couldn’t wait for Zhao Kuo to put Hao Ren through a hell-level training.

“You too! Follow him!” Zhao Kuo stared at Zhao Yanzi and shouted.

#### **Chapter 496: Preparation Before Having Children!**

“Ah?” Zhao Yanzi was so surprised that her mouth opened wide.

“Now! Go!” Zhao Kuo said.

“Mom...” Zhao Yanzi looked at Zhao Hongyu for help.

However, Zhao Hongyu ignored Zhao Yanzi’s plea as she stepped to Zhao Kuo’s side.

“Go!” Zhao Kuo shouted again, and he released a sword energy from his fingertip, striking the sand near Zhao Yanzi’s ankle.

Bam! Yellow sand grains splashed and prompted Zhao Yanzi to run in a hurry. After all, Zhao Kuo’s sword energies were stronger than bullets.

Hao Ren took a deep breath and put strength into his legs, catching up to Zhao Yanzi’s side.

Zhao Yanzi was a marathon champion at school, but 20 laps around Purple Bamboo Island was too much even for her.

The coastline of Purple Bamboo Island was around 12 kilometers, so 20 laps were 240 kilometers! Even if it took 4 minutes to complete a kilometer, it would take 16 hours!

“Is this a joke? I just got off the long flight, and I haven’t even rested yet!” Zhao Yanzi thought.

Thinking of this, she felt wronged...

Before, Third Uncle would spoil her on every occasion. Why did he suddenly become so strict...

Hao Ren didn’t think as much as she did, and he was only quietly adjusting his breathing and firmly running on the soft sand.



When he was in middle school, he was also on the field and track team. All his old habits were coming back.

“Hey!” Zhao Yanzi saw Hao Ren running in front of her and couldn’t help but shout.

She increased her pace and caught up with Hao Ren. She looked at Hao Ren aggrievedly and ran shoulder to shoulder by his side.

It seemed now that Third Uncle was not going to take care of her. Only Hao Ren would go through thick and thin together with her.

Hao Ren turned to look at her and smiled helplessly. He adjusted to Zhao Yanzi’s rhythm and ran at her pace.

At this moment, the blazing sun was high in the sky.

Only a few hundred meters in, Zhao Yanzi was already sweating all over her body. The sand grains were burning, which didn’t make stepping on them any easier.

They finished one lap on the beach around the island, which took them almost an hour. This was already far beyond an ordinary person’s endurance and speed. If Zhao Yanzi didn’t reach the Foundation Establishment Realm, she would have collapsed in only half an hour.

“Let’s take a break, take a break!” Zhao Yanzi gasped. She saw that Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Kuo were out of sight and shouted toward Hao Ren.

As Hao Ren was going to slow down with her, a sword energy suddenly shot down from the high ground.

Bam! It landed by Zhao Yanzi’s foot.

Zhao Yanzi was ready to sit on the beach but was forced to jump up

Bam! Bam!

Two more sword energies hit Zhao Yanzi’s left and right side. The smoldering craters were only a few centimeters away from her feet, and Zhao Yanzi clenched her teeth and ran again.

Bam! Bam! Bam! A few more sword energies landed behind her, making her unable to slow down. She was literally about to cry. She had never been treated like this.

“Come...” Hao Ren who was half a meter in front of her reached out his hand.

Zhao Yanzi clenched her teeth.

She hesitated for a few seconds and finally reached out her hand to grab Hao Ren’s.

Hao Ren held her hand and sprinted.

Bam! Bam! Bam! A dozen sword energies tightly followed their ankles.

On the mountain peak, Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Kuo stood in a pavilion as they looked at Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

“To reach higher realms, strong bodies are basic requirements,” Zhao Kuo said.

“Eh. In this coming month, you should not spoil Zi,” Zhao Hongyu looked at the two small black dots far away and said faintly.

“I know. I only have a month before I go anyways,” Zhao Kuo said.

Zhao Hongyu turned to look at him. “What about Elder Xingyue?”

“I will come back and marry her after I reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm,” Zhao Kuo said.

“You confessed?” Zhao Hongyu asked immediately.

Zhao Kuo’s dark face faintly blushed. “No... Not yet.”

Zhao Hongyu sighed helplessly.

Hao Ren didn’t want to choose, and Zhao Kuo didn’t dare to face his feelings. Zhao Hongyu suddenly thought that the two were quite similar.

Zhao Kuo saw Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi slowing down and shot another dozen sword energies. He switched the topic and said, “This kid Hao Ren; I think he’s not bad.”

“Indeed, it is only that Zi’s realm is too low compared to Ren.” Zhao Hongyu looked at Zhao Yanzi by the shore in worry. “One day, she is going to have a child.”

“You’re afraid that her realm is too low and might face danger during childbirth?” Zhao Kuo asked.

“I certainly have this worry.” Zhao Hongyu nodded. “You know, Zhao Guang was afraid that something might happen to me, so he wouldn’t let me have another child.”

“This I know. My brother loves you very much. When my dad asked him to marry another woman, he didn’t do it,” Zhao Kuo said frankly.

“It was not only for me but also for Zi. If Zi has a half-brother, it would be hard to tell whether she could live happily,” Zhao Hongyu said.

Zhao Kuo thought about it and nodded.

Zhao Yanzi was the princess of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, so all elders in the Palace surrounded her. If she had a brother who would inherit the throne and become the future dragon king, and the mother of the future dragon king was not her biological mother...

“So, you are taking care of Xie Yujia for Zi’s sake as well?” Thinking of this, Zhao Kuo asked Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Hongyu smiled but didn’t answer.

By the shore, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were getting tired. Hao Ren was still ok, but Zhao Yanzi was almost dragging her feet across the sand.

If they weren’t forced to run fast, 20 laps wouldn’t be too difficult. However, Zhao Kuo’s sword energies forced Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi to stay at the same fast pace, which challenged their bodies’ limits.

The bodies were like containers for storing nature essence. The sturdier the bodies were, the more nature essence they could store. Challenging one's body to the extreme could temper the body and also work the mind.

The sun gradually set into the ocean in the West, but Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were still running. Zhao Yanzi had never suffered so much before. Her cultivation path in the past was relaxed and easy, and it was nothing like this.

She was deceived by Third Uncle and forced to train this hard.

Hao Ren's footsteps were still calm and stable. He held Zhao Yanzi's arm and continued to run along the coastline.

On the mountain, Zhao Kuo stood still and supervised them. If they slacked slightly, unrelenting sword energies would land by their feet.

The moon was bright, and the stars began to fade. It was almost morning again.

"Third Uncle! I can't run anymore!" Zhao Yanzi couldn't help but beg for mercy.

She wanted to reach the Core Formation Realm to defeat Duan Yao, but she would instead give up this thought after this torturous experience. Third Uncle's training method was too difficult!

On the peak, Zhao Kuo didn't answer. Three sword energies arrived and wrecked Zhao Yanzi's shoes.

"I can't run anymore!" Zhao Yanzi sat on the beach, determined to make a scene.

She knew Zhao Kuo cherished her and wouldn't really hurt her.

"If you don't finish running, don't call me as your uncle in the future!" Zhao Kuo roared toward Zhao Yanzi fiercely.

Zhao Yanzi was so scared that she trembled all over. She had never seen Third Uncle being so cruel to her, so she knew Third Uncle was not joking. She held tears in her eyes and finally got up and continued running.

Standing on the peak, Zhao Kuo felt somewhat apologetic. But as Zhao Hongyu said, the more relaxed they were now, the more danger they would be in in the future.

His mom was a Qian-level cultivator. In 100 years, she gave birth to three sons and passed away afterward.

With Zhao Yanzi's low realm, she might not be able to stand it after giving birth to one dragon baby.

As her Third Uncle, Zhao Kuo wanted to hold his grandnephew or her grandniece! As for himself, he had decided not to have children!

Therefore, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi's baby in the future would be treated by him as his own grandson or granddaughter!

Thinking of this, Zhao Kuo released dozens of sword energies that followed Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi. They forced the two to scream and ran furiously.

“Hahahaha!” Zhao Kuo laughed happily.

Soon, the sun once again slowly fell to the west, and Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi finally completed the 20 laps. They were rumbling with hunger and trembling all over. Hao Ren had to carry Zhao Yanzi on his back to finish the last three laps.

“Starting from tomorrow, five laps a day for Zi, and ten laps a day for Hao Ren. But Hao Ren, you have to run with tires, and the number of tires increases by one each day.”

Zhao Kuo pointed to the forest to his left.

In the forest, there were dozens of tires piled up, and they were the big tires for heavy trucks!

“I will guide your cultivations as well. Zi’s cultivation session is in the morning, which is after five laps. Hao Ren’s cultivation session is at night, which is after ten laps,” Zhao Kuo said.

“After cultivation, may I go play or sleep?” Zhao Yanzi pouted and looked at Zhao Kuo pitifully.

If she knew it was such cruel training, she wouldn’t have begged Third Uncle to train her in the first place.

“You can, but after you complete your homework,” Zhao Kuo said.

“Homework?” Zhao Yanzi was thrilled. “I have completed all my summer homework a few days ago!”

“Your mom got you three Grade Nine textbooks. This summer, you must finish reading them,” Zhao Kuo said.

Zhao Yanzi opened her mouth wide in surprise. Then, she swung Zhao Kuo’s arm in a pettishly charming manner and said, “Third Uncle...”

Zhao Kuo began to sweat on his forehead. “I cannot help you. It is what your dad instructed.”

Pa! Zhao Yanzi sat on the sand, and she felt like crying.

“How is this a summer holiday? This is hell!” she thought.

“Also, Hao Ren, I have arranged your residence. You will be sleeping in the forest.” Zhao Kuo pointed to a hut in the forest. “Live there; you’ll feel the heaven and earth better.”

Hao Ren opened his eyes wide and thought, “This... This is out of envy! You think I’m too intimate with Zhao Yanzi, right?”

“Zi, you must be hungry. Let’s go and eat.” Zhao Kuo revealed his spoiling expression and said to Zhao Yanzi as he took her to the glamorous palace.

He suddenly looked at Hao Ren again with another expression. “Oh, Hao Ren, you must find food by yourself on this island. This is a form of cultivation as well.”

“Eh...” Hao Ren looked at him, stunned.

A few days later, the ragged Hao Ren had several ropes tied around his waist as he dragged several giant tires and ran along the beach...

After ten days, he was up to a dozen tires... After more than thirty days, more than 30 tires were dashing on the beach, sending sand grains into the sky.

The barefooted Hao Ren strode forward, and his body was full of strength. The muscles on his body were bulging, and the tires that were being pulled left deep grooves around the island, looking like a moat without water!

### **Chapter 497: Defeat Zhao Kuo!**

Swoosh! Swoosh... Hundreds of green sword energies swept across the ocean surface.

Hao Ren stood steadily on a grey sword energy above the ocean surface.

Boom!

One hundred twenty black sword energies shot up from the ocean, and Hao Ren flew up swiftly and shot out 160 red sword energies from his hand.

Swoosh! Swoosh... More white sword energies glistened in the high sky.

In his grey robe, Zhao Kuo stood on the ocean wave.

Hundreds of colorful sword energies fought with each other under and above the ocean surface.

Hao Ren's clothes were in torn, but the sword energies emitted from his body weren't something to be taken lightly.

Bang! Zhao Kuo released a strong aura.

Hao Ren tempered his body with heavenly lightning bolts while Zhao Kuo toughened his body with the five-elemental essences. Hao Ren's lightning cultivation technique could break everything that was comprised of the five elements while Zhao Kuo's five-elemental technique could absorb everything of the five elements.

Bang! Hundreds of sword energies collided with each other in the center of the ocean.

The collision left a crater in the ocean, and huge waves surged up while ocean water rushed back into the crater.

Hao Ren focused his attention and shot out sword energies from more than one hundred acupoints on his body. The sword energies formed a sword array formation and crashed toward Zhao Kuo.

Standing on the waves, Zhao Kuo laughed wildly while his hands shot out hundreds of sword energies to block Hao Ren's!

Both Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, and only Hao Ren could fight Zhao Kuo with sword energies in such a magnificent way!

In the past 30 days, Zhao Kuo spent two hours answering Hao Ren's questions on cultivation every day and another hour fighting with him with the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Each time they fought, the ocean around Purple Bamboo Island would turn dark, and the generals and soldiers guarding the area would immediately keep clear of them.

Bang!

Hao Ren's sword energies and Zhao Kuo's sword energies crashed into each other again.

The nearby ocean surface hissed with green smoke; the powerful energies evaporated hundreds of tons of ocean water!

Ding! Ding... Hao Ren's 320 sword energies were bounced off.

Zhao Kuo's 320 sword energies formed a line and dashed toward Hao Ren. Zhao Kuo who had reached Dui-level was reserving his strength and didn't release all 640 sword energies.

"Third Uncle, watch out for my attack!" At this critical moment, Zhao Yanzi suddenly flew up from the ocean.

With a silver longsword in her hand, she stepped on the ocean waves and slashed the sword toward Zhao Kuo.

Walking on waves was the basic technique of dragon cultivators, especially the water-elemental dragon cultivators. Without using flying swords, Zhao Yanzi could move swiftly by maneuvering the ocean waves.

Zhao Kuo stepped aside to dodge her attacks, and two huge waves over 30 meters tall exploded around him like two water bombs, drenching Zhao Kuo.

Tianshu!

The Tianshu Sword Technique in the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll was used. The nature essence circulated in her body and unleashed great power.

Since Zhao Yanzi's Purple Green Treasure Sword was left on Fifth Heaven, she borrowed this sword from Zhao Hongyu.

"Third Uncle, there's more!" Seeing Zhao Kuo trying to dodge her attacks, Zhao Yanzi changed her sword technique and stabbed at Zhao Kuo.

Tianxuan!

The second technique of Big Dipper Constellation Scroll!

As the name of the scroll indicated, each sword technique represented the unique feature of the seven stars in the Big Dipper Constellation. Tianxuan had an ancient name of Greedy Wolf, meaning that this technique was direct and magnificent in damage, and Tianxuan had an ancient name of Giant Door, signaling that this technique was great at defense as well.

After Zhao Kuo's devoted tutoring sessions in the past month, Zhao Yanzi had reached mid-tier Foundation Establishment Realm, and she learned the second chapter of the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll.

Smiling in a relaxed way, Zhao Kuo released five sword energies from his palm.

Dang! Dang... Zhao Yanzi blocked all five sword energies with her sword.

Meanwhile, Hao Ren's 320 sword energies returned with water, forcing Zhao Kuo to retreat three steps.

Under the cover of Hao Ren's sword energies, Zhao Yanzi dashed forward and used Tianxuan and Tianshu together!

The greatness of the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll didn't only lie in the fact that the sword techniques was the same as the cultivation techniques, where improvement in one would lead to improvement in the other. In addition, all seven techniques could work together in different combinations!

Zhao Yanzi had just reached mid-tier Foundation Establishment Realm and was not familiar with Tianxuan Sword Technique, but to her pleasant surprise, the nature essence injected into the longsword was very powerful.

Hao Ren's 320 sword energies and Zhao Yanzi's sword techniques worked with each other and forced Zhao Kuo back another three steps.

Standing on the viewing deck of the Summer Palace, Premier Xia turned to look at Zhao Guang and said cheerfully, "Princess Zi is a rare cultivation genius. Congratulations!"

Standing by Zhao Guang, Elder Lu also nodded and added, "Princess Zi has gained great progress recently. It seems that she will reach the Core Formation Realm in a short while."

Watching the battle on the ocean surface, Elder Sun nodded gravely. "Princess Zi's sword techniques are indeed exquisite. Fuma must have taken great efforts to acquire this set of techniques for her."

Zhao Guang stared at the battle for a few seconds before asking Elder Xingyue who was standing by Zhao Hongyu, "Elder Xingyue, what do you think of Zi's recent progress?"

Elder Xingyue was responsible for the cultivation of all the female members in the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and her status was equivalent to the principal of a female-only school. Since she had taught Zhao Yanzi in latter's earliest cultivation days, her appraisal of Zhao Yanzi's cultivation progress would be the most accurate.

Elder Xingyue focused her attention on the battle for a few seconds. "Princess Zi has great cultivation talent, but she was a lazy cultivator. From what I can see, her talent and intelligence are no less than Su Han's. She uses the sword techniques swiftly but carefully and steadily, knowing how to reserve her strength and hide the changes in techniques, which is not an easy task."

Hearing Elder Xingyue's words, Zhao Hongyu smiled with satisfaction. She knew that Zhao Yanzi was talented, but she couldn't force Zhao Yanzi to cultivate hard when the latter was reluctant. Now that Zhao Yanzi lost her dragon core and felt the urgency put on her by Xie Yujia, she was eager to learn.

While they talked, Hao Ren suddenly withdrew his 320 sword energies into his palm and formed a solid sword made from essences.

The sword energies from the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll were made of five-elemental essences, and everything in the world was made of the five elements.

This sword that appeared in Hao Ren's hand was like a natal dharma treasure with balanced five elements, which was connected with Hao Ren's spiritual senses and mind.

With the five-elemental sword in his hand, Hao Ren stood by Zhao Yanzi's side and struck toward Zhao Kuo.

His sword techniques came from the Mystic Water Sword Techniques. In the past month, Hao Ren jogged around the island while dragging tires behind him during the day, received Zhao Kuo's tutorials on cultivation in the evenings, and stayed alone in a small hut in the forest during the night, cultivating and understanding the contents in the jade slip.

After one month, Hao Ren understood the first six variations of the first sword technique, and he could practice them with proficiency.

He didn't know if it was an illusion or not, but when he used the Mystic Water Sword Technique, he had a vague feeling of connecting with heaven and earth, which had never happened even when he practiced the powerful Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Hao Ren's nature essence entered the five-elemental sword abruptly through his meridians while some essences from the surrounding got sucked in.

With one strike of his sword, it seemed like all six variations were used at the same time.

Hua! Hua!

Zhao Yanzi used Tianshu and Tianxuan in one breath.

Zhao Kuo retreated half a step. With a splash, he fell into the ocean.

"Haha! Third Uncle lost!" Zhao Yanzi yelled cheerfully, "Hao Ren can live in the palace now!"

The moment she said it, she turned her head to look at Hao Ren by her side and said with a straight face. "I... I didn't defeat Third Uncle for you!"

Hao Ren smiled and dissolved the five-elemental sword which turned into sparks before returning into his body.

On the viewing deck of the Summer Palace, Premier Xia laughed while stroking his goatee in a pleasant surprise. "I'm surprised that Fuma and the Princess could force back Third Lord!"

Zhao Guang shook his head with a smile. "Zhao Kuo lost the fight on purpose to make Zi happy."

Elder Xingyue looked at the ocean surface and remained silent, thinking that Zhao Kuo was indeed forced back at that moment, but he didn't want to hurt Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi and chose to fall into the ocean.

Hua... Drenched all over, Zhao Kuo rose from the ocean waves and instantly dried his clothes with fire-elemental nature essences.

Since Zhao Kuo had reached a certain realm by tempering his body with five-elemental essences, his body could change to different elemental attribute freely, and he could use any kinds of dharma spells. He was on a different path compared to Hao Ren who tempered his body with lightning.



Holding Zhao Yanzi's hand, Hao Ren flew up onto the viewing deck of the Summer Palace.

In the past month, he had lived in the forest. According to Zhao Kuo's condition, if Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren could defeat him one day, Hao Ren could live at the palace.

To reach this goal, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi had joined forces to fight with Zhao Kuo each day. For Zhao Yanzi, she was just being rebellious toward her third uncle for being mean to her, and Hao Ren treated it as a test of his strength and mastery of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Now that Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi had forced Zhao Kuo into the ocean, Hao Ren finally was qualified to enter the palace.

Back on the viewing deck, Zhao Hongyu smiled at Hao Ren who looked like a wild man and turned to Premier Xia. "Go and get some clothes for Ren."

"As you wish!" Premier Xia immediately backed out of the viewing deck.

"You've worked hard recently," Zhao Hongyu glanced at Hao Ren and comforted him.

Not to interrupt his cultivation, while Hao Ren lived in the Purple Bamboo Forest, no one had ever visited him.

However, in the last month, Hao Ren had gained great progress, jumping from low-tier to mid-tier Gen-level with 182 openings unlocked.

In the past, he had been bothered by all kinds of mortal business. Now, he finally truly experienced the great benefits of cultivating in seclusion.

Zhao Kuo was at peak Qian-level before, and he was very experienced in cultivation. He had helped Hao Ren understand the proper speed of cultivation and gain better control of his dragon core.

"Mom, I've worked hard too!" Looking at Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi asked for compliments.

"Ok, ok. You've worked hard as well," Zhao Hongyu said with a smile as she patted her daughter's head.

She could see that Zhao Yanzi had indeed worked hard judging from her use of the two sword techniques and her mid-tier Foundation Establishment Realm.

After all, without her dragon core, it was difficult for Zhao Yanzi to make progress. The dragon cultivator could only slow down after reaching Dui-level, which was equal to low-tier Nascent Soul Realm.

Stepping on a golden light beam, Zhao Kuo returned to the viewing deck as well.

Zhao Yanzi was about to tease her uncle when he cupped his hands at Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang with an especially serious expression. "Big Brother, Sister-in-law, I've broken through to top-tier Dui-level, and I plan to use the mystic crystal today!"

#### **Chapter 498: Using the Mystic Crystal**

Hearing the words, Hao Ren was slightly surprised.

Hao Ren didn't know that until now, Zhao Kuo still hadn't used the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus he had given him.

Zhao Guang's face turned serious as well. "Good. We must be careful with it, and I'll triple the guarding forces around the Purple Bamboo Island. You can use it without interruption!"

"Thank you, Big Brother!" Zhao Kuo cupped his hands and strode into the palace through the viewing deck.

"Fuma, here is your robe!" Premier Xia returned to the viewing deck with a blue robe.

Hao Ren pulled it on and turned to Zhao Hongyu. "Is it dangerous to use a mystic crystal?"

"Of course." Zhao Hongyu nodded. "After all, it's against the laws of nature to cultivate and take the life essence from nature. It's a blessing from nature for the dragon cultivators to have dragon cores, and it's natural that one can't gain any progress after reaching Dui-level. Planting the mystic crystal into the body is against nature, so it's a very dangerous practice."

Hao Ren understood the situation now. Although Zhao Kuo succeeded before, it didn't mean that he could successfully plant the mystic crystal this time, which explained why Zhao Guang and Zhao Kuo suddenly got so serious.

All Qian-level and Kun-level masters including Su Han had experienced life-and-death moments, and many had died in the process of planting the mystic crystals into their dragon cores after acquiring the materials.

Accepting the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus from Hao Ren, Zhao Kuo was also doing the experiment for Hao Ren!

After all, none of the previous dragon cultivators had ever cultivated five elements at once before!

Also, none of the dragon cultivators had tried planting a mystic crystal that had all five elements into their dragon cores.

With his cultivation experience, Zhao Kuo was experimenting at the cost of his life. He was trying things out and teaching them to Hao Ren, just like how he had taught everything he knew about the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to Hao Ren!

At this thought, Hao Ren had zero regrets for giving Zhao Kuo the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus. Instead, he felt more respect for Zhao Kuo.

Da! Da... Concerned for Zhao Kuo, Zhao Yanzi immediately turned and ran toward the palace.

Feeling uneasy, Hao Ren also hurried into the palace.

"Third Uncle! Third Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi called out.

Zhao Kuo paused and looked at Zhao Yanzi while a smile appeared on his black face. "Zi, your third uncle will be fine."

"Third Uncle even survived the Heavenly Tribulation. I'm sure you'll be fine!" Zhao Yanzi said confidently.

“Yeah!” Zhao Kuo nodded and glanced at Hao Ren who just jogged over. “Kid, I’ll fight you again after I plant the mystic crystal! And you must use all your strength!”

“Ok!” Hao Ren promised.

Elder Xingyue walked over and said. “I... will guard for you.”

The gentle words contained infinite care.

Zhao Kuo stared at her for a few seconds and cupped his hands. “Thank you.”

“Pu!” Even Hao Ren felt like Zhao Kuo was a bit too dull.

“You’re welcome.” Elder Xingyue waved her hand and walked toward the secret chamber in the Summer Palace with Zhao Kuo.

“Eh, these two...” Exasperated, Hao Ren followed them while holding Zhao Yanzi’s hand.

Zhao Kuo and Elder Xingyue entered the secret chamber while Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi had to stay outside.

One must make full preparations before using a mystic crystal, and the cultivator who would act as the guard must possess a high realm and a close connection with the cultivator they guarded. This way, the guarding cultivators could offer help at the critical moment.

Elder Xingyue was guarding for Zhao Kuo, which meant that their minds were in sync.

With the stone door of the secret chamber closed, Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren stood outside without any knowledge of the situation inside.

A while later, Zhao Guang, Zhao Hongyu, Elder Lu, and Elder Sun came to the door of the secret chamber one after another.

“Mom, will Third Uncle be Ok?” Zhao Yanzi asked anxiously.

“Silly girl, what are you talking about!” Zhao Hongyu glanced at her helplessly. “It takes at least one day to use the mystic crystal. I guess your third uncle will be fine since he did it before.”

She didn’t sound very convincing. After all, no one could be certain about what would happen during the process, especially when the mystic crystal had all five elements.

Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang didn’t plant mystic crystals into their dragon cores because they didn’t want to get to higher realms. Zhao Guang was busy managing the East Ocean Dragon Clan and didn’t have enough time for cultivation while Zhao Hongyu wasn’t sure if she could succeed and didn’t want Zhao Yanzi to lose her mom in the process.

Zhao Yanzi clenched her fist anxiously.

She hadn’t been born yet when Zhao Kuo planted his mystic crystal last time. However, Zhao Kuo’s failure while he charged at the Heavenly Dragon Realm left a deep impression on her mind.

She hoped that nothing would happen to her third uncle.

“Your majesty, we tripled the guarding forces around the Purple Bamboo Island.” Premier Xia came to the door of the secret chamber and reported to Zhao Guang.

“Ok.” Zhao Guang nodded gravely.

He looked at the stone door of the secret chamber anxiously.

After all, he had a deep brotherly bond with Zhao Kuo who was also the only master who could charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm in the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

Most of the dragon cultivators who reached peak Qian-level were at least 800 to 900 years old. If they failed to pass the Heavenly Tribulation, they would be turned into dust. Even if they survived, they wouldn't have another chance to charge at Heavenly Dragon Realm again.

However, Zhao Kuo was only two hundred years old when he failed, and he could start over again. What did the Heavenly Dragon Realm mean? It meant a transformation of the entire situation!

In any case, Zhao Guang hoped no accident would happen in the process while Zhao Kuo used the mystic crystal.

As time ticked on, the secret chamber remained quiet.

Hao Ren's heart was in his throat, and Zhao Yanzi grabbed Hao Ren's wrist nervously as sweat began to seep from her slim fingers.

“Premier Xia, how much time has passed?” Zhao Hongyu asked suddenly.

“Dragon Queen, 12 hours have passed,” Premier Xia answered.

“12 hours...” Zhao Hongyu murmured to herself before glancing at the grey stone door tensely.

Boom!

Boom! Boom!

Huge noises suddenly came from the outside of the palace.

Startled by the noise, Hao Ren looked toward Zhao Guang.

“Ren, Zi, Elder Lu, Elder Sun, go out and help with the defense!” Zhao Guang issued the order.

Even though he didn't understand the situation, Hao Ren followed Elder Sun and ran up to the ground through the stairs, and Zhao Yanzi followed Hao Ren closely.

When Hao Ren ran outside of the palace with Elder Lu, he realized that crazy wind and thick clouds were forming around the Purple Bamboo Island.

The heavy dark clouds swept toward the Purple Bamboo Island while ocean waves as high as five to six meters crashed against the edges of the island.

If the Summer Palace were built lower on the mountain, such giant waves would have swallowed the palace!

Under the crushing force of the ocean waves, the red energy sphere blinked. Since it was only built to block the sight of mortals, it couldn't even keep the rain out.

When a storm came a few days ago, Hao Ren was drenched in the rain while he cultivated in the Purple Bamboo Forest.

The reason the energy sphere became unstable was probably that the spirit stones which were used to build it had been loosened by the crashing ocean waves.

"Elder Lu, what's wrong?" Hao Ren asked.

"Demon beasts!" Lu Qing said two words while he looked around cautiously. "Third Lord is using the mystic crystal, and it has caused some special temporary changes in nature, attracting the demon beasts to this place."

"Most of these demon beasts are very close to the Transformation Realm and are looking for chances to pass the Heavenly Tribulation. That is why they came here," Elder Sun added.

Situated in the deep sea, the Purple Bamboo Island was not far from the Demon Sea. Therefore, the violent changes in nature attracted large groups of demon beasts.

However, if Zhao Kuo used the mystic crystal in the East Ocean Dragon Palace which was close to the coastline, the violent changes in the weather would affect the mortals!

"Don't worry, Gongzi Hao. These demon beasts came here to seek thunder tribulation and usually won't attack Purple Bamboo Island," Elder Sun told him.

"Humph! We'll kill all of them if they attack us!" Zhao Yanzi said with confidence.

After mastering the second chapter in the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll and forcing back Zhao Kuo together with Hao Ren, she felt very powerful, not having a clue about the so-called demon beasts at the Transformation Realm.

Boom! A huge whale emerged from the ocean.

More than 300 meters long, the huge whale opened its huge red mouth, and large amounts of ocean water poured in.

Astonished, Zhao Yanzi swallowed her boasting words.

The moment the huge whale appeared, another giant black fish came out of the ocean, and it was more than ten times bigger compared with the huge whale. It looked like a small island that suddenly emerged from the ocean.

The black fish shot out a black beam of light from its mouth and immediately cut the huge whale into two halves. The remains of the huge whale turned into a pile of flesh, and the gigantic black fish instantly swallowed its white internal core.

Dumbfounded, Zhao Yanzi was at a loss for words with the longsword in hand.

"Whole island on guard!" Premier Xia stood on the high platform at the mountaintop and called out.

The troops there were under Zhao Kuo's command. Since Zhao Kuo was planting the mystic crystal, Premier Xia took his place in this urgent situation.

"Yes!"

More than 5,000 soldiers all over the island answered in unison.

The soldiers lifted their long spears, pointing them outward of the island. They were ready to strike down any demon beasts that tried to attack the island.

Boom! Boom!

Lightning flashed, and thunder boomed in the dark clouds.

As a cultivator who had broken through several realms, Hao Ren knew that cultivators' elevations of realms would cause special changes in nature, a symbol of communication between the cultivators, heaven, and earth.

The higher the realms of the cultivators, the more violent the changes in nature would be. The violent storm with lightning and thunder represented the violent reactions inside Zhao Kuo's body!

Hua! Hua!

Two huge pythons shot up into the sky from the ocean

Whipping at the ocean surface with their tails that were as thick as a skyscraper, they flew up into the high sky with great efforts.

Crack! Crack!

Two bolts of heavenly lightning shot down from the dark clouds and struck the bodies of the two pythons.

After cultivating in the ocean for years, the two pythons would go through the Heavenly Tribulations in a few years before reaching the Transformation Realm. Feeling the special changes in nature, they had swum here from a distance since the streaks of heaven lightning caused by a high-level cultivator's elevation in realm might give them a chance to transform into humans beforehand.

Even if they couldn't transform this time, they would get a feeling of the heaven lightning, which could help them pass the future Heavenly Tribulation.

Bang! Bang! Struck by two streaks of heaven lightning on the heads, the two pythons fell into the ocean, sending up huge waves as high as 100 meters.

Having never seen such a view, Zhao Yanzi was stupefied while she watched.

"Princess, some demon beasts don't dare to fight with the heaven lightning. But due to their grudges against the East Ocean Dragon Clan, they probably would take the opportunity to attack the Purple Bamboo Island. You must be careful," Elder Sun warned her when he saw the dazed expression on her face.

**Chapter 499: The Magnificent Commanding General**

The moment Elder Sun said the words, a fierce beast with a sharp horn rushed out of the violent ocean waves.

“Zi!” Hao Ren yelled while he shot out sword energies.

Zhao Yanzi retreated half a step and slashed out twice with her longsword

The Tianshu Sword Technique instantly cut off half the sharp horn from the demon beast.

The demon beast immediately retreated to the sea, and Zhao Yanzi broke out in a cold sweat.

Roar! Roar... Dozens of demon beasts leaped out of the ocean into the sky.

More than ten streaks of heavenly lightning struck on some of the demon beasts, and the low-leveled demon beasts were instantly killed!

Despite it, more and more demon beasts rushed out of the ocean!

This level of heavenly thunders was much less powerful than the thunder tribulation for transformation. While the low-leveled demon beasts got a taste of heavenly lightning bolts this way, the high-leveled ones tried to use these streaks of heavenly lightning as their heavenly tribulations to transform!

In the sky, dark clouds got even thicker, and the dim sky instantly turned even darker than night.

However, it was weird that no rain came from these dark clouds.

Roar... Hundreds of demon beasts that looked like white horses rushed together into the high sky.

Crack!

One lightning bolt crashed down and instantly destroyed and shattered these demon beasts. Their flesh fell into the water, and the demon beasts that were waiting in the ocean opened their huge mouths and swallowed the fleshes.

The bodies of demon beasts were nutrients to other demon beasts!

Xie Yujia used spiritual herbs to make elixirs, but some elixir masters used demon beast’s blood and internal cores to make certain kinds of elixirs.

Hua! Hua... With another surge of waves, several more demon beasts got close to Purple Bamboo Island.

Zhao Yanzi used Tianxuan Sword Technique, and her longsword released a sword energy. The demon beasts were fast and lifted their paws to block Zhao Yanzi’s sword.

The demon beast that tried to sneak-attack Zhao Yanzi a moment ago was a demon beast without a level, but these demon beasts were level 1 demon beasts with strength equivalent to that of Core Formation Realm cultivators!

This time, Zhao Yanzi understood the great power of demon beasts in the ocean. While she retreated, she yelled, “Hao Ren! Hao Ren!”

Hao Ren was surrounded by two demon beasts right now. He shot 60 sword energies into the belly of a demon beast that was chasing after Zhao Yanzi.

Severely wounded but with its internal core intact, that demon beast retreated in pain.

“Fuma, be careful and don’t kill too many of them!” Elder Lu warned.

Zhao Haoran, the old dragon king, was a great candidate to elevate to the Heavenly Dragon Realm in the Dragon Tribe. However, in the sudden war in the cultivation world, Zhao Haoran had killed dozens of Nascent Soul Realm cultivators from the cultivation sects to protect the East Ocean Dragon Clan, which resulted in his intense murderous spirit and the inability to advance into the Heavenly Dragon Realm.

Although Elder Lu and Elder Sun didn’t expect Hao Ren to get into the Heavenly Dragon Realm, having an intense murderous spirit would have an adverse effect on his future cultivation.

“Great!”

Hao Ren released 120 sword energies which broke the feet of the two demon beasts that had rushed to his side before pushing them into the sea.

In fact, he didn’t like to kill as well.

With his current strength of mid-tier Gen-level, which was equivalent to the top-tier Core Formation Realm, it was easy for him to force back these level 1 demon beasts with Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

If Little White were here, its level 2 demon beast aura would have frightened off these weak demon beasts.

Seeing that she couldn’t defeat these demon beasts, Zhao Yanzi ran back to Hao Ren’s side and fought together with Hao Ren.

Her Tianshu and Tianxuan Sword Techniques were quite effective working together with Hao Ren’s sword array formations.

The morale of the generals and soldiers who were guarding the palace increased greatly when they saw Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi fighting the demon beasts courageously.

At the same time, the generals and soldiers’ loyalty to the East Ocean Dragon Clan rose to a new high instantly!

While more and more demon beasts tried to get close to the powerful heavenly lightning, the number of demon beasts that were trying to get close to the Purple Bamboo Island also rose.

Guarding a region of the beach where the demon beasts could easily crawl up from the ocean, Hao Ren eventually felt like his 320 sword energies were not enough to block the demon beasts.

With her nature essence running out, Zhao Yanzi began to feel tired as well. However, seeing Hao Ren still fighting, she clenched her teeth and wouldn’t retreat.

“Fuma Hao! Let’s retreat!” Elder Sun called out.



Around the palace, there was another array formation. Once they were inside, they could block the level 1 and level 2 demon beasts.

Swoosh! Hao Ren's hand released a grey sword energy into the clouds.

Waves of silver lightning flashed.

After a pause about half a second, the bolts of heavenly lightning crashed down from the high sky like raindrops in a storm.

Those demon beasts that entered the outer edges of the island were all hit by the dense heavenly lightning without any time to react.

Hundreds of demon beasts were died or injured!

Elder Sun and Elder Lu who had retreated into the array formation were stupefied, and the spirits of the generals and soldiers around the palace rose immediately.

"Magnificent Commanding General! Magnificent Commanding General! Magnificent Commanding General!" Standing in the key positions around the palace, they raised their long spears and chanted together.

Those demon beasts that were close to the Transformation Realm had intelligence, and they were shocked at the sight of dancing heavenly lightning bots around the Purple Bamboo Island.

The level 1 and level 2 demon beasts were their food, and they didn't care about them. However, the stunning scene of the many heavenly lightning bolts attracted their attention.

The level 4 and level 5 demon beasts that were lurking in the sea around the Purple Bamboo Island all fled when they sensed the approach of level 8 and level 9 demon beasts.

Hao Ren felt goosebumps spread on his skin when the level 8 and level 9 demon beasts stared at him.

A level 6 snow lion was equivalent to a mid-tier Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, so the level 8 and level 9 demon beasts' strengths were...

Just before these powerful demon beasts rushed to Hao Ren, the necklace around his neck released a faint light.

At this sight, the high-leveled demon beasts shivered all over with fear and turned to flee as if they had seen something more terrifying than heaven lightning bolts.

"Who dares to mess around in the territory of the East Ocean Dragon Clan?!"

With a huge noise, Zhao Kuo in his grey robe broke three floors and shot up into the high sky from the secret chamber.

Hua! Hua... 1280 sword energies spread to all directions.

The demon beasts that were still challenging the streaks of heavenly lightning were all pierced by the sword energies and dropped into water, creating huge splashes.

Those demon beasts lurking in the sea couldn't escape either, and the sword energies shot into the water and pierced big holes in their bodies!

Boom!

The 1,280 sword energies reacted to each other and created a huge crater in the ocean that had a diameter of 50 kilometers!

All the demon beasts below level 6 were sent flying in this explosion!

"Hahahaha..." Zhao Kuo raised his head and laughed overbearingly. "Kid, come and fight with me!"

### **Chapter 500: Mind Battle!**

Before he could regain his balance, Hao Ren felt a huge force sucking him into the sky.

The dark clouds above the island quickly disappeared, and the dark sky suddenly turned bright!

It meant that Zhao Kuo had succeeded in his elevation of the realm and the planting of the mystic crystal!

The demon beasts all fled. The low-leveled demon beasts fled as fast as they could at the sight of Zhao Kuo's great power, and the high-leveled ones who had activated their intelligence knew the Demon Kings in the Demon Sea had signed a peace treaty with the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

They wouldn't join the stupid low-leveled demon beasts in attacking the island that belonged to the East Ocean Dragon Clan. Now that all the heavenly lightning bolts disappeared, the high-leveled demon beasts also rushed back to the Demon Sea.

Hua! Hua... With the surging of the ocean waves, the demon beasts, low-leveled and high-leveled, all swam toward the direction of the Demon Sea. In the commotion, no one knew how many low-leveled demon beasts were swallowed and eaten by displeased or wounded high-leveled demon beasts.

Swoosh! Swoosh... The 1280 sword energies returned to Zhao Kuo's side and rotated around him slowly.

Zhao Kuo hovered in the high sky while his sword energies hummed and blinked in five colors.

Hao Ren flew to the sky and steadied himself with sword energies. Then, he looked at Zhao Kuo and felt the presence of a true master!

Xun-level!

Through his inspector's token, Hao Ren immediately sensed Zhao Kuo's realm!

Before he used the mystic crystal, Zhao Kuo had been at top-tier Dui-level. While he charged at a higher realm, he used the mystic crystal that had a considerable amount of energy, and it helped him break through to Xun-level successfully.

Despite his magnificence right now, it must have been extremely dangerous when he charged at the higher realm and planted the mystic crystal into his dragon core!

“Hurry up!”

Seeing Hao Ren standing on the sword energies without moving, Zhao Kuo suddenly shifted half of the sword energies around him.

Boom! The 640 sword energies rushed toward Hao Ren.

“You are no match for Third Uncle. Surrender!” Zhao Yanzi called out from the beach.

Hao Ren’s hands waved slightly and shot out all 320 sword energies.

Hiss... The sword energies collided with each other while making ear-piercing grinding noises.

Zhao Kuo’s 640 sword energies drew an arc, taking Hao Ren’s 320 sword energies for a run with them.

For an instant, Hao Ren felt like he lost control of his own sword energies which were glued to Zhao Kuo’s sword energies unshakably.

“Too weak!” Zhao Kuo scolded.

Suddenly, his sword energies let go of Hao Ren’s, and more than one thousand sword energies swiftly returned to his body while only 120 sword energies remained outside, spinning around him.

Although he cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll later than Hao Ren, he was on a higher realm, and his mastery of the technique far exceeded Hao Ren.

Despite his crude looks, Zhao Kuo was not dumb at all! Instead, he was a cultivation genius.

He took out a piece of black cloth and tied it around his head twice, covering his eyes.

Hao Ren looked at him in surprise... “Is Third Uncle going to fight with his eyes covered?”

While Hao Ren was hesitating with doubts and alarm, Zhao Kuo’s 120 sword energies suddenly attacked.

“Here they come!”

Hao Ren’s 320 sword energies flew toward Zhao Kuo’s sword energies.

However, Zhao Kuo’s sword energies only touched Hao Ren’s sword energies lightly before bypassing the bulk of the sword energies and heading straight toward Hao Ren!

“Be careful!” Standing on the beach, Zhao Yanzi blurted out her warning.

Watching them, Zhao Yanzi was angry and exasperated. Like two nemeses, they fought fiercely in the Dragon God Shrine and now on Purple Bamboo Island.

The moment the sword energies collided, Hao Ren knew that Zhao Kuo was using his sword energies as his eyes!

Hao Ren practiced fighting with Little White using sword energies while sitting in the cave abode; Zhao Kuo was using the same method.

With Zhao Kuo’s current strength, 120 sword energies were more than enough to deal with Hao Ren’s 320 sword energies!

Bang! Hao Ren circulated all the nature essence in his body.

The power of the 320 sword energies increased greatly.

“Auch...” Zhao Kuo was slightly surprised by the change in Hao Ren’s sword energies.

“This kid was reserving his strength before,” he thought.

Stepping on his sword energies, Hao Ren unbuckled his black cloth belt and covered his eyes as well.

Standing on the beach, Zhao Yanzi was stupefied, “Hao Ren, how can you fight my third uncle with your eyes covered?!”

“Third Uncle, please!” With his eyes covered, Hao Ren sensed the surrounding environment with his spiritual senses and heart.

“Ok!” Zhao Kuo yelled heartily and moved the 120 sword energies, attacking Hao Ren from three directions.

These sword energies were so swift that each of them could rival a natal dharma treasure!

Dang! Dang... With a wave of rapid collisions, Hao Ren’s sword energies stood up and spun around, bouncing off Zhao Kuo’s sword energies.

Even though he couldn’t see through his eyes, he could sense each of his and Zhao Kuo’s sword energies clearly.

This was something called mind sword!

Standing on the high platform of the palace, Elder Lu and Elder Sun both looked surprised.

They had never seen or heard of two people fighting each other with their eyes closed.

The generals and soldiers who were guarding different places on the island were all excited while watching Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo fight fiercely in the high sky.

Having not watched the battle at the Dragon God Shrine, they felt this battle was incredible while seeing the sword energies flying in the sky, thinking, “The previous and current Commanding Generals are really powerful!”

“Hehe, Third Lord is asking Fuma to help him stabilize the mystic crystal,” Premier Xia said after watching for a while.

“Stabilize the mystic crystal?” Elder Lu and Elder Sun looked surprised.

“You both have planted mystic crystals before. How come you don’t know that?” Premier Xia tossed the question back.

Elder Lu and Elder Sun looked at each other in bafflement.

As Kun-level cultivators, they both had water-elemental mystic crystals and knew that the process of using a mystic crystal included preparation, breakthrough, and stabilization. The mystic crystals which were just planted were not stable since they wouldn’t merge with the meridians completely. To stabilize

it, one way was to spend half a month or even months to merge them gradually with the meridians, and the other way was to find a cultivator with a similar elemental attribute to help with the stabilization.

Elder Lu and Elder Sun both used the first and safer way.

At this thought, the two elders immediately understood that Zhao Kuo was not fighting Hao Ren. Instead, he was trying to nurture his five-elemental mystic crystal with the help from Hao Ren's five-elemental nature essence.

Among the many cultivators, only Hao Ren trained using the rare Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll which absorbed all five elements.

Looking up again at the sword energies in the high sky, Elder Lu and Elder Sun finally realized that the two were not fighting each other fiercely but dancing and hovering around each other.

Their nature essence

Elder Lu and Elder Sun lamented silently in wonder.

Compared with the way of nurturing meridians with palms touching, the method of coordination via nature essence was a more sophisticated way!

The nature essence that Zhao Kuo couldn't consume from the mystic crystal was released to Hao Ren, and Hao Ren returned the nature essence he couldn't withstand to Zhao Kuo!

In this way, they moved the adjustment inside the body to the big natural environment outside their bodies! It was a bit like the rare technique of Heavenly Dragon!

Elder Lu and Elder Sun had heard that the demon beasts could heal injuries and cultivate by touching each other's internal cores as long as they were of the same elemental attribute.

However, for mature dragons, they couldn't spit out their dragon cores unless they returned to their dragon forms. And for young dragons like Zhao Yanzi, it was rather careless and dangerous to lose their dragon cores!

The way Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo were exchanging nature essences was similar to how demon beasts exchanged their nature essence through touching internal cores.

Bang! The sword energies that were entangled in the high sky suddenly exploded, and Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo flew back more than ten meters.

Zhao Kuo spat out a mouthful of blood while a streak of blood oozed from the corner of Hao Ren's mouth.

However, compared to the violent movements of the nature essences in their meridians, the sword energies released by Hao Ren got much more powerful.

Zhao Kuo was looking for a 'conductor' to release the extra energy from the mystic crystal that he couldn't absorb, and Hao Ren's sword energies were good conductors!

Most of the used energy disappeared into nature during their battle, but a small part was absorbed by Hao Ren's sword energies. It was an excellent gift for him indeed!

Hao Ren withdrew the sword energies into his body and felt surging nature essence all over his body!

Although his dragon core didn't change, the purity of his nature essence greatly increased.

"Hahaha! Hahaha!" Zhao Kuo laughed wildly! The Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus he planted in his dragon core finally became stable after the excess energy went to Hao Ren!

Surging energy from nature continuously entered his body.

The small Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus was indeed the most powerful mystic crystal with balanced five elements! The dragon core which had reached the cultivation bottleneck suddenly turned lively with the aid of this awesome treasure!

Swoosh!

Zhao Kuo's finger released a sword energy casually.

Boom! A small island several kilometers away was shattered into pieces!

"Good! Very good! Excellent!"

Zhao Kuo's dragon core didn't change much, but the quality of his nature essence was ten times higher than before, and it was comparable to the most vital energy in nature.

These were the effects of the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus!

Seeing Zhao Kuo hovering in the high sky while laughing overbearingly, Elder Lu and Elder Sun smiled with satisfaction.

Judging from the power released from his finger, they knew that Zhao Kuo who had just reached Xun-level was stronger than them who were Kun-level cultivators! It was quite possible that Zhao Kuo will one day enter the Heavenly Dragon Realm!

Also, the stronger Zhao Kuo got, the more helpful he would be to Hao Ren!

Just like how Zhao Kuo needed Hao Ren to help him stabilize his realm, Hao Ren would need Zhao Kuo's help when he breaks through.

After all, in the entire world, they were the only two dragon cultivators who practiced the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll!