

### **Chapter 181: River Undercurrent**

The ground trembled and the stone coffin shook violently along. Slowly, it tilted and slid down a pitch black crack, falling over.

Moments later, the stone coffin fell into water with a loud splash and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Dust flew everywhere as boulders rolled down.

The sky was collapsing!

After a long time, the tremors finally calmed down. The original place was reduced to ruins without any sign of life.

In the middle of the ruins, there was a huge hole. It was pitch black and no one knew where it led to.

A gentle breeze gusted in the dark night, blowing away the dust of the ruins.

Not far away, four figures stood.

To be precise, there were five!

One of the figures was extremely blurry and indistinguishable in the night – it was the thousand-faced assassin.

The five fiend heirs looked at the ruins not far away, their gazes flickering with a lingering fear.

Feeling cold from the wind's breeze, the five of them suddenly realized that their clothes were drenched in sweat.

There were hundreds of fiend sect cultivators with fiend heirs, all of them gathered for the inheritance of this place. This could be considered as a rare clash between the juniors of the fiend sects.

However, none of them expected the stark changes of this expedition. Notwithstanding the fact that they did not obtain the inheritance, it nearly even turned into a massacre.

Of the hundreds of fiend sect cultivators present, only the five of them survived.

The Malevolent Earth Sect heir was slain by an unknown green robed cultivator. Demoness Ji could not escape in time and was definitely buried in the ruins.

If not for the drastic change in terrain later on that dispelled the ancient spirit lock formation, even the five of them may not have been able to make it out.

With complex expressions, none of them spoke.

This ruin was caused by that terrifying skeleton.

However, for some reason, the person who left the deepest impression on everyone that night was the unknown green robed cultivator.

To be fair, if he had not ruptured the heart of that skeleton at the final moment, their fates might have been the same and they would have their essence blood absorbed by the skeleton.

“Who was that person?”

After a long time, Pang Yue suddenly asked.

Shangguan Yu shook his head. “He should be someone from the immortal sects. There’s only those few immortal sects that are strong in melee combat. Since his bloodline contained the power of thunder, I gather that he might be a legacy disciple of Zephyr Thunder Palace.”

“What a pity.”

Pang Yue smacked his lips as a look of pity flashed across his eyes.

He was not discouraged over his previous defeat to Su Zimo. Instead, his fighting spirit burned even fiercer.

His strength was far greater than Su Zimo.

The fact that Su Zimo’s consecutive killing moves were unable to truly injure Pang Yue’s tendons, bones and essence qi was evident of how powerful and terrifying the latter’s physique was!

The reason why Pang Yue lost was because he had underestimated the enemy, giving Su Zimo the chance to take the initiative and suppress him to the very end without a chance to comeback.

Pang Yue believed that he would definitely not lose if they fought again!

Now that Su Zimo had fallen, Pang Yue had lost the chance to defeat him. He could not help but feel regretful and sighed.

In fact, Pang Yue was not the only one – the other four fiend heirs were similarly frustrated.

At the end of the day, there was an ancient spirit lock formation in this place and everyone’s spirit energies were restricted such that they could not unleash their true strength.

To them, the Malevolent Earth Sect heir had met with an unjust death.

“It’s a pity that man is dead. Otherwise, we’ll definitely come across him on the ancient battlefield in the future. At that time, I’ll definitely let him witness the power of Cloud Rain Sect!” Shangguan Yu harrumphed softly.

“What’s the point of saying all this?”

The Illusion Fiend Cult heir flicked his sleeve and left, replying coldly, “Time to go. See you on the ancient battlefield!”

The thousand-faced assassin flickered and disappeared on the spot.

In the blink of an eye, all five fiend heirs left one after another and peace returned to the ruins.

Not long later, a voluptuous and curvaceous figure descended upon the ruins. She had exquisite looks and exuded a mature aura, as if she could stir the deepest carnal instincts in one’s heart.

It was the chief steward of Sky Treasure Auction House, Gu Xi!

“What happened exactly?” Gu Xi murmured with a solemn expression.

“Swoosh!”

Gu Xi stood in midair above the ruins and a terrifying force surged out from her glabella. Releasing her spirit consciousness, she searched the ruins carefully, unwilling to miss any traces.

“Nothing?”

Gu Xi frowned and gazed at that bottomless pit beneath her. After hesitating slightly, she descended eventually.

Before long, Gu Xi arrived above a river.

She searched her surroundings once more but to no avail, looking at a river nearby.

Using her spirit consciousness, Gu Xi seeped into the river and searched through the depths of it.

After a while, her expression changed and she retracted her spirit consciousness.

She caught sight of a dark shadow flowing into the distance at the bottom of this river.

If she was not wrong, that should be the undercurrent of the river.

The undercurrent was extremely strong and turbulent. Any object that fell into it would be swept away.

The final position would naturally be at where the undercurrent ended.

“Yan’er, just where are you?”

The figure disappeared, leaving behind a soft sigh.

Not long after Gu Xi left, deep in the rubble beside the river, a pair of pitch black holes in the eyes of a skeleton emitted a scarlet, sinister glow!

...

Even though Su Zimo and Demoness Ji were hidden in the stone coffin, both of them still suffered a huge blow the moment it fell into the river.

“Ugh!”

“Ah!”

Su Zimo grunted softly and Demoness Ji howled in pain.

The two sounds that emitted together from the stone coffin came across as strange.

Su Zimo felt a sharp pain in his chest. That sudden impact rattled his tendons and bones, causing him to gasp as it felt like his bones were falling apart.

Demoness Ji’s arm was previously injured by Shangguan Yu. It was a minor injury and was no longer bleeding after it was bandaged.

However, that impact tore the wound once more as Demoness Ji frowned and yelped.

Although there was a thick stone coffin between them, Demoness Ji could still feel the flow of the river outside.

She heaved a sigh of relief.

No matter what, they had managed to escape the place. Once the stone coffin sank to the bottom of the water, they would be able to break out from inside.

All of a sudden!

The stone coffin did not continue to sink. As though it was pulled by an external force, it continued to roll forward.

It was a sudden change of momentum and the two people who were caught off guard inside collided against one another.

Both of their hearts went aflutter as they retreated subconsciously. However, there was not much excess space within the cramped stone coffin.

After that, the atmosphere within the stone coffin turned odd immediately. The temperature seemed to be rising in a frustratingly hot manner.

In the darkness, both of them panted slightly and faced each other. Their eyes met but they did not speak.

Su Zimo turned his head and slanted his body slightly.

His body was still slightly swollen because the bloodline essence within it was not absorbed yet. It did not matter if he moved, but once again, he accidentally made contact with Demoness Ji.

Su Zimo quickly stopped what he was doing and laid rooted to the spot.

### **Chapter 182: Blood Refinement Fiend Sutra**

Instead of sinking to the bottom, the stone coffin was brought away by an external force. There was only a single possibility – they had met with a river undercurrent.

Neither of them had an option in the river undercurrent.

Even if they were to leave the stone coffin now, they would not be able to get out of the river undercurrent. Furthermore, both of them were injured.

Right now, they could only leave it up to fate and leave the stone coffin after it left the river undercurrent.

Upon realizing that there was no danger, Demoness Ji was slightly relieved. She glanced sideways at Su Zimo who was lying beside her and rolled her eyes, curling her lips with a hint of playfulness.

“Hey, you did it on purpose, right?”

Demoness Ji suddenly asked.

Su Zimo closed his eyes and did not reply, feeling a tinge of guilt.

After all, the two of them had just bumped into one another and there was no avoiding physical contact.

“I didn’t expect that you’re no different from others despite looking refined and decent. You’re also as perverted! Hmph, to think that you would call yourself a righteous person of the orthodox path, aren’t you ashamed?”

The both of them were extremely close to each other and Demoness Ji’s body emitted a seductive fragrance of flower as she exhaled.

Su Zimo listened to Demoness Ji’s reproachful tone. Feeling the warmth by his ear, he could not help but feel restless and unable to control himself.

All of a sudden!

His heart skipped a beat as he bit his tongue to try and maintain clarity.

After what happened to Wu Xiangming, Yan Fei and the rest, Su Zimo had vaguely guessed what Pure Maiden Sect specialized in.

“No wonder those of the fiend sects call her a demoness.”

Su Zimo praised internally.

Even though he was prepared, he was nearly bewitched by her as well.

Every single frown, smile, action and emotion of Demoness Ji would cause one to be attracted to her unconsciously. If they were not careful, they would sink into her charms, unable to extricate themselves.

Noticing that Su Zimo kept his eyes closed and refused to answer, Demoness Ji could not help but grin and asked gently, “Hey, let me ask you. Why didn’t you get in first earlier? Why did you let me in first?”

Su Zimo suddenly opened his eyes and replied coldly, “I’m afraid you might be crushed to death because you’re too stupid.”

“Ugh...”

Demoness Ji nearly choked on Su Zimo’s reply as she grit her teeth subconsciously.

However, on second thought, the situation was truly way too treacherous back then. If she were to stay behind, she would definitely not be as decisive as Su Zimo.

It was highly likely that she would be crushed to death by the boulders as Su Zimo had mentioned.

Even so, she was still a little angry.

She felt pent up for some reason.

Demoness Ji bit her red lips and pinched Su Zimo suddenly, saying coquettishly, “Go over there! Stay away from me!”

Even without her saying that, Su Zimo wanted to keep his distance from her – as far away as possible.

However, the stone coffin was extremely cramped and did not have much excess space.

Right now, the best solution was to refine away the bloodline in his body and return it to normal. That way, there would be more space.

If nothing unexpected happened, Su Zimo should be able to attain greater mastery of his Marrow Cleansing section after refining the bloodline essence!

Taking a deep breath of air, he channeled the mental cultivation technique of the Tiger Leopard Thunder Sound and started his breathing and expiration in the stone coffin.

“Huff... hmm... bang! Boom! Boom!”

Strange sounds suddenly emitted from Su Zimo’s body. It got louder and clearer, like a tiger, leopard and thunder!

Su Zimo’s bloodline began to churn along with the rise and fall of the sounds.

The boundless bloodline essence was being refined and infused into Su Zimo’s own bloodline.

Demoness Ji watched silently at the side without saying anything.

She could naturally guess that Su Zimo was channeling an extremely strong blood swapping technique.

The reason why this refined man possessed such terrifying power should be because of that technique as well.

She listened intently at the side, blinking and planning on learning that secret skill herself.

However, that was a naive thought.

Su Zimo’s blood swapping technique was a combination of two top-notch Marrow Cleansing techniques. It was the one and only Tiger Leopard Thunder Sound in Tianhuang Mainland!

Putting aside the Tiger Leopard Thunder Sound, how much time did Su Zimo spend to comprehend the sound of tigers and leopards?

Demoness Ji did not even have a mental mantra. It was truly wishful thinking for her to want to comprehend Su Zimo’s secret skill just by listening to it.

After a day and night, Demoness Ji finally gave up after multiple fruitless attempts.

She pouted and sulked.

The Tiger Leopard Thunder Sound was indeed extremely powerful. After just a day and night, Su Zimo’s body had shrunk considerably and it wouldn’t be long before it returned to normal.

The most surprising thing for Demoness Ji was that the wound on Su Zimo’s chest had already healed and was beginning to form a scab!

“What strong regeneration capabilities!”

She was secretly astonished.

That wound pierced through Su Zimo's body entirely.

Even for body tempered cultivators, they might not recover fully without half a month at least.

However, Su Zimo had only spent a single day and night to recover all wounds on his body!

At that moment, the wound on Demoness Ji's arm had only just healed and stopped bleeding – it would take a few more days for scabs to form.

“What sort of a monster is this?”

Demoness Ji stared at Su Zimo's side profile, lost in thought.

After the blood swapping, Su Zimo's complexion became even fairer and brighter. It was soft and tender like a newborn baby, crystalline like jade.

“No wonder sister can't forget him. I'm impressed, this lad does have some capabilities.”

Pausing for a moment, Demoness Ji thought again, “Hmm... those aren't small capabilities either for him to be able to teach Lunatic Pang a lesson.”

After enduring for so long, Demoness Ji was tired as well.

As she watched Su Zimo who was cultivating, her eyelids grew heavy and she drifted into sleep.

After a long time, she jolted awake from her dreams. Bouncing upright, she slammed against the lid of the coffin with a loud thud.

“Ouch!”

Demoness Ji rubbed her head and cried out in pain.

With that, she was completely awake and remembered where she was.

Instinctively, she looked to the side. Su Zimo's body had returned to normal and he was staring at the lid of the coffin with a reared head.

Demoness Ji quickly checked her body and only heaved a sigh of relief after ensuring that it was fine.

As the pure maiden of the fiend sects, this was an amateur mistake that she should not have committed – she fell asleep beside a man!

If it was the fiend heir of Cloud Rain Sect, Shangguan Yu, beside her, the consequences would be dire.

“That was close.”

Demoness Ji stuck out her tongue lightly and subconsciously glanced at Su Zimo.

“Eh?”

This time, she discovered Su Zimo's abnormality.

She had initially thought that his eyes were opened in a daze.

Now that she was taking a closer look, he seemed to have noticed something and was studying it carefully in a trance-like manner.

Demoness Ji followed his gaze and looked towards the lid of the stone coffin.

“Oh?”

Her eyes widened as she discovered something strange as well.

There were words on the lid of the coffin!

The handwriting was a little messy as if it was carved with something sharp.

Previously, the atmosphere between them was ambiguously flirtatious in the stone coffin. Coupled with the fact that it was completely dark, neither of them bothered to notice the lid of the coffin.

Now that they focused, they could vaguely make out the words on the coffin lid.

There were four words on the first row... Blood Refinement Fiend Sutra!

### **Chapter 183: Buddha Bead, Hand Seal**

Upon seeing those words, Demoness Ji's heart palpitated as she continued reading hurriedly.

Gradually, her eyes widened and she was engrossed as well.

Even though it was pitch black in the stone coffin, Su Zimo had extremely strong eyesight after cultivating The Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness. Everywhere his gaze was, it would be clear like daylight.

This was a cultivation technique for one's bloodline and it detailed many strange spirit arts. Profound secrets of the bloodline were depicted and there were many novel techniques in stimulating and making use of the bloodline's power – this was something completely unheard of.

The spirit art used by the skeleton to devour many of the fiend sect cultivators previously was the Blood Devouring Technique, one of the many detailed in this Blood Refinement Fiend Sutra.

Even though many of the spirit arts in this Fiend Sutra were vile and evil, some of them caught Su Zimo's interest. He secretly memorized and pondered over them.

Even though this trip with Demoness Ji was filled with many surprises, it was a blessing in disguise.

Now, Su Zimo had attained greater mastery of the Marrow Cleansing section. His bloodline flowed quietly in his body, giving birth to immense power and shimmering with a crystalline luster such that his blood vessels were almost transparent.

From now on, Su Zimo could start to cultivate the Organs Refinement section!

Only, it was much more difficult to cultivate than the Marrow Cleansing section!

The Marrow Cleansing section gave mention of the sound of tigers and leopards.

However, the Organs Refinement section merely contained obscure and complicated scriptures without any mention of demon beasts and whatnot.



Su Zimo had no clue at all how he should go about refining the Organs Refinement section.

After a long time, the stone coffin began to shake violently.

It was thrown out by an external force before calming down and sinking gradually.

Su Zimo's heart stirred – he realized that the stone coffin had already left the river undercurrent.

At the side, Demoness Ji was already at the limits of her endurance. Wearing her veil again, she channeled her spirit energy and pushed with her palm heavily against the coffin lid.

With a bam, the lid was blown away as river water surged into the stone coffin.

In the blink of an eye, Su Zimo was drenched.

Demoness Ji was already prepared as a nearly transparent barrier was conjured around her body, repelling water.

Turning to look at Su Zimo's sorry state, she could not help but laugh.

In the river, Su Zimo floated. He looked a little dazed, as if he had yet to regain his senses.

In truth, it wasn't because Su Zimo's reaction was not fast enough.

It was because after water gushed into the stone coffin, Su Zimo caught sight of a Buddha Bead around the size of a longan 1 floating.

The Buddha Bead was extremely old. Even though it was made of wood, there was no sign of decay.

A palm was etched on the Buddha Bead that had its middle finger and thumb touching to form a hand seal. Every single line on the palm could be seen clearly and it was bedazzling.

Su Zimo had merely taken a single look at the Buddha Bead when he felt his vision blurring into an extremely shocking scene.

It was like a battlefield in purgatory. Corpses piled into mountains and blood flowed like rivers everywhere. The smell of blood filled the air and black clouds were overcast in an atmosphere so repressing that one could barely breathe.

A cold wind blew in the surroundings, sending chills down one's spine!

A man covered in blood stood atop the mountain of corpses. With his back facing Su Zimo, he was laughing with his head lowered like an unparalleled fiend.

It was a sinister and terrifying laughter, sounding as though it was ringing right inside Su Zimo's ears – it was extremely unsettling!

A moment later, bits of golden light shone through the gaps in the black clouds, scattering some warmth across the battlefield.

With the passage of time, the golden light grew more and more intense, almost tearing the pitch black clouds away.

All of a sudden!

A dazzling golden pillar of light descended from the sky, seemingly tearing the heavens and shining on the fiend.

“Roar!”

The fiend was furious and reared its head, bellowing towards the heavens in wrath. The veins on its necks were exposed and its blood vessels were protruding in a terrifyingly ferocious manner, akin to a living ghost from hell!

Boom!

Accompanied by a deafening roar, a bedazzling golden palm descended from the sky. It crushed down gently with its middle finger and thumb touching one another to form a hand seal.

“Fiend Suppression Seal!”

A deep voice sounded.

Before the golden hand seal even descended upon the fiend’s head, its body suddenly exploded as though it could not withstand the pressure, spraying blood all around the place in a horrifying manner.

Su Zimo felt his eyes sting from the splattered blood and he snapped out of the illusion.

The entire process seemed very slow but in fact, it occurred in the split of a moment.

Looking at the Buddha Bead nearby that was sinking, Su Zimo broke into a shudder.

There was a flash of struggle in his eyes. After some hesitation, he swam into the river and chased after the Buddha Bead, clasping it in his palm.

There was nothing unusual when he retrieved it.

Su Zimo heaved out a sigh of relief.

It seemed that as long as one did not look at the pattern on the bead carefully, they would not fall into the illusion from before.

“Fiend Suppression Seal.”

Those three words flashed through Su Zimo’s mind.

Needless to say, that must be an extremely powerful secret technique.

Even though the illusion had lasted for a moment, that golden hand seal left a deep impression in Su Zimo’s mind and he could not forget about it.

Kicking his legs, Su Zimo swam towards the river surface and before long, he arrived at the shore.

At that moment, his upper body was nude and his pants were sopping wet.

Demoness Ji pursed her lips and swept her gaze across Su Zimo’s lower body. Just as she was about to tease him, Su Zimo’s body shivered and he churned his bloodline.

With the power of the bloodline, a white mist emitted from Su Zimo’s body suddenly.

All the water droplets were vaporized!

Under the veil, Demoness Ji's mouth opened into a circle.

Su Zimo retrieved a clean green robe from his storage bag and wore it. He also tossed the Buddha Bead conveniently into his storage bag.

Demoness Ji's eyes shifted. Recalling the abnormality of Su Zimo at the bottom of the river, she approached him and blinked. "What did you find down there?"

"It's nothing."

There was naturally no way Su Zimo would tell Demoness Ji about the Buddha Bead as he replied casually.

"How stingy!"

She harrumphed.

Summoning a flying sword, Su Zimo leaped on it and flew into the air, surveying the place.

He did not know where the river undercurrent had brought them.

Demoness Ji arrived in midair and looked down as well.

Su Zimo pondered for a while and looked at the river behind him. His heart stirred and he had a vague guess where they were.

This was Yongxing River, a tributary of Jishui River that originated from the Great Zhou Dynasty and passed by Yan Country.

In other words, Su Zimo and Demoness Ji had arrived in Yan Country's territory!

Su Zimo looked over at the capital of Yan Country with longing in his eyes.

"I've been away from home for two years. I wonder how elder brother is doing."

The scene of leaving Ping Yang Town two years ago felt like yesterday in his mind.

Su Zimo did not have many relatives. Other than him, the Su Family only had Su Hong and Su Xiaoning as descendants.

Su Xiaoning was far away in Azure Frost Sect and it was not easy to see her. Su Zimo decided to visit his brother in the capital of Yan Country.

#### **Chapter 184: Obsession**

After a rough analysis, Su Zimo rode his flying sword and sped towards the direction of Yan Country's capital.

When Demoness Ji saw that Su Zimo turned around to leave and ignored her, she could not help but feel agitated. Stomping her foot, she chased after him on her flying sword.

As the pure maiden of the fiend sects, her status was unimaginable – it was not something an Ethereal Peak disciple like Su Zimo could compare to.

Furthermore, she was born a charming woman. After cultivating the supreme mystic classic, Pure Maiden Sutra, every single frown and smile of hers would exude the power to bewitch all living beings.

Even for cultivators who were a realm above her, they could easily fall under her skirt if they were slightly careless.

Any cultivator who had the slightest bit of evil intent when they saw Demoness Ji would inadvertently fall under the bewitchment of the Pure Maiden Sutra.

The entire process was subtle and difficult to detect, causing one to sink deeper and deeper.

That was the true terror of the Pure Maiden Sutra!

Even a single thought would work!

They would be controlled by the pure maiden of the fiend sects!

What made Demoness Ji upset was how Su Zimo had not been interested in her right from the beginning. Moreover, he was extremely wary.

He was even more so after discovering her identity, wanting nothing more than to keep his distance and never see her again.

That made Demoness Ji question her charms or whether there was a problem with the Pure Maiden Sutra.

Both of them sped through the air one after another. Just like that, half a day was gone.

Su Zimo stopped and turned to look at Demoness Ji behind him, frowning.

She came to a stop as well, ignoring his gaze. With her hands behind her back, she pretended to be nonchalant and looked at the scenery below in a seemingly relaxed manner.

Su Zimo turned back and left and Demoness Ji followed him again.

Even when he changed directions and routes, she followed accordingly.

Stopping in his tracks, Su Zimo turned around and asked, “Why are you following me?”

“Tsk.”

Demoness Ji rolled her eyes and pouted. “That’s odd. You’re going your own way and I’m going mine. Who’s following you? Stop thinking so highly of yourself!”

Su Zimo nodded. “Alright then, where are you going?”

“I…”

Demoness Ji was at a loss for words. She rolled her eyes and retorted, “Why do you care where I go? The world is huge and I can go anywhere I want!”

Because this woman was Ji Yaoxue's younger sister after all, Su Zimo could not do anything to her.

Furthermore, back in the inheritance ground, Demoness Ji had the chance to escape but she did not abandon him. That proved that she did not have a bad nature despite being someone of the fiend sects.

Su Zimo turned to leave and she followed hurriedly.

After a short while, Demoness Ji suddenly asked, "Hey, you seem to hate me?"

"I don't have a good impression towards those of fiend sects," Su Zimo replied.

"Fu..."

Demoness Ji smiled as a look of mockery flashed in her eyes. She shook her head. "I thought you were different from others. To think that you're a fool as well."

"Oh?"

Su Zimo raised his brow and replied, "You're a young brat who has been led astray. Why do you speak as though you know right from wrong? Does your sister know about this?"

"What do you mean by going astray?"

Demoness Ji was suddenly agitated as she stopped in front of Su Zimo and looked him in the eyes. "Since you don't have a good impression towards those of the fiend sects, you think that the path of fiends is one that's astray? Let me ask you then, do you know what fiends are? Do you understand anything about fiend sects?"

Su Zimo was stunned for a moment. He wanted to reply but did not know what to say.

Indeed, it was difficult for him to define fiends and he did not understand fiend sects as well. In fact, he had not even heard of the seven fiend sects before he met Demoness Ji.

After a moment, Su Zimo replied, "Indeed, I don't know what fiends are. However, I know that Wu Xiangming, Yan Fei and the others were sincere about wanting to protect you. But, you got them killed."

Demoness Ji scoffed coldly, "That's where you're wrong. Yan Fei was someone from Cloud Rain Sect and he had no good intentions following me! As for Wu Xiangming and the rest, I can assure you that they were only lured there because they had ill intents towards me. Such people deserve death!"

"If I didn't have the means to protect myself, what do you think they would have done to me?"

Su Zimo thought for a moment before adding, "Back in the past, I encountered a sect named Joyful Sect here. Their disciples committed all sorts of evil and abducted women, using their Yin to raise their cultivation realms. If that's not fiendish, what is? Joyful Sect is in the same league as Cloud Rain Sect, there's no difference!"

"That's where you're wrong again."

Demoness Ji revealed a look of disdain and shook her head. "I've never heard of any Joyful Sect before. Although I'm not a disciple of Cloud Rain Sect, I know that Joyful Sect is not even befitting of carrying the shoes of Cloud Rain Sect cultivators!"

She paused for a moment and asked again, "Also, do you know Cloud Rain Sect very well? Why do you claim that Joyful Sect and Cloud Rain Sect are in the same league and there's no difference? On what basis?"

"Their cultivation techniques..."

"Just because you've seen Joyful Sect's cultivation techniques, you understand the cultivation techniques of Cloud Rain Sect?"

Su Zimo remained silent.

Demoness Ji continued, "Let me tell you, even though the disciples of Cloud Rain Sect are frivolous and always have sex with women, they don't force any women at all! Otherwise, they will be punished heavily by Cloud Rain Sect and even sentenced to death!"

"Moreover, copulation between men and women is a fusion of Yin and Yang, the universe's natural path and the primordial Dao. What's wrong about that? If that's fiendish, you're telling me that all married couples in the world are fiends?"

Upon hearing this, Su Zimo frowned.

In that case, Cloud Rain Sect and Joyful Sect truly had a difference.

Cloud Rain Sect would not force others. If the women were willing, there was nothing to say about that.

"Also, the real fiend sects are only the seven of us. In fact, six! Even Malevolent Earth Sect cannot be considered as a true fiend sect, let alone some rubbish like Joyful Sect. Do you think they're fit to be called fiends?"

Demoness Ji continued, "Since you don't know what fiends are, let me tell you!"

"There's a reason why the Dao of fiends can be ranked alongside the immortal and Buddha Dao and be passed down through the ages. The Dao of fiends is the Dao of obsession... the Dao of extremity!"

"Dao of obsession, Dao of extremity..."

Su Zimo repeated and frowned in deep thoughts.

What Demoness Ji said had indeed given Su Zimo a new understanding of the term 'fiend'.

The fiend mentioned by Demoness Ji seemed to depart largely from his previous impression of the term.

Furthermore, there would definitely be some degree of obstinateness in everyone's hearts. If they were to take a step more and reach the state of obsession, they would turn into fiends.

Obsession turns one into fiends!

Su Zimo asked, "Since it's the Dao of obsession and extremity, what does Cloud Rain Sect cultivate?"

"The Dao of indulgence."

Demoness Ji explained slowly, "In the Cloud Wind mental sutra, indulgence is at the basis of it. However, there are two major taboos. One is to not force others, the other is to not be stirred by emotions!"

“The reason why Yan Fei died in my hands was because he had violated the two great taboos of the Cloud Wind mental sutra, resulting in him exposing a fatal opening. As such, his death comes as no surprise.”

If one wanted to indulge in lust, they would have to be heartless!

That was the obsession and extremity of fiend sects.

One would have to forsake many things to tread on this path.

Fiends were incomplete and imperfect.

Su Zimo’s heart was shaken. After a brief pause, he asked, “What does the Pure Maiden Sect cultivate?”

“Not telling you.”

Demoness Ji smiled slyly.

### **Chapter 185: Four Years On**

After Demoness Ji’s words, Su Zimo had a new understanding and impression towards her and fiend sects.

Just like immortals and Buddha, fiends had a Dao of their own.

After pondering for a while, Su Zimo suddenly thought of something and asked, “A few months ago, I met a cultivator in a spirit mine with ruthless methods. He massacred an entire city of living beings and uses a vile cultivation technique that can suck a living person into a dry corpse. Is he someone from the fiend sects?”

“From what I know, there’s no such cultivation technique in the fiend sects,” Demoness Ji shook her head.

She paused for a moment and continued, “The reason why the reputation of fiend sects is bad in the cultivation world is all because of you people from the orthodox path. As long as it’s something that goes against humanity, you guys accuse us of the fiend sects for it. It’s truly despicable!”

“If it’s not done by the fiend sects, you guys can come forth and explain yourselves,” Su Zimo frowned.

“Fufu.”

Demoness Ji scoffed coldly, “There’s no way the fiend sects will do that. Demons have their pride.”

She thought for a moment and said, “A senior in the fiend sects once gave an example to describe the difference between immortals and demons. I think it’s rather apt.”

“For the same treasure, cultivators of the fiend sects would fight for it openly. However, cultivators of immortal sects would vie for it in secret and frame it onto those of the fiend sects.”

“That’s a little extreme.”

Su Zimo shook his head. “I don’t wish to argue with you anymore.”

With that, Su Zimo turned to leave.

Demoness Ji followed him again. But this time round, Su Zimo did not chase her away.

“Where are you going?” She asked.

Su Zimo remained silent for a while before replying, “Back home to take a look.”

...

As Su Zimo sped towards the capital of Yan Country, more than ten cultivators arrived at a small town on the border of Yan Country.

They were led by a man and woman.

The man wore sparkling white robes. He had a smile on his face, looking handsome and elegant.

The woman was dressed in a long, emerald dress. Her black hair swayed in the wind and she had beautiful features, looking gentle and quiet.

The both of them rode on their swords and their clothes fluttered in the wind. Like a match made in heaven, they were dazzling and could not be ignored.

More importantly, both of them were at perfected Foundation Establishment realm!

The ten odd cultivators that followed them were all Foundation Establishment Cultivators as well, varying from early to late-stage.

On their waists hung a badge with the words ‘Iridescent Clouds’.

It was daytime at the moment with many citizens walking on the streets. Their expressions changed starkly with the sudden appearance of the many Foundation Establishment Cultivators above them.

The citizens hurriedly knelt on the ground and shouted, “Greetings, immortals!”

Someone in the crowd with sharp eyes recognized the gentle woman and whispered, “It’s that girl from the Shen family!”

“It’s really her! I wouldn’t have been able to tell if you hadn’t said it. She’s changed drastically after four years. She’s just like a fairy now!”

“Shh! Shut up! Stop looking at her! She’s an immortal now! If you anger her, she’s going to gouge out your eyeballs!”

The gentle woman in the emerald dress was none other than Shen Mengqi who was taken away by Perfected Being Cang Lang four years earlier to join Iridescent Clouds Palace.

The white robed cultivator beside her was her senior brother, Xu You.

“So this is your home, junior sister?” Xu You looked at Shen Mengqi beside him with a gentle gaze and asked softly.

“I see.”

She seemed distracted as she responded. Looking at the small town beneath her, she sighed in a dazed manner, letting out a reminiscing expression.



Unknowingly, four years had passed.

Four years ago, she stood with Perfected Being Cang Lang in midair looking at Ping Yang Town the same way.

However, that afternoon, a stubborn youth stood with his chest puffed and head held high on this familiar long street. He did not kneel nor fear.

At the thought of that youth, Shen Mengqi smiled faintly.

Right after, she sighed gently and shook her head.

No matter what, immortals and mortals were different – she was no longer on the same level as that youth.

Decades later, her youth would still be present and she would be in her prime. However, that youth would have entered his later years and await death of old age.

Even though they had unforgettable memories together, that could only fade and disappear along with time.

“Junior sister, junior sister?”

Xu You’s voice pulled Shen Mengqi back from her memories.

“Ah, sorry,” She replied apologetically, neither too intimate nor unfriendly.

Xu You was considered as one of the top ten inner sect disciples of Iridescent Clouds Palace. He had courted her for a long time, but she never agreed to it.

She made the decision to return home for a visit in a low profile. However, Xu You volunteered to accompany her and brought more than ten juniors along.

Before long, Shen Mengqi and the others descended at the Shen residence.

She only had a single kin – her brother, Shen Nan.

The Shen family had changed drastically. Even though the Zhao and Li families were eradicated and removed from Ping Yang Town, Shen Nan had benefited greatly from following the two families in the past. As such, he had long expanded into a luxurious mansion.

Because of Su Xiaoning’s kidnapping incident back then, Su Zimo went on a killing spree and killed many people, except Shen Nan.

Even so, Shen Nan did not dare to continue being brazen.

After all, Su Hong’s conferment as king happened in Ping Yang Town. Although no one knew what was going on behind the scenes, everyone witnessed the outcome.

“Mengqi?”

When Shen Nan caught sight of Shen Mengqi, he was rooted on the spot with a look of disbelief.

“Brother, it’s me,” Shen Mengqi smiled and nodded.

“It’s good that you’re back, it’s good.”

Facing more than ten Foundation Establishment Cultivators from Iridescent Clouds Palace, Shen Nan’s heart was trembling with fear. He looked uneasy as he remarked with a smile.

From Shen Mengqi, Shen Nan could feel an unfamiliar aura.

It was as though their relationship through blood had faded after she entered the path of immortality.

“The family has changed quite drastically.”

Shen Mengqi walked around the Shen residence casually with a smile. Shen Nan followed behind her, not daring to walk in front.

After walking around, Shen Mengqi asked in a seemingly casual manner, “Shen Nan, are the four major families of Ping Yang Town still around? Such as the Su family?”

“Ah?”

Shen Nan froze for a moment and shook his head with a strange expression on his face. “N-Not anymore.”

“The Su family is not around anymore?”

Shen Mengqi stopped in her tracks and suddenly turned around, frowning.

“Yeah, they’re all gone.”

Shen Nan nodded and related everything that happened four years ago.

Shen Mengqi listened intently.

“That Su Zimo must have taken on an expert in the pugilistic world as his master. His strength grew by leaps and bounds and he destroyed the Zhao and Li families almost singlehandedly!”

Shen Nan glanced at Shen Mengqi. “However, he did not kill me. I think it’s on account of your relationship.”

Shen Mengqi did not reply.

She knew very well why Su Zimo did not kill Shen Nan. Even though it had something to do with her, it was definitely not because of their relationship!

“Junior sister, who is that Su Zimo? Where is he now?”

At the side, Xu You could vaguely tell that Su Zimo seemed to have a close relationship with Shen Mengqi in the past. Because of that, he was long frustrated and asked with a scowl.

## **Chapter 186: Old Friends**

Sensing the frustration in Xu You’s tone, Shen Mengqi replied calmly, “He’s just a childhood playmate and an old friend. Without a spirit root, he can’t cultivate and is unlike us. You don’t have to bother about him.”

“So, it’s just a mere commoner. I was wondering what sort of a character he was.”

Xu You raised his eyebrows and said coldly, “This Su Zimo clearly knows that you’ve joined Iridescent Clouds Palace and became a cultivator. Despite that, he dares to bully your brother?”

Shen Mengqi shook her head. “Forget it, it’s all in the past. Besides, it might not be his fault either.”

Even though Shen Nan made himself seem innocent while explaining the story and mentioned how Su Zimo was the one bullying others, Shen Mengqi was well aware of her brother’s character.

Furthermore, the way Shen Nan was avoiding her gaze affirmed her guess that there was more to things.

“How can that do!”

Xu You said in a deep voice, “This Su Zimo doesn’t know his place. He even dares to act so impudently as a commoner. Since I got to know about him, I’ll have to teach him a lesson he’ll never forget!”

Initially, Xu You had not intended to interfere in this matter. However, he could vaguely sense that Shen Mengqi seemed to be defending that Su Zimo.

The more she did that, the more Xu You wanted to interfere and take a look at that person!

He looked at Shen Nan and asked coldly, “Young Master Shen, where is that person now?”

Shen Nan did not intend to do anything at first. But when he heard Xu You’s words, his mind started churning and he turned more energetic.

Stammering, he replied, “H-He left Ping Yang Town two years ago. I don’t know where he is.”

Xu You frowned.

The Great Zhou Dynasty was enormous and there were dozens of vassal states of varying sizes – finding a person was no different from searching for a needle in a haystack.

Shen Nan coughed gently. “However, he has a brother, Su Hong, who is the current King of Yan. He has a prominent status and we can’t afford to offend him...”

“Humph!”

Xu You scoffed. “A king of mortals is but a mortal! He can be on par with the Qi Refinement Warrior of a minor sect, but against a Foundation Establishment Cultivator of Iridescent Clouds Palace like me? Even if he’s the King of Yan, he’ll have to kneel before me!”

Shen Nan’s eyes shone and his blood boiled as he listened.

It was as if Shen Nan was looking at the high and mighty King of Yan kneeling in front of him obediently, not daring to lift his head. What sort of an image would that be?

Xu You declared proudly, “That’s perfect. Junior sister, since this Su Zimo bullied your brother, let’s go to the capital of Yan Country and teach his brother a lesson! Fufu, this is tit for tat!”

Shen Mengqi frowned and hesitated.

“Junior sister, we’ll have to make a trip to the capital of Yan Country even if it’s not for this matter.”

Xu You continued, “Junior Brother Zhou disappeared for two years without a trace. Master asked us to investigate the place where the most cultivators are gathered in Yan Country. The place with the most information is the capital.”

“Yes, alright.”

Shen Mengqi nodded.

Xu You retrieved a spirit vessel from his storage bag and injected spirit qi, causing it to expand with the wind and hover in midair.

Smiling, Xu You said, “Young Master Shen, do come along. The day you meet the King of Yan will be the day you can hold your head high!”

Shen Nan nodded hurriedly and his body trembled in excitement; his eyes could barely conceal his emotions.

The many Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators boarded the spirit vessel one after another. Under Xu You’s control, it rose into the air and turned into a stream of light, speeding towards the capital of Yan Country.

...

After traveling a few days at full speed, Su Zimo and Demoness Ji finally arrived at the capital of Yan Country.

Two years ago, Su Zimo was here.

In that main hall, he beheaded the King of Yan, Zhao Qian, in front of everyone. Tying the latter’s head to his waist, he engaged in a bloody battle and fought his way out with dominance.

Everything seemed to have happened yesterday.

After a slight pause, Su Zimo rode on his flying sword and sped towards the palace, arriving above it quickly.

“Who’s there?!”

Someone berated from below.

Right after, two Qi Refinement Warriors summoned their flying swords and flew into the air, arriving opposite Su Zimo and Demoness Ji.

The two of them were Qi Refinement Warriors, one at Level 6 and the other at Level 9.

Using their Spirit Peering Art, they swept across Su Zimo and Demoness Ji, causing their expressions to change in shock as they shuddered.

Su Zimo’s current cultivation was at the peak of early-stage Foundation Establishment, he was far above the both of them.

Demoness Ji stood there with a veil covering her face – they could not detect her cultivation!

“Greetings, seniors.”

The two Qi Refinement Warriors reacted quickly and bowed hurriedly.

One of them asked cautiously in a testing manner, “May I know what brings you two here?”

“Bring me to the King of Yan.”

Su Zimo smiled in a friendly manner.

“This...”

The two men exchanged glances and did not agree immediately.

After all, they did not know the identity of this green robed cultivator – how would they dare to bring people in rashly?

However, the man and woman before them had high cultivations. If they wanted to force their way through, no one could stop them either.

Right then, a sword beam sped over from not far away.

When that person came close and caught sight of Su Zimo, his eyes lit up and he said happily, “Second Young Master Su?”

“Mr. Song, it’s been two years. How have you been?” Su Zimo smiled and nodded.

The person who arrived later was the Qi Refinement Warrior that Su Zimo had hired two years earlier to protect the Su family – Song Qi.

Back then, Song Qi had just broken through to be a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior. Right now, he was at Level 9.

“Eh?”

Song Qi looked at the flying sword Su Zimo was riding on with widened eyes of disbelief.

From what he could remember, Su Zimo did not have a spirit root and was unable to cultivate – how was he managing sword kinesis flight right now?

Instinctively, Song Qi checked Su Zimo’s cultivation with the Spirit Peering Art.

That single check gave Song Qi a shock and he nearly fell from the skies.

Early-stage Foundation Establishment!

In just two years, a mortal without any foundation or spirit root had entered Foundation Establishment realm!

Song Qi had not slacked off in the past two years but even then, he had only improved by a single level.

In fact, what Song Qi did not know was that Su Zimo had even spent half a year locked in Thunderclap Valley without any improvement to his cultivation.

Furthermore, half of Su Zimo's spirit qi was spent on tempering his body as well.

How great was the gap between them?

In the entire Yan Country, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator could be considered as one of the top.

This was the difference between spirit root and had nothing to do with how much talent or cultivation resources one had.

"Second Young Master Su, you've changed so much in two years."

Song Qi sighed and shook his head, lamenting to himself.

If he had not seen it with his own eyes, he would never have imagined that the youth from Ping Yang Town back then would reach such a level today!

Demoness Ji blinked her eyes at the side. Grinning, she muttered softly, "Second Young Master Su. Hehe, interesting."

"How has brother been recently?" Su Zimo asked.

"Young Master's health is fine, but he often misses the two of you. He's worried that you'll meet with danger and be bullied outside."

That had Su Zimo feeling extremely touched.

Song Qi led Su Zimo and Demoness Ji into the back palace.

The back palace of the King of Yan was quiet and plain. There were no beautiful women or three thousand concubines. Instead, they saw quite a number of Su family members.

When old friends met, they could not help but exchange pleasantries.

## **Chapter 187: Reunion**

King of Yan's chamber.

The King of Yan, Su Hong, had a solemn expression. He was playing chess against Uncle Zheng and it was at a particularly intense situation.

The guards Liu Yu and Yuchi Huo stood at the side, standing watch over the both of them with sharp gazes.

Uncle Zheng, Liu Yu and Yuchi Huo were the oldest and most loyal three in the Su family. They never left even when the Su family was at its lowest and was almost annihilated.

"Young Master, you aren't young anymore. Are you really planning to continue wasting your time like this and not get married?" After four years, Uncle Zheng looked much older. However, his eyes were still clear and exuded the glint of wisdom.

In private, everyone addressed each other no differently from before.

Su Hong remained silent.

“Young Master, the bloodline of the Su family has to continue,” Uncle Zheng persuaded again.

With a sharp slap, Su Hong put down a chess piece and pointed to the chessboard with a smile. “Uncle Zheng, if you get distracted again, you’re going to lose.”

Seeing that Su Hong clearly did not wish to talk about it, Uncle Zheng gave a bitter smile and sighed. “I’m not as energetic as before. I’m old now.”

Right then, a burst of laughter came out outside and Song Qi’s voice rang.

“Young Master, Mr. Zheng! Guess who’s here?”

The door to the King of Yan’s chamber was closed. Su Hong and the rest could only see vague shadows but they could not see the appearance of the visitors.

When he heard that, Su Hong shook his head and smiled. “What’s there to be mysterious about? Who could it be?”

Uncle Zheng went silent for a moment. A thought struck him as he whispered, “Could it be the second young master or miss?”

“Xiaoning wouldn’t have time to return since she’s on the path to immortality cultivation. As for Zimo...” There was a look of worry in Su Hong’s eyes. “I don’t know where that lad has gone off to. I haven’t seen him in two years.”

“Big brother, I’m back.”

One of them pushed the door open. He was dressed in green and carried a scholarly aura around him, looking refined and graceful – it was none other than Su Zimo.

“Second young master?”

“It really is the second young master!”

Liu Yu and the others revealed looks of joy as they broke into laughter.

“Zimo!”

Su Hong’s eyes sparkled. He stood up slowly and walked forward, sizing Su Zimo from head to toe. As much as he tried to control himself, he could not conceal the excitement in his heart.

While Su Hong was sizing him up, Su Zimo was looking at Su Hong as well.

After two years, Su Hong did not seem to have changed much.

Back when he had failed to assassinate the King of Yan, he was disheartened and his hair turned white overnight. At first glance, he looked like a venerable old man.

In fact, Su Hong was only 34 this year.

Stretching both hands, Su Hong gripped Su Zimo tightly on the shoulders and shook the latter vigorously. Finally, he nodded in satisfaction. “Not bad, you’re stronger than before.”

“Young Master, I’m afraid you don’t know yet, but Second Young Master Su is now a cultivator as well! Not just that, his cultivation is even much higher than mine!” Song Qi remarked at the side.

“Oh? For real?” Su Hong’s eyes lit up.

Su Zimo did not hide anything and nodded. “That’s right, brother. I joined a sect named Ethereal Peak, one of the five major sects of the Great Zhou Dynasty. It’s not weaker than Xiaoning’s Azure Frost Sect.”

“Good, good, good!” Su Hong nodded repeatedly. Liu Yu and the rest were delighted too.

At this moment, Su Hong’s gaze turned towards the girl beside Su Zimo. He could not help but be slightly stunned as a feeling of amazement surged in his heart. “This lady is...?”

Su Zimo finally remembered that Demoness Ji was still beside him. Just as he was about to introduce, he heard her voice. It was like pearls falling on a jade plate and was pleasant to one’s ears.

“Hello, big brother.”

Su Zimo frowned.

It was naturally alright for him to refer to Su Hong as big brother. But... Why was this Demoness Ji joining him?!

Su Zimo glanced sideways, wanting to remind her. However, he ended up losing his focus and was rooted on the spot as well.

Unknowingly, Demoness Ji had removed the veil on her face, revealing a peerless beauty that could captivate all life. She was flawless and unimaginably beautiful.

This time, there was no bewitching charm exuding from Demoness Ji.

On the contrary, she looked refined and elegant. Nodding slightly, her cheeks flushed red as though she was a little shy.

Su Zimo’s jaw nearly dropped to the ground.

This was Demoness Ji?

This young girl before her was completely unlike Su Zimo’s impression of her being that seductive Demoness Ji who could bewitch the entire world!

This was clearly a respectable woman, not some demoness...

Demoness Ji moved closer to Su Zimo and tugged Su Zimo’s sleeve with her petite hands. Rolling her eyes at him secretly, she looked at Su Hong and said timidly, “I’m Yan’er, Zimo’s... friend.”

Su Zimo felt goosebumps all over his body.

If they were friends, so be it. Why did she have to break a pause in the middle?!

Even though there was nothing wrong with that sentence, the way Demoness Ji said it changed the tone of it and would lead to inferences.

True enough.



Su Hong looked enlightened and nodded in delight.

Uncle Zheng and Song Qi smiled as well, looking at Demoness Ji with a hint of scrutiny, feeling more satisfied by the moment.

Liu Yu and Yuchi Huo winked at Su Zimo and secretly gave him a thumbs up.

“Demoness Ji, what are you doing?”

Su Zimo pulled Demoness Ji to a corner and whispered, frowning.

“What’s wrong?” She asked with an innocent expression.

“Who told you to remove your veil?”

“It’s rude to meet big brother with a veil.”

“That’s true...”

Su Zimo nodded instinctively, but he felt that something was amiss. On second thought, he snapped out of his stupor and glared at Demoness Ji. “Who is your big brother? He’s MY big brother!”

“Also, Demoness Ji, why are you pretending in front of my big brother? Don’t you think I know what sort of a person you are?” Su Zimo gave a cold sneer.

“Sure, let’s not pretend then! How about I jump into your embrace and we can make out right now?” Demoness Ji glanced sideways at Su Zimo, full of provocation.

Su Zimo jumped in fright and hurriedly said, “Please continue pretending...”

He knew very well that this person in front of him could truly do such a thing with no qualms.

“Zimo, what are you doing!”

Right then, Su Hong walked over with a hint of blame in his tone. “I heard you mentioning something about a demoness. How is she a demoness? Don’t spout nonsense. To think that you’ve spent more than ten years studying the texts of saints.”

Su Zimo could not really explain despite being reprimanded and could only say, “Big brother, please don’t overthink things. She’s truly just a friend of mine and is a fellow cultivator.”

“Oh?”

Unexpectedly, Su Hong’s eyes lit up and he nodded. “That’s good. Both of you are cultivators, so it’s a perfect match.”

Demoness Ji grinned and an imperceptible smugness flashed across her eyes.

Su Zimo coughed lightly and changed the topic. “Has Xiaoning returned in two years?”

“No.”

Su Hong shook his head. “You haven’t seen her either?”

“I see.”

Su Zimo said in a low voice, "But you don't have to worry, big brother. The sect competition is about to begin. At that time, all major and minor sects within the Great Zhou Dynasty would be present and I'll be able to see Xiaoning then."

Naturally, Su Xiaoning was not the only one he would see at the sect competition. He might even encounter some old friends.

An image surfaced in Su Zimo's mind – it was a gentle girl who told him heartlessly, "Our fate has come to an end. We are separated as mortals and immortals. I'm afraid... we will not see each other again."

"It's true our fate has come to an end. As for whether being separated as mortals and immortals as well as whether we'll see once another again... ha."

Su Zimo's eyes flashed with mockery.

### **Chapter 188: Breaking Into the Palace**

Su Zimo did not leave immediately. He planned to stay in the palace for a few days and accompany his brother.

After all, he did not know when he would be back next time.

Demoness Ji did not leave either and stayed in the palace alongside Su Zimo. She merely took occasional walks outside and came over to tease Su Zimo when she had nothing to do.

As the King of Yan, Su Hong would naturally not reside in the back palace all the time.

Everyday, he would take time to evaluate the memorials in the imperial court.

In that period of time, Su Zimo would sit in his house quietly, raising his cultivation and starting on the Organs Refinement section while studying the various bloodline spirit arts he obtained in the stone coffin as well as the Buddha Bead.

Before leaving Ethereal Peak, Su Zimo's cultivation was already at the peak of early-stage Foundation Establishment.

After the fight at the inheritance ground and obtaining a huge chunk of bloodline essence from that mysterious skeleton, Su Zimo broke through to mid-stage Foundation Establishment within a couple of days naturally.

His bloodline was extraordinary to begin with and he had already reached the legendary tsunami blood realm.

As such, it was comparatively easier for him to cultivate the bloodline spirit arts.

However, he had no clue how to go about the Organs Refinement section.

He would think about it occasionally but put it aside when he could not find anything.

During that period of time, Su Zimo's greatest focus was still on that mysterious Buddha Bead.

It was clear that there was a powerful secret skill hidden within the Buddha Bead – Fiend Suppression Seal!

Each time Su Zimo looked at the Buddha Bead, he would fall into the illusion and experience the power of that golden palm descending from the skies to crush the demon and mountain of corpses with the hand seal.

He constantly pondered and tried to figure out every single detail.

...

This day, a group of Foundation Establishment Cultivators arrived at the capital of Yan Country, led by a man and woman – Xu You and Shen Mengqi.

“Junior Sister, if you want me to say it, let’s openly barge into the palace and bring the King of Yan out. After asking about news of Junior Brother Zhou, we can seek revenge. How about that?” Xu You asked for Shen Mengqi’s opinion with a smile.

Shen Mengqi frowned and shook her head. “I don’t wish to see those old friends so I won’t be going with you guys.”

Xu You rolled his eyes and nodded. “That’s true. Given our status, we’ll be elevating the King of Yan’s status if we go and look for him at his place.”

“Junior Brothers Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi, please bring our fellow sect mates to the palace and ‘invite’ that King of Yan over!”

Xu You placed emphasis on the word ‘invite’. His intentions were clear – he wanted Su Hong to suffer.

Two Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators stood up and cupped their fists. “Don’t worry, Senior Brother Xu. Leave it to us.”

Xu You nodded.

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi were both late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators. In the capital of Yan Country, they were absolutely domineering existences.

Furthermore, they carried the badge of Iridescent Clouds Palace on their waist – which idiot would dare provoke them?

Xu You, Shen Mengqi and Shen Nan looked for a random inn and moved in, waiting for Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi to bring the King of Yan over.

Shen Nan was the most excited among them.

In the two years since Su Hong was conferred king, he had been on tenterhooks, afraid that the Su family would seek revenge on him one day.

Now, he no longer had to be afraid!

...

After Su Hong’s court session of the day, he headed for the back palace.

When he reached Su Zimo’s door, he realized that it was tightly shut. Pausing for a slight moment, he did not knock and instead turned to leave.

He gathered that Su Zimo was probably in seclusion and did not disturb the latter.

Upon returning to his chamber, Su Hong continued to read the account memorials. Not long after, there was a sudden commotion outside the door.

“Who’s there?!”

“Ah!”

Sounds of fighting and screaming could be heard vaguely – it was as if someone had barged into the palace and headed straight for the chamber.

“Oh?”

Su Hong frowned, his expression calm and composed.

Liu Yu and Yuchi Huo exchanged glances and quickly stood in front of Su Hong, whispering, “Young Master, leave from the back.”

Song Qi stood up and retrieved a flying sword from his storage bag. He shook his head with a solemn expression. “It’s most likely too late to leave.”

Snap!

Just as he said that, the door to the chamber was smashed apart by a tremendous force.

More than ten cultivators barged in with large strides, their heads reared with an imposing aura.

Song Qi looked at them and could not help but feel shocked, his breathing stagnated.

Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

There were more than ten cultivators, all of them Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

The two people leading them were even at late-stage Foundation Establishment!

The power they possessed was almost enough to destroy a vassal state.

“When did Yan Country offend such a faction?”

Song Qi’s thoughts raced and he pondered, “It makes no sense. We rarely have any interaction with cultivators so we couldn’t have offended these people.”

His gaze landed on the badge on the waist of the Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

Iridescent Clouds Palace!

One of the five major sects – Iridescent Clouds Palace!

This was big!

Song Qi forced himself to remain calm as he revealed a smile and said in a deep voice, “Fellow seniors of Iridescent Clouds Palace who have come to visit the capital, please forgive us for being impolite and failing to welcome all of you.”

Liang Hao did not even bother to look at Song Qi. His head was raised, his nostrils facing the skies as he looked around. Finally, his gaze landed on Su Hong in the middle as he asked with raised brows, "You're the King of Yan, Su Hong?"

"I am."

Su Hong stood up slowly with a calm expression. He pushed Liu Yu and Yuchi Huo aside, facing Liang Hao and the rest directly.

"Fu..."

Liu Hongyi's lips curled into a cynical smile. He laughed lightly. "The ignorant are truly fearless. You can stay calm now, but I wonder if you'll roll in your pee out of fear later on!"

"May I know why you guys have barged into the palace of Yan Country?"

Su Hong's tone was calm and composed, neither overbearing nor servile.

"Why?"

Liang Hao's expression darkened and he suddenly shouted, "Su Hong, how bold of you! Kneel down when you see immortals of the Iridescent Clouds Palace!"

His voice was deafening, reverberating in the chamber strongly.

It was as if there was really an immortal looking down on all life and questioning loudly.

Mortals aside, even Song Qi's expression was slightly pale. His chest felt stuffy and his heart raced.

Su Hong raised his head and suddenly smiled. "Why should I kneel?"

"You're indeed ignorant. It seems like you're someone who won't cry until you see the coffin. I've got to let you suffer for a bit!"

Liu Hongyi declared sinisterly with a malicious expression. Right as he was about to step forth, a voice came from outside.

"The people from Iridescent Clouds Palace are truly promising. They're always forcing people to kneel, fufu."

Those words were clearly filled with disdain and mockery. Immediately, the group from Iridescent Clouds Palace were enraged as they turned back.

A green robed man strode over. Refined and delicate, he was elegant like a scholar. However, his eyes were narrowed like a sharp blade, carrying an intensely cold glint.

Behind the green robed man was a girl in a pink dress. She was breathtakingly beautiful and her eyes seemed to be able to speak. Every glance of hers caused waves of light to swirl around her, fluttering the hearts of the many cultivators present as well.

**Chapter 189: Might of the Fiend Suppression Seal**

Be it male or female, the dozen or so cultivators of Iridescent Clouds Palace were attracted by the girl in pink's appearance, forgetting where they were for a moment.

It was only after the green robed man and girl in pink brushed past them and entered the chamber that everyone came to their senses.

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi used their Spirit Peering Art to probe the two of them immediately.

The girl in pink seemed to have cultivated some secret technique, concealing her cultivation in a blurry and unfathomable manner.

There was nothing special about the green robed cultivator – he was a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi sneered to themselves.

When both of them saw that neither the green robed cultivator or girl in pink had any identity badges, they assumed that these must be itinerant or minor sect cultivators and there was nothing to be afraid of.

The moment they saw the girl in pink, be it Liang Hao or Liu Hongyi, both harbored a thought – they wanted to show off their strength and vie for the girl in pink's attention.

The green robed cultivator and girl in pink were naturally Su Zimo and Demoness Ji.

Su Zimo walked into the chamber and swept his gaze. Upon seeing that no one was injured, the killing intent in his eyes lessened slightly.

Even though Song Qi did not say anything, he kept giving Su Zimo a meaningful glance to remind him that his opponents were of a higher cultivation realm. Furthermore, they were from Iridescent Clouds Palace and were strong with a powerful backing.

Worry flashed in Su Hong's eyes when he saw Su Zimo appearing as well.

Su Zimo merely smiled and nodded to Su Hong, Song Qi and the rest, indicating for them to be at ease.

He found a random chair and sat down calmly without even glancing at the group from Iridescent Clouds Palace.

Liang Hao and the rest were furious when they saw how arrogant Su Zimo was despite his lower cultivation.

“Were you the one who spoke just now?”

Liang Hao glared at Su Zimo fixedly and asked coldly.

“Yes.”

Su Zimo lowered his head and pressed his middle finger against his thumb, rubbing it lightly as he replied expressionlessly.

Liang Hao narrowed his eyes and said icily, “In that case, do you have any objections if I get Su Hong to kneel down?”

Su Zimo raised his head and looked askance at Liang Hao, asking with a smile, “Are you worthy?”

“You must be courting death!”

Liang Hao’s fingertips moved in an incantation gesture, and the spirit energy in his dantian burst out, forming a long sword out of thin air.

This was one of the more ordinary Spirit Techniques in the Cultivation World, the Condensing Sword Art

Using rich spirit energy as a foundation, a long sword was condensed. However, its sharpness was no weaker than a spirit weapon. Furthermore, its aura was terrifying and emitted a suppressive force.

Right then, Su Zimo moved as well.

His mind flashed repeatedly with the shocking scene he had witnessed when he delved into the illusion of the Buddha Bead.

Subconsciously, Su Zimo’s middle finger and thumb pressed together to form a weird hand seal.

The secret skill hidden in the Buddha Bead – Fiend Suppression Seal!

At that moment, the spirit energy in his dantian circulated crazily and continuously surged into the newly formed hand seal.

The speed was too fast!

The Fiend Suppression Seal was like a bottomless pit, absorbing the spirit energy in Su Zimo’s dantian constantly like a whale swallowing a cow!

Su Zimo had a feeling that if he did not make a move, the Fiend Suppression Seal could even absorb his spirit energy entirely without a single drop left!

The more powerful the spirit art, the greater the consumption of spirit energy.

Right now, Su Zimo was at mid-stage Foundation Establishment. Due to the presence of the blood bone palm, the quality of his spirit energy could even match that of a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

If the Fiend Suppression Seal could absorb all the spirit energy of a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator, how terrifying was that spirit art?

Su Zimo did not dare to wait any longer and attacked directly.

Boom!

There was a deafening sound.

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, a giant golden palm descended from the sky. Smashing through the heavens, it suppressed all air flow and crushed towards Liang Hao and the others in a repressive manner!

At that moment, even those who were not involved felt a sense of trepidation.

Psst!

Song Qi gasped as his heart trembled.

Even though the strike was not aimed at him, he could still feel a suffocating pressure!

Demoness Ji watched with an open mouth and widened eyes in disbelief.

As the pure maiden of the fiend sects, she naturally had a sharp eye.

The power of this spirit art before her was far beyond her imagination.

Ethereal Peak aside, even the fiend sects that had survived through the ancient times did not have many spirit arts of this level!

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi who were situated beneath the Fiend Suppression Seal were horrified. They looked up with widened, bloodshot eyes and shuddered in fear.

Both of them could see clearly.

The patterns on the golden palm were clearly visible, as though they were corporeal. It was as if the divine god's palm carried with it a supreme might as it came crushing down, seeking to destroy all living things!

"Everyone, help me!"

The Fiend Suppression Seal descended extremely quickly and encompassed a large area. Liang Hao did not have time to dodge and could only roar loudly.

Beside him, Liu Hongyi was also the first to bear the brunt.

At that moment, the two of them had an illusion.

They did not seem to be facing a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator. Instead, it was a perfected Foundation Establishment Cultivator who had unlocked multiple meridians!

Liang Hao did not even have time to stab at Su Zimo using the spirit sword he had just conjured; he could only use all his strength to stab at the golden palm above him.

"Kill!"

On the other side, Liu Hongyi also burst out with a spirit art. A huge mirror covered the both of their heads, glistening with a watery surface as though it could withstand all power.

Even though the remaining ten Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators were not enveloped by the golden hand seal, they hurriedly rendered their assistance seeing their two senior brothers in need.

Instantly, flying swords with cold auras intertwined with one another as spirit arts were released.

There was only one goal – the descending golden hand seal!

Snap!

Liang Hao's spirit sword was the first to snap. Against the golden hand seal, it was like a mere chicken that could not withstand a single blow.



Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The flying swords and spirit arts of the Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators struck the golden hand seal and it trembled, dimming its golden light considerably.

Even so, the golden hand seal continued to crush down!

It made contact with the spirit mirror Liu Hongyi conjured.

Piak!

The ripples on the surface of the Spirit Realm instantly coagulated as they shattered, dissipating their spirit energy.

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi panicked. They quickly took out a protective talisman from their storage bags and crushed it.

A light dome appeared around them.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

In the blink of an eye, cracks appeared on the surface of the light dome and spread rapidly.

Bang!

The protection talismans had failed!

“Pfft!”

Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi could not endure the burden and spat out a mouthful of blood as though they were struck by lightning. Their faces were pale and dispirited.

Right after, their legs buckled and they fell to their knees with a plop. The impact nearly shattered their knees, causing their faces to squeeze together in pain.

The golden hand seal dissipated as well after receiving that much of an impact.

It was completely silent within the chamber.

No one had expected this.

Demoness Ji knew that Su Zimo was terrifying in his melee combat ability.

However, she had not expected that he would be able to unleash such domineering powers in terms of cultivation techniques as well!

The two late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators were seriously injured and lost their combat power.

The remaining ten Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators were not enveloped by the Fiend Suppression Seal after all. Since they only attacked by the side, they were not injured.

Even so, they had expended quite a bit of spirit energy as they looked at Su Zimo with frightful eyes.

## Chapter 190: Get Over Here Yourself!

Right from the start, Su Zimo had been seated on the chair without any major movements. In fact, he did not even stand up and looked calm and composed.

In reality, he felt quite the shock as well.

The might of the Fiend Suppression Seal had far surpassed his expectations.

At that moment, the spirit energy in his energy was almost depleted. If he could provide sufficient spirit energy, how terrifying would the power of the Fiend Suppression Seal be?

According to his calculation, the power exerted by the Fiend Suppression Seal earlier on was probably less than 30% of its full power!

What sort of a spirit art was that?

A mere 30% of its power nearly depleted Su Zimo's spirit energy as a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

"Who are you? What sect are you from! Tell me your name if you've got the guts!"

Liang Hao struggled to stand up. He stared at Su Zimo and asked slowly with hateful eyes.

"Who allowed you to get up?"

Su Zimo's gaze turned cold and he casually flicked the teacup on the table.

How strong was Su Zimo's physical strength?

Even a casual strike of his was not to be underestimated. Furthermore, Liang Hao was already severely injured.

Pshew!

The teacup tore through the air.

Before Liang Hao could react, the teacup smashed onto his knee with a loud bang.

Instantly, the teacup shattered into pieces. Liang Hao was just about to get up when he was forced to kneel after such a heavy blow once more.

"Ah!"

He cried out in pain and cold sweat trickled down his forehead in the blink of an eye.

At the side, Liu Hongyi was about to get up as well. However, the scene scared him so much that he shivered and continued kneeling on the ground obediently with a lowered head, not daring to mutter a word.

The situation was pressuring. At a time like this, being stubborn was only asking for trouble.

Even though there were ten Foundation Establishment Cultivators from Iridescent Clouds Palace remaining, all of them were stunned by Su Zimo – how would any of them dare to make a move?

The ten Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators exchanged glances and tacitly retreated.

The matter before them could only be handled by Senior Brother Xu You and Senior Sister Shen Mengqi – it was useless for them to stay here.

“This is not over yet. All of you, stay here!”

Su Zimo sat on his original spot with no intention of getting up. Even though his tone was calm, it carried an unquestionable strength.

“Hurry, let’s go!”

Someone shouted loudly and summoned a flying sword, running outside without looking back.

Su Zimo pointed forward and hollered softly, “Instant Thunder!”

Snap!

Accompanied by a deafening roar, a thunderbolt as thick as an adult’s arm suddenly descended and shot down in the middle of the Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators in a dazzling manner.

The dense thunderbolts quickly spread out and crackled.

Thunder art was the most offensive of all spirit arts.

Coupled with the fact that Su Zimo had cultivated the ancient Void Thunder Manual, the power of thunder in his bloodline was extremely strong.

Of the remaining ten people, four were at mid-stage while six were at early-stage Foundation Establishment – how could any of them withstand the might of thunder.

“Ah!” Ah! “Ah!”

Tragic cries could be heard from the crowd. The six early-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators were instantly electrocuted and charred. Green smoke billowed from their bodies as they fell to the ground.

The four mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators were also covered in dirt. Although they had barely managed to withstand the blow, they were severely injured with blood oozing from the sides of their mouths. All their hairs turned charred and curly from the shock.

Su Hong, Song Qi and the others were long dumbfounded by what they saw.

How could they have expected that his younger brother, the second young master of the Su family, would be so powerful in just two years?

“Fellow daoist, you better not go too far!” Liu Hongyi gulped and mustered his courage to declare.

“Interesting.”

Su Zimo smiled. “You’re the ones who came knocking to provoke, forcing others to kneel in an intimidating manner. Why am I the one blamed for going too far now?”

“Hehehe, don’t you get arrogant now!”

Liang Hao endured the pain in his knees and said sinisterly, “Punk, my senior brother and sister are in the capital now. Wait and see what happens if we don’t bring Su Hong back with us!”

“Oh?”

Su Zimo read between the lines and asked with interest, “Does that mean that you are here today to take away the King of Yan?”

Liang Hao replied loudly, “So what if I am?”

“Very good.”

Su Zimo nodded and asked again, “Why do you want the King of Yan? Is it because he has a feud with you guys or is it something else?”

“That’s none of your business.”

Liang Hao snorted. “Even though Su Hong is the King of Yan, he’s a mere mortal. It’s his honor if Senior Brother Xu wants to see him!”

“Honor?”

Su Zimo sneered coldly, “In that case, I’ll let one person leave.”

“You. Go back and tell your Senior Brother Xu my exact words.”

Su Zimo casually pointed at a slightly injured Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivator and said indifferently, “If you want to meet the King of Yan, sure. Get over here yourself!”

The Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivator nodded with a terrified expression and fled on his flying sword.

...

In an inn near the capital.

Xu You and Shen Mengqi were casually eating and chatting.

Xu You asked with concern, “Junior Sister, you don’t look too good. Are you feeling unwell?”

“It’s nothing.”

Shen Mengqi shook her head and frowned. “For some reason, I’m feeling a little frustrated.”

Xu You smiled. “Junior Sister, you don’t have to think too much about it. If you don’t wish to see those old friends, you can just avoid Su Hong when he’s here later. Leave everything to me.”

“Alright,” Shen Mengqi nodded.

Right then, the sound of clothes fluttering through the air could be heard from afar – it was obvious that someone had sped over on a flying sword in a seemingly flustered manner.

“Oh?”

Xu You frowned and waved his robes gently, causing the entrance door to open as a figure rushed in.

“Junior Brother Lu?”

Xu You and Shen Mengqi were slightly taken aback.

The person’s clothes were torn and some places even had burn marks.

He had rushed over in haste with white smoke still rising from his charred, curly hair as though he had just been electrocuted...

“Junior Brother Lu, how could you be so careless to be struck by lightning?”

Xu You frowned and berated. “You’re an immortal cultivator and yet you don’t even know how to dodge lightning. Look at you, how inappropriate!”

The cultivator with the surname Lu was about to land from his flying sword. When he heard that, it triggered his internal injuries and he spat out a mouthful of blood, falling head first onto the ground.

Xu You went forward and helped him up.

“Oh?”

His expression changed – he could sense the fluctuations of a spirit art from this person’s body!

“Your injuries were caused by a thunder art?” Xu You asked with furrowed brows.

Lu finally managed to catch his breath and nodded. “Senior Brother Xu, something has happened!”

He quickly recounted what happened in the palace, even relating Su Zimo’s statement word for word.

“Hmph, what big words! A mere mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator and he dares to get so cocky with me?”

Xu You’s expression darkened as he asked, “What’s his name? What sect does he belong to?”

“I... I don’t know.”

Lu shook his head.

### **Chapter 191: Old Flame**

Lu frowned as he recalled, “That person wears a green robe and he looks refined and elegant, like a cultured scholar!”

Pausing for a moment, Lu grumbled indignantly, “But, it’s all a lie! Who would have thought that the frail scholar would be this powerful? He was so terrifying when he attacked!”

Upon hearing this, Shen Mengqi’s heart skipped a beat.

A familiar figure flashed across her mind.

In the past four years, this figure had been buried deep in her memories, almost forgotten.

It was only because she had returned to her old home that brought back some of her childhood memories in a melancholic manner.

Upon hearing Junior Brother Lu's recount of the incident, the first person that came to Shen Mengqi's mind was Su Zimo.

However, she smiled and shook her head, denying her thoughts in the blink of an eye.

The thought was indeed rather ridiculous.

Su Zimo did not even have a spirit root. How could he cultivate and possess such tremendous strength?

Shen Mengqi had never regretted her decision. Even if it happened again, she would choose to leave Su Zimo and Ping Yang Town to follow Perfected Being Cang Lang on the path of cultivation.

After four years of cultivation, she was even more certain of one thing.

That was... with the passage of time, the gap between her and Su Zimo would grow to a point where it was no longer possible for them to have any interactions.

"Let's go to the palace! I want to see which idiot would dare to harm the cultivators of Iridescent Clouds Palace!"

Xu You's voice pulled Shen Mengqi back from her messy thoughts.

Shen Mengqi frowned. "Senior Brother Xu, even though the person is at mid-stage Foundation Establishment, he has the strength to take down late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators. We mustn't be careless."

"I see."

Xu You smiled. "Don't worry, junior sister. I know my limits. According to Junior Brother Lu's description, this person must have obtained a high quality spirit art and made use of that to defeat Liang Hao and the others."

Shen Mengqi nodded.

"However, the higher the quality of the spirit art, the more spirit energy it would consume."

Xu You smirked coldly and continued, "If I'm not wrong, that person should be almost drained of spirit energy. He won't be able to recover much in this period of time – he is now at his weakest!"

"Senior Brother Xu, Senior Sister Shen, let's not delay any further and move now."

"I see."

Three rays of sword light rose into the air as Shen Mengqi carried Shen Nan and sped towards the palace with Xu You and Lu.

...

Before long, the four of them arrived at the entrance of the King of Yan's chamber. The door was open.

From the outside, they saw Liang Hao, Liu Hongyi and the other Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators kneeling on the ground in a dejected manner.

As the four of them were looking down from their flying swords, they could not see who else was inside the chamber.

Withdrawing their flying swords, Xu You and the others descended at the entrance of the chamber and looked inside.

At first glance, the four of them saw a mature man sitting in the middle of the room. Even though he was only middle-aged, he had a head of white hair.

Of course, the most prominent thing about the man was a slanted scar on his face. It was terrifyingly ferocious, almost splitting his entire face into two!

Upon seeing Su Hong, Shen Mengqi felt a little emotional.

She naturally knew him although she did not have a deep impression.

Even though this person before her was already the king of a country with considerable power, compared to her, he was nothing in terms of status and strength.

When Su Hong saw Shen Mengqi, he was slightly stunned.

“The Shen family girl?”

After four years, he could barely recognize the gentle and simple girl from back then.

Shen Mengqi exuded a clear, cold aura that kept people at arm’s length.

Even though they were both cultivators, Su Hong did not feel the same coldness from Su Zimo.

At that moment, he suddenly felt relieved.

He was relieved Shen Mengqi chose to leave his brother back then.

They were not the same type of people to begin with.

Shen Mengqi’s gaze moved away from Su Hong after pausing for a while and turned to the two people seated at the side.

A green robed man sat on a chair at the side of the chamber. His side view was facing the entrance as he leisurely sampled freshly brewed tea that emitted a fragrant scent with a calm expression.

Upon seeing the green robed man, Shen Mengqi felt as if she was struck by lightning. Her body trembled slightly and she froze on the spot.

Shaking her head gently, her cherry lips opened slightly as disbelief filled her eyes – her mind was going blank.

Even though it was just a side profile...

Even though it had been four years...

Even though that person had matured a lot...

Shen Mengqi recognized him at the first instance.

If it was any other time, Xu You would definitely notice something unusual about Shen Mengqi.

However, at that moment, his full attention was drawn in by the girl in pink sitting beside the green robed man. He almost forgot where he was.

She smiled at him tenderly, her eyes curved into crescent moons that were filled with love.

“Ah!”

Suddenly, an exclamation was heard from the chamber.

Shen Nan had obviously recognized the green robed man and his expression changed.

Back then, the impression left on Shen Nan by this man wielding a long saber in the courtyard of the Zhao family while drenched in blood was too deep!

It almost became a nightmare that he could not get rid of.

Even though Xu You and Shen Mengqi were beside him, the fear that was deep-rooted in his memories still frightened Shen Nan into shrieking.

It was a somewhat familiar shriek.

At that moment, Su Zimo finally placed the teacup in his hands down slowly. Turning slightly, he glanced towards the entrance.

Their eyes met.

Instantly, it was as though space had changed and time had reversed.

A series of images flashed past his mind and gradually dissipated.

There was silence for a long time.

Shen Mengqi's expression was complex.

Su Zimo was slightly startled. However, his eyes regained their calmness before long.

From the moment he stepped onto the path of cultivation, Su Zimo knew that he would definitely meet Shen Mengqi again.

However, he did not expect that it would be under such circumstances, that it would be today.

Four years ago, she left resolutely and Su Zimo suffered a huge blow. He could still remember that heart-wrenching pain till this day.

If not for Die Yue's appearance, it would have been difficult for him to get out of that ordeal so quickly.

Su Zimo initially thought that he would be filled with resentment towards Shen Mengqi.

He had even imagined that if they were reunited, he would stand proudly before Shen Mengqi and tell her that there was nothing tough about living in a world without her!

However, reality was different from imagination.



Now that he met Shen Mengqi once more, Su Zimo was extremely calm. In fact, he seemed relaxed.

Unknowingly, Shen Mengqi had turned into a passerby of his life and was just an ordinary old acquaintance.

At that moment, Shen Mengqi felt a mix of emotions and bitterness in her mouth.

It had been four years.

He did not seem to have changed much – he was still dressed in green and exuded a scholarly air.

However, Shen Mengqi had just used her Spirit Peering Art and could naturally tell that Su Zimo was now a cultivator.

Furthermore, he was a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

How could that be?

The atmosphere within the chamber suddenly became strange.

The disciples of Iridescent Clouds Palace were kneeling on the ground, looking extremely miserable and perplexed.

For some reason, Senior Sister Shen looked distracted and confused after she entered the chamber and caught sight of that green robed cultivator.

It was the same for Senior Brother Xu who was staring at the girl in pink.

No one was bothered about them at all.

### **Chapter 192: That's Quieter Now**

Even though Su Zimo looked calm and composed without much emotion, Demoneess Ji noticed something unusual nevertheless.

A weird glint flickered in her eyes but she said nothing.

Su Zimo tapped his fingers on the table and attracted everyone's attention. He then said slowly, "Tell me, why are you looking for my elder brother?"

There was no greeting nor pleasantries as Su Zimo went straight to the point of questioning. A flash of panic appeared in Shen Mengqi's eyes as she was suddenly at a loss of what to do.

Su Zimo's gaze turned to Shen Nan who was cowering at the side. Raising his brows slightly, he asked, "You're here for revenge?"

That gaze of Su Zimo sent Shen Nan shivering as he shook his head like a rattle drum.

"Was it your idea..."

With a slight pause, Su Zimo shifted his gaze to Shen Mengqi and asked coldly, "Or yours, hmm?"

"N-No..." Shen Mengqi shook her head subconsciously.

Shen Mengqi was a cultivator after all. Taking a deep breath, she composed herself and explained, "It's because two years ago, a junior brother of the sect may have disappeared within Yan Country. We're here to see if the King of Yan has news of him."

"Oh, right. You know the missing person too. We're all from Ping Yang Town, he is Zhou..."

Suddenly, Shen Mengqi paused.

Looking at Su Zimo, she seemed to know something.

Prior to this, she had not considered that Su Zimo might have something to do with Zhou Dingyun's disappearance.

But if Su Zimo was a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator now, he should have been a cultivator two years ago as well.

In addition, Su Zimo and Zhou Dingyun had a feud to begin with...

The truth was revealed!

Two years ago, Zhou Dingyun returned to Ping Yang Town to cause trouble for Su Zimo. Unexpectedly, he was killed by the latter who wiped away all traces!

Shen Mengqi's speculation was similar to the truth.

It was just that Su Zimo was not a cultivator two years ago – he merely possessed the capability to kill Zhou Dingyun as well.

With that, Shen Mengqi had already calmed down.

Su Zimo had become a cultivator just like her.

However, his spirit root and endowment were inferior to hers. Furthermore, he had not joined any major sects and his future achievements would never ever match hers.

In Iridescent Clouds Palace, she made friends with geniuses of the cultivation world.

As for Su Zimo, he did not have any backing or power. He would only be able to hang out at the bottom rung of the cultivation world and die at any moment.

Even though they had both spent four years, she was already at perfected Foundation Establishment with a meridian unlocked. As for him, he was only at mid-stage Foundation Establishment.

That was the difference between them!

Moreover, Shen Mengqi believed that the gap between them would only deepen as time passed!

She was certain of that.

Her decision back then was still the right one!

At that thought, Shen Mengqi regained her confidence and composure. She looked at Su Zimo with a smile. "It's been a couple of years, but you've changed quite a bit."

Su Zimo was about to say something when he felt a lotus root-like arm coiling around his arm. Fragrance assaulted his senses as Demoness Ji spoke, "Zimo, who is this woman?"

Shen Mengqi frowned.

Only now had she noticed that there was a girl in pink seated beside Su Zimo.

More importantly, this girl in pink was far superior than her in terms of looks or aura.

Shen Mengqi felt uncomfortable when she saw the girl in pink hugging Su Zimo intimately – it was as if something that belonged to her had been stolen by someone else.

Staring at Demoness Ji, Shen Mengqi asked coldly, "Who are you?"

"What do you think?"

Demoness Ji smiled like a flower and squeezed next to Su Zimo. She raised her chin slightly and looked at Shen Mengqi as if she was exerting dominance.

Su Zimo removed Demoness Ji's arm. Just as he was about to speak, his heart stirred – he felt a killing intent!

"If the King of Yan is your brother, that means you're Su Zimo?"

Xu You could not help but flare up when he saw Demoness Ji almost squeezing herself into his embrace. He interrupted with a murderous aura.

Su Zimo reversed the question, "So what if I am?"

"All my fellow juniors were injured by you?" Xu You narrowed his gaze and asked again.

Su Zimo nodded. "That's right."

"Alright, hand over your life then!"

Xu You shouted and conjured a hand seal, his eyes turning cold.

All of a sudden!

Shen Mengqi swiftly blocked in front of Xu You and whispered, frowning, "Senior Brother Xu, let's forget about this. There might be some misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?"

Xu You's face darkened. "He injured so many of our fellow juniors. Is this a misunderstanding?"

If it was in the past, Xu You would not object to anything Shen Mengqi said.

But now, he was completely charmed by Demoness Ji. He only knew that killing the green robed cultivator before him was the only way he could obtain Demoness Ji's body and heart!

Shen Mengqi pursed her lips. "I'll get him to apologize to you and our fellow juniors now. Please let him off this once, senior brother."

With that, Shen Mengqi turned to Su Zimo and said in a low voice, "What are you waiting for? Come over and apologize!"

Su Zimo suddenly laughed, his eyes filled with mockery.

"You were the ones who came to provoke and cause me trouble. Why should I apologize?"

Shen Mengqi frowned and glared at Su Zimo, hollering softly, "Su Zimo, don't be ungrateful! I'm trying to save you!"

"Oh?" Su Zimo did not stop smiling.

Shen Mengqi said, "Do you know of the five major sects? Do you know of Iridescent Clouds Palace? There are some people and factions you can't afford to offend in the cultivation world. What are you still waiting for? Come and apologize!"

Demoness Ji clapped her hands and smiled. "Sister, you're truly right about that. There are truly some people and factions you can't afford to offend in the cultivation world."

"Fufu."

Xu You laughed icily, "Junior Sister, an apology has to be sincere. I'll only let Su Zimo off if he kneels and kowtows three times in front of me!"

In Xu You's opinion, humiliating Su Zimo in front of the girl in pink might produce an even better effect than killing him.

"Senior Brother, isn't that a little overboard?" Shen Mengqi frowned slightly.

"Humph!"

Xu You replied coldly, "That's not all! Su Zimo is not the only one who should be kneeling and apologizing! His brother has to do it as well!"

"Senior Brother, I'm begging you. Let this matter..."

"This matter is non-negotiable!"

At this moment, Su Zimo suddenly stood up and walked towards Xu You expressionlessly.

Thinking that Xu You had compromised and was about to apologize, Xu You could not help but laugh smugly. "Haha, at least you know your place!"

"How annoying!"

Su Zimo came in front of Xu You and said. Suddenly, he reached out and grabbed Xu You's throat with lightning speed.

Su Zimo squeezed hard!

Crack!

The sound of bones cracking echoed as Xu You's eyes turned bloodshot and almost popped out of their sockets, looking at Su Zimo in disbelief.

He had not expected that Su Zimo would dare lay a hand on him!

More than that, he had not expected that Su Zimo would dare kill him!

Furthermore, there were no chances given at all – it was a sure-kill strike!

Su Zimo released his grip and heaved a long sigh of relief, muttering softly, “That’s quieter now.”

Xu You’s head tilted and fell to the ground in a thud. He was dead!

A dead silence took over the chamber.

Complete silence.

### **Chapter 193: Pay With Blood**

Liang Hao, Liu Hongyi and the other Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivators knelt on the ground in shivers. They looked at Su Zimo with fear as sweat filled their palms.

Shen Mengqi stood rooted to the spot and stared blankly at Xu You who died with grievances on the ground with disbelief in her eyes.

Everything had happened too suddenly and Shen Mengqi’s head felt as though it had exploded, buzzing chaotically.

“Su Zimo, h-how dare he?”

“Is he crazy?”

“Did he not think about the consequences?”

Demoness Ji narrowed her gaze and licked her lips.

To be fair, she was the most calm of the people present.

Even though she had not known Su Zimo for long, she could vaguely understand his temperament.

This was a man who looked weak on the outside but had a tiger in his heart, decisive to kill. The moment he made a move, he was like a thunderbolt that would not give anyone a chance to breathe!

Even the fiend heir of Malevolent Earth Sect was killed by him, let alone a mere cultivator of Iridescent Clouds Palace who was yapping incessantly without fear.

“Su Zimo, do you know what you’re doing? Do you know how much trouble you’ve caused?”

Shen Mengqi glared at Su Zimo, looking agitated as she questioned loudly.

Su Zimo smiled nonchalantly.

That made Shen Mengqi even angrier. She clenched her fists and shouted, “I didn’t expect you to still be so immature after four years! You’re a cultivator! Even if you can escape, have you ever thought about your brother who will still be in the capital of Yan Country? Have you considered that you would implicate your family?!”

Su Zimo glanced sideways and waved his sleeves.

A golden silk cloth floated over from the table in front of Su Hong. It emitted a faint authority as if the emperor had descended and was inspecting the world.

“The imperial edict!”

Shen Mengqi and the others recognized the origin of that golden silk cloth immediately and were shocked.

The status of the Emperor of Great Zhou was much higher than theirs!

Su Zimo replied indifferently, “My brother has the imperial edict with him. Anyone who dares goes against him is going against the Great Zhou Dynasty, making an enemy of the emperor!”

Everyone from Iridescent Clouds Palace fell silent.

“Furthermore, grudges of the cultivation world should not implicate mortals.”

Pausing for a moment, Su Zimo swept his gaze across everyone from Iridescent Clouds Palace and finally fixed it on Shen Mengqi, saying slowly, “Whoever dares lay a hand on my brother and break the rules first, I’m sorry... I’ll have them pay with blood!”

As soon as he finished speaking, a torrential murderous aura burst out from Su Zimo’s body, almost materializing. It caused everyone’s hearts to tremble.

The temperature in the chamber plummeted!

Liang Hao and the others trembled. They quickly avoided Su Zimo’s gaze, not daring to look him in the eye.

In Shen Mengqi’s eyes, Su Zimo had suddenly become an extremely unfamiliar person – someone that she did not know at all.

This wasn’t a frail scholar. This was clearly a fiendcelestial from hell, a bloodthirsty and violent ancient demon!

That feeling was fleeting, as if it was an illusion.

In the cultivation world, while there was no official rule, many cultivators had a tacit understanding that they would not involve mortals in their grudges.

Shen Mengqi took a deep breath and composed herself before continuing, “Alright, even if your brother is safe, you’ll have to account for killing a disciple of Iridescent Clouds Palace!”

“From now on, you’ll be running away from home, living in fear every day. Is this what you want?”

Su Zimo smiled, looking at Shen Mengqi calmly and asked, “Who said that I’ll be homeless?”

“You still refuse to come to your senses.”

Shen Mengqi looked at Su Zimo in disappointment. “Iridescent Clouds Palace is one of the five major sects in the Great Zhou Dynasty. As long as you’re within the borders of the Great Zhou Dynasty, who can protect you? Which sect will dare take you in? Su Zimo, wake up!”

Piak!

Right then, Su Zimo took out a long badge from his storage bag and tossed it at the table beside him.

“I forgot to mention, I’m a disciple of Ethereal Peak. It’s no big deal killing someone from Iridescent Clouds Palace. Ethereal Peak will naturally protect me.”

Shen Mengqi stared intently at the identity badge on the table. Biting her cherry lips, she stood there in a daze. Everything she was prepared to say could no longer come out of her mouth.

Ethereal Peak.

It had been four years, but Su Zimo had actually joined one of the five major sects as well – Ethereal Peak!

From the moment she saw Su Zimo, Shen Mengqi had been looking down at him condescendingly.

All of a sudden, Shen Mengqi realized that Su Zimo had everything she relied on as well.

Her pride seemed to have turned worthless.

In that four years, the gap between them had not increased. Instead, it shrank.

What comforted Shen Mengqi slightly was that she was still higher than Su Zimo in terms of cultivation realm!

“I’ll be at Ethereal Peak. Whoever wants revenge, come. I’ll take you on.”

Su Zimo’s tone was calm, as if he was talking about a trivial matter.

After a brief silence, Shen Mengqi gave Su Zimo a complicated look. She turned around and said, “Let’s go back to the sect!”

With that, she walked over to Liang Hao and Liu Hongyi, wanting to help them up.

Both of them eyed Su Zimo warily. Seeing that the latter was expressionless and did not object, they endured the pain and stood up.

The group from Iridescent Clouds Palace supported one another and left the King of Yan’s chamber.

A breeze brushed past them and they felt a chill. Unknowingly, all of them had broken out in cold sweat.

It was only when they walked out the door that everyone heaved a sigh of relief – they felt as though they had survived a disaster!

Even though they were all Foundation Establishment Cultivators, for some reason, all of them felt a tightness in their chest against Su Zimo. It was as though there was a menacing pressure that prevented them from breathing.

Shen Mengqi said to everyone from Iridescent Clouds Palace in a low voice, “Leave the palace first. I’ll be right after.”

“Senior Sister Shen, don’t... don’t fight with that Su Zimo anymore? What if... what if...” Liu Hongyi’s heart skipped a beat as he hurried to persuade her.

Everyone else nodded in agreement with fright in their eyes.

It would be fine if Shen Mengqi won. But, if she lost, they were worried that they would be implicated and lose their lives here as well!

“Senior Sister Shen, let him off this time. There will be many opportunities to take his life in the future!” Another person tried to persuade while encouraging Shen Mengqi at the same time.

“Don’t worry, I’ll be right back. I won’t fight with him,” Shen Mengqi let out a reassuring smile and turned back.

Coming in front of Su Zimo, Shen Mengqi stared at him and said coldly, “Come out. I have some things to say to you.”

With that, Shen Mengqi turned and walked out.

Shen Mengqi’s tone made Su Zimo frown.

“What’s the matter that’s so mysterious that you have to hide it from me?” Demoness Ji’s eyes darted between Su Zimo and Shen Mengqi as she asked meaningfully.

Clang! Clang!

Right then, Su Zimo knocked his fingers on the table.

“If you have anything, you can say it here.”

Su Zimo did not get up as he lowered his eyes and said calmly.

Shen Mengqi stopped in her tracks, back facing Su Zimo. Her expression changed continuously as she grit her teeth and turned around slowly.

#### **Chapter 194: Frog in the Well**

Shen Mengqi said, “Thank you for not being calculative with my brother and sparing his life.”

Su Zimo replied, “Thank you for your reminder back then. Take that as a favor paid.”

Upon seeing this, everyone from the Su family felt emotional.

They watched Su Zimo and Shen Mengqi grow up together.

The two of them were once childhood sweethearts. After seeing one another four years later, there was no joyful reunion nor deliberate avoidance – it was merely a polite exchange of indifferent thanks.

Of course, Shen Mengqi was the only one who understood the meaning of their conversation. Everyone else was confused and did not know what was going on.

Before they parted four years ago, Shen Mengqi caught up with Su Zimo and said something.

Among it, she said, “Zhou Dingyun and I will be leaving Ping Yang Town with the Perfected Being tomorrow...”



It seemed like it was nothing, but if one thought about it carefully, they would realize that there was no need to mention Zhou Dingyun.

At that time, Perfected Being Cang Lang was in midair and Shen Mengqi did not dare to make her reminder too obvious.

However, she believed that given Su Zimo's intelligence, he would definitely be able to read between the lines.

The facts proved it as well. After Su Zimo returned to his home, he pretended to be drunk and successfully bewitched Zhou Dingyun, scaring the latter off.

Of course, even without Shen Mengqi's reminder, Zhou Dingyun might not have succeeded with Die Yue around.

After a brief silence, Shen Mengqi asked, "Did you kill Zhou Dingyun?"

"Yes."

Su Zimo did not choose to hide the truth.

He had even killed Xu You, so he naturally did not care if Zhou Dingyun's death was added to it.

"Zimo, even though you're a disciple of Ethereal Peak, I still want to say that you were too rash earlier on."

Shen Mengqi said, "If you didn't kill Xu You, I would have helped you keep Zhou Dingyun's death a secret. At least you won't offend Iridescent Clouds Palace that way. Now that you've killed Xu You in front of everyone, I can't help you hide this secret even if I wanted to."

"Why should you hide it?" Su Zimo asked.

"Huh?" Shen Mengqi was momentarily stunned.

He replied indifferently, "If I wanted to hide it, the simplest method... would be to kill all of you!"

Shen Mengqi's heart skipped a beat.

From Su Zimo's gaze, she had a feeling that he wasn't joking about it.

Su Zimo continued, "If I didn't kill you guys, it meant that I have no intention to hide it. So naturally, I'm not afraid of offending Iridescent Clouds Palace."

A killing intent flashed through Su Zimo's eyes at the thought of Perfected Being Cang Lang.

"Furthermore, I've already offended Iridescent Clouds Palace before."

Upon hearing this, Shen Mengqi's heart skipped a beat. She seemed to have recalled something and frowned. "Shen Mengqi, are you still thinking of taking revenge on my master?"

"Oh? Perfected Being Cang Lang is your master?"

Su Zimo smiled faintly and said sarcastically, "How unlucky. Go back and tell him to live his life well. One day, I'll personally take his life!"

“Su Zimo, that’s enough!” Shen Mengqi was a little agitated and questioned lightly, “You want to kill my master just because of a horse?!”

“A horse?”

Su Zimo stood up slowly. His eyes flickered coldly and a murderous aura emitted from him through just that simple motion!

Arriving before Shen Mengqi, Su Zimo stared at her with a piercing gaze that was sharp as knives.

Shen Mengqi even had an illusion that Su Zimo’s gaze stabbed her!

She took a step back subconsciously.

At that moment, she had even forgotten that her cultivation was higher than Su Zimo’s.

He said coldly, “If not for Zhui Feng, I would have died! Your master wanted my life back then!”

Shen Mengqi couldn’t refute him.

She had witnessed what happened back then.

If Zhui Feng had not been psychic and managed to defend in time, Su Zimo would have been burnt to ashes.

Shen Mengqi took a deep breath and raised her head, looking straight in Su Zimo’s eyes. “After four years, you’re still arrogant and ignorant as ever! You overestimate your abilities! What right do you have to take revenge on my master as a Foundation Establishment Cultivator?”

“Yes, you will grow stronger and raise your cultivation with the passage of time. However, master will not remain stagnant either. He will grow stronger too. You will never be able to catch up to him and take revenge!”

Pausing for a moment, Shen Mengqi scoffed coldly, “Also, I didn’t attack you just now because I’m weaker than you. It’s because I didn’t want to fight you for old times’ sake, but don’t push your luck!”

“Do you think that you have the strength to defeat me, a perfected Foundation Establishment, just because you killed Senior Brother Xu with a sneak attack?”

Su Zimo looked at Shen Mengqi calmly.

At this distance, he had a hundred ways to defeat Shen Mengqi.

Sadly, those who were ignorant would never ever know of their ignorance.

As though she hadn’t had enough, Shen Mengqi continued, “Su Zimo, there are too many geniuses in the cultivation world and there are tons of people stronger than you. You are nothing at all!”

“With your cultivation, you’re not even qualified to take part in the Great Zhou Dynasty’s sect competition. That is a grand event in the cultivation world where the top geniuses of the Foundation Establishment realm will meet and spar...”

“Pfft!”

Upon hearing that, Demoness Ji could no longer contain her laughter and interrupted Shen Mengqi.

“What are you laughing at?” Shen Mengqi asked coldly.

Demoness Ji ignored her and looked around as though she was looking for something, muttering, “Huh? I thought I heard a frog in the well croaking. How annoying!”

Shen Mengqi’s face darkened. She placed her hand on her storage bag and remarked icily, “Who are you calling a frog in the well?”

Noticing Shen Mengqi’s movement, Demoness Ji smiled. “So be it if someone’s a frog in a well. What’s worse is that she’s a self-righteous frog, boasting to others about how much of the sky she can see. What a joke.”

“Alright!”

Shen Mengqi harrumphed coldly. “Let me show you the methods of a frog in the well!”

As soon as she finished speaking, Shen Mengqi used her left hand to conjure a seal and slapped her storage bag with her right, causing a flying sword to land in her palm.

Boom!

A rumble echoed from within Shen Mengqi.

Right after, a meridian shone brightly like a divine dragon, roaring in Shen Mengqi’s body and emitting a rich spirit qi!

One of the eight meridians!

The Spirit Peering Art could only determine if a cultivator was at perfected Foundation Establishment, but it could not detect how many meridians they have unlocked.

The more meridians that were unlocked, the more spirit energy they had and the stronger they were.

It was obvious that Shen Mengqi had unlocked a spirit meridian.

Swash!

The moment Shen Mengqi made her move, a pink figure flashed and appeared in front of her.

Demoness Ji stuck out her left hand and grabbed the meridian on Shen Mengqi’s left wrist with lightning speed.

Instantly, Shen Mengqi’s expression changed. Her left arm turned numb and the spirit energy in her meridian turned sluggish, unable to circulate at all!

The next moment, she felt her neck turn cold, prickling in pain as a cold air entered her body.

Shen Mengqi’s face looked extremely terrible, not daring to move as she froze on the spot.

Demoness Ji leaned over and smiled. “Don’t doubt it when I say that you’re a frog in the well. If someone like you were to enter the ancient battlefield, the only thing that awaits you is death!”

## Chapter 195: Ancient Battlefield

Shen Mengqi's face was pale and she panted slightly, not daring to retort.

Demoness Ji was smiling in a beautiful manner.

However, they were both women and Shen Mengqi could sense hostility and killing intent from Demoness Ji!

Both of them were strangers and it was impossible for them to have any grudges. There was only one possibility why the girl in pink had a killing intent towards her.

It was because of Su Zimo!

Shen Mengqi's gaze shifted onto Su Zimo. Her emotions were complicated and she actually felt a sense of bitterness.

Why?

What did Su Zimo have that would make this girl who was superior to her in terms of looks and strength fall for him?

In reality, Su Zimo and Demoness Ji's relationship was not what Shen Mengqi imagined.

However, Su Zimo could not be bothered to explain and there was no need to either.

"Let her go."

Su Zimo said indifferently.

Demoness Ji glanced sideways and looked at Su Zimo keenly, a hint of mockery flashing in her eyes as she asked with a smile, "What's wrong? You can't bear it?"

Su Zimo frowned.

"Alright, I'll listen to you."

Demoness Ji changed her tone and said sweetly, releasing Shen Mengqi and returning to Su Zimo's side, standing coquettishly.

Shen Mengqi only let out a long breath when she felt the coldness around her neck dissipate. Unknowingly, she was already drenched in sweat.

After this unforeseen change, Shen Mengqi no longer had the face to stay on. She harrumphed coldly and turned to leave.

Summoning her flying sword, she soared through the air.

Turning back, Shen Mengqi looked at the set of green robes in the palace behind her with a complicated expression.

She had never expected that their reunion after four years would be as such.

Could she have been wrong back then?

If she had not chosen to leave Ping Yang Town with her master back then, would she have followed Zimo onto the path of cultivation and joined Ethereal Peak together?

“No, I wasn’t wrong!”

Shen Mengqi took a deep breath, her gaze resolute as she muttered to herself, “I’ll prove myself at the sect competition. I’ll prove that my decision back then was the right one!”

“In that grand cultivation event where everyone will be watching, I’ll obtain unparalleled glory for the sect and be famous in Great Zhou. I’ll be the one entering the ancient battlefield. As for you... you’ll just be a spectator below!”

...

Outside the King of Yan’s chamber, Su Zimo stood at a stone step nearby. Hands behind his back, he stood against the wind as it lifted his black hair gently.

Demoness Ji drifted swiftly behind Su Zimo, her eyes burning with curiosity as she asked, “Who was that?”

Su Zimo did not seem to have heard anything.

“Tsk.”

She pouted. “I can guess even if you don’t tell me. That’s your old flame, right?”

Su Zimo’s expression changed and he glanced sideways at Demoness Ji.

“What I’m most curious about now is why she chose to leave you back then.”

Demoness Ji was puzzled. She held her chin with her hand and frowned. “At least among the younger generation, you’re already very powerful. I don’t think Iridescent Clouds Palace has anyone that can surpass you. Why did that woman choose to leave you? Isn’t that a stupid decision?”

“I was quite ordinary back then,” Su Zimo replied.

“I don’t believe you.”

Demoness Ji shook her head. “She must have bad taste.”

Pausing for a moment, Demoness Ji smiled smugly. “However, that makes me look even more formidable. I picked you right away with my sharp wisdom, hehe.”

Su Zimo did not laugh. Instead, he asked, “You’ve followed me for so long. What exactly do you want?”

“Perhaps you haven’t realized it yourself, but your personality is closer to that of a fiend’s.”

Demoness Ji looked at Su Zimo meaningfully and said in a deep voice, “You abhor evil and are decisive to kill. You also place a clear distinction between gratitude and hatred. Actually, you’re very suited for fiend cultivation.”

“Is that your motive?”

Su Zimo shook his head. “I’m not suited for fiend sects.”

“Why do you say that?”

Looking into the distance, Su Zimo replied indifferently, “The road I want is different from others. Even fiend sects may not be able to accommodate me.”

At that moment, Demoness Ji suddenly realized that she could not understand Su Zimo.

“W-What is the road you want?” She asked subconsciously.

Su Zimo did not elaborate. After some thought, he changed the topic and asked, “What was the ancient battlefield that you mentioned just now?”

“You know that the Great Zhou Dynasty holds a sect competition once every ten years, right?”

“I see.”

Su Zimo nodded.

Ji Yaoxue had mentioned this two years earlier.

It was a grand event for the Great Zhou Dynasty where all major and minor sects will gather and spar. Their realms were limited to those below Golden Core.

This was a battle between Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

There would be four ranking lists for Spirit, Talismans, Elixirs and Weapon with only the top ten of each – the competition was intense.

However, it also meant that this was the best opportunity for one to make a name for themselves.

Furthermore, the Great Zhou Dynasty would reward the cultivators on the ranking lists handsomely. It was also said that there would be additional mystery rewards.

Demoness Ji continued, “Actually, the mysterious reward is for one to enter the ancient battlefield and cultivate for a year within.”

“Cultivate for a year?” Su Zimo frowned slightly.

Demoness Ji laughed. “Don’t underestimate that one year. Even if you cultivate outside for ten, or even hundred years, it might not match what you can obtain from cultivating in the ancient battlefield for one year.”

“There are countless treasures within. Lost cultivation techniques, elixir and talisman recipes and even weapon refinement techniques can be found there. The opportunities inside are unimaginable to you.”

Su Zimo’s blood boiled as he listened in shock.

Demoness Ji continued, “There are some things you might not know. Back then, the Founder Master of True Fire Sect obtained a long-lost flame secret skill in the ancient battlefield. He then established True Fire Sect which turned into one of the five major sects in the Great Zhou Dynasty.”

“Of Ethereal Peak’s three secret skills, one of them was obtained from the ancient battlefield as well.”

“It’s not an overstatement to say that all geniuses of Tianhuang Mainland would have to venture to that place. However, only paragons will be able to return alive. If you die within...”

Su Zimo’s heart skipped a beat as he recalled that terrifying expert of Ethereal Peak.

That person mentioned that the Void Thunder Manual was obtained from an ancient ruin.

A question suddenly flashed through Su Zimo’s mind and he asked, “Since the ancient battlefield is so great, why aren’t Golden Cores or even Nascent Souls sent there? Wouldn’t that mean a greater chance of obtaining treasures and inheritance opportunities?”

Demoness Ji explained, “Actually, every ancient battlefield was left behind by the ancient era and it forms its own dimension. In the most elementary ancient battlefield, only Foundation Establishment Cultivators can be sent inside. Furthermore, it would even require many Void Reversion Dao Beings to combine forces in breaking through the dimensional barriers.”

“Given the strength of the Great Zhou Dynasty, only dozens of Foundation Establishment Cultivators can be teleported at best. That’s the reason why we have the sect competition.”

Su Zimo pondered deeply, “Does that mean that only Golden Cores are allowed in the intermediate ancient battlefield?”

“I see.”

Demoness Ji nodded. “However, there’s no one in the Great Zhou Dynasty that has the power to send Golden Cores into the intermediate ancient battlefield. Think about it. If you require the combined forces of many Void Reversion Dao Beings to break the dimensional barrier of the elementary ancient battlefield, what sort of cultivators do you need for the intermediate ancient battlefield?”

## **Chapter 196: Farewell**

Demoness Ji said, “Of course, if you consider joining the fiend sects, you won’t need to worry about such stuff. Be it Foundation Establishment or Golden Cores, fiend sects have the capabilities to send into the ancient battlefield. The sort of opportunities you obtain and whether you can return alive will depend on yourself.”

Su Zimo shook his head and smiled.

Demoness Ji had painstakingly beat around the bush hoping to invite him to join a fiend sect again.

When she saw Su Zimo’s reaction, she knew what his reply would be. However, she was not disappointed and merely shrugged her shoulders. “It’s alright. If you change your mind, feel free to join us anytime.”

Su Zimo nodded.

Demoness Ji continued, “However, I have to remind you. Even though there are many opportunities in the ancient battlefield, they are accompanied by immense dangers. Some of it will come from the ancient battlefield itself and some of it will be from the other cultivators.”

“Even though you’ve defeated a fiend heir, you have to understand that they were unable to unleash their full strength due to the ancient spirit lock formation.”

Su Zimo was well aware of that.

If not for the ancient spirit lock formation, he was definitely not a match for a few fiend heirs.

According to Su Zimo’s speculation, those fiend heirs – Demoness Ji included – must have unlocked at least four meridians!

“The ancient battlefield is the true first clash for all Foundation Establishment geniuses of Tianhuang Mainland. The world outside of Great Zhou Dynasty is way too big and there are many unknown lands and powerful beings!”

“Inside, you might encounter the legacy disciples of the nine immortal sects.”

“There will also be top spirit demons of the eight demon races. Many of them are mutated beasts with extraordinary bloodlines and strength.”

“There’s also the seven fiend sects, six Buddhist monasteries... four dissident groups and three aristocrat families. There will be many legacy disciples of the top factions in Tianhuang Mainland, all of them peerless paragons.”

When Su Zimo heard that, he suddenly frowned.

At the mention of the six Buddhist monasteries and the four dissident groups, Demoness Ji paused for a clear moment as though she was apprehensive.

Immortal sects, demon races, fiend sects, Buddhist monasteries, dissident groups, aristocrat families – each type sounded like an ancient lineage.

According to the order of the nine immortal sects, eight demon races and seven fiend sects, there should be another lineage in between the six Buddhist monasteries and four dissident groups.

At that moment, Demoness Ji said, “With so many geniuses gathered on the ancient battlefield, only less than 30% will be able to make it out alive after a year!”

Su Zimo was stunned.

That figure was completely beyond his expectations.

It meant that more than half of them would die in the ancient battlefield!

Demoness Ji looked at Su Zimo and said, “To be fair, you are indeed extremely strong in melee combat. However, if you were to enter the ancient battlefield with your current strength, the chances of you surviving is zero.”

Su Zimo did not refute.

He believed in Demoness Ji’s judgment.

However, her remark did not affect his confidence.



There were three more years to go before the sect competition. For Su Zimo, that was more than enough time and he could definitely increase his strength greatly!

Right now, he had attained greater mastery of the Marrow Cleansing section.

As long as Su Zimo was able to attain greater mastery of the Organs Refinement section within three years, he believed that there would not be many people who could match him in melee combat.

If he could attain greater mastery for the Orifice Clearing section, Su Zimo had confidence that he would defeat anyone beneath Golden Core realm in melee combat!

As for immortality cultivation, he was at mid-stage Foundation Establishment right now. With the Ethereal Foundation Establishment as his basis, he should be able to reach perfected Foundation Establishment within three years.

After he unlocked a couple of meridians, he would use them in combination with his sword formation, Fiend Suppression Seal, Blood Refinement Fiend Sutra and other secret skills. In the ancient battlefield, that might not be enough for Su Zimo to dominate the masses and suppress all geniuses. However, it was definitely enough for him to protect himself.

“Since you’re not willing to join the fiend sects, I won’t bother you anymore,” Demoness Ji looked at Su Zimo and said with a smile.

Su Zimo asked, “Are you leaving?”

“Yes...”

Demoness Ji nodded. She turned to look at Su Zimo with a faint smile. “Why? Can’t bear for me to leave?”

“No, I wanted to say... if you want to leave, hurry up.”

“Humph!”

Demoness Ji stomped heavily on Su Zimo’s foot before raising her chin smugly and turning to leave.

Halfway through, she suddenly turned back and shouted, “Hey, if you see my sister, don’t tell her that I’m in a fiend sect!”

“I can’t be sure about that.”

Su Zimo gave a faint, cold smirk and turned to leave as well.

He did not walk far when Demoness Ji’s aggrieved voice sounded, “If you reveal it, I’ll tell sister that you bullied me in the coffin...”

Su Zimo’s legs buckled and he nearly fell.

“This d\*mn girl!”

His mouth twitched as he cursed silently.

“Hurry and go!”

Su Zimo waved without turning back.

Pursing her lips, Demoness Ji smiled. A faint fragrance drifted with the wind and dissipated in the air.

...

For the next period of time, Su Zimo was in no hurry to leave and return to the sect. He remained in the palace, chatting and drinking with his elder brother, Su Hong, when he was free – it was a carefree life.

A month later, Su Zimo was prepared to leave the capital.

To be fair, there were very few cultivators like Su Zimo who would take time out to return home and accompany their families.

Not to mention, he stayed on for an entire month.

Most cultivators would choose to sever their mortal relationships at the first instance.

It wasn't because they were heartless, but because they knew that day would arrive sooner or later.

The sooner they severed those ties, the sooner they would be done with the many burdens of the mortal realm and it would be nothing but beneficial for their cultivation path.

Su Zimo understood that logic as well.

However, he could not do it.

When he was about to leave, Su Hong accompanied Su Zimo out of the city before he stopped and reminded the latter, "Zimo, you don't have to come back if you don't have much time. You don't have to worry about me."

Even though he said that, there was a hint of reluctance in Su Hong's eyes.

"I can't really help you much as an elder brother. Do take good care of yourself being all alone out there."

Su Zimo looked at his brother's head of white hair and pursed his lips in silence, feeling miserable within.

In the cultivation world, the most precious types of elixirs were those that could boost one's longevity.

It was priceless.

Decades later, they would have to be separated through life and death.

Su Zimo dared not think about it.

As though he recalled something, Su Hong hurriedly added, "Zimo, if you have the chance, visit Xiaoning and see if she's doing well. She has a soft personality. Even if she has been wronged, she might keep it to herself and not tell anyone."

"Alright."

"There's... there's nothing else," Su Hong's gaze dimmed gradually as he muttered softly.

...

“Big brother, take care.”

After a long silence, Su Zimo finally spoke – his voice was slightly hoarse.

“Go, go!”

Su Hong turned around and waved his hand.

“Second Young Master, t-take care too!”

Uncle Zheng stood on the spot, his voice quivering as tears streamed down his face.

When the Su family was in trouble, Su Zimo and Su Xiaoning were still young – they were practically raised by Uncle Zheng.

In Uncle Zheng’s eyes, Su Zimo was akin to his own son.

He was already old and did not know if he would be able to see Su Zimo again. This might be their final farewell.

As though he felt something, Su Zimo suddenly stopped in his tracks and came before Uncle Zheng. Pursing his lips, he knelt on the ground and kowtowed three times solemnly.

Four years ago, the immortal might of Perfected Being Cang Lang failed to crush the youth’s backbone and have him submit on his knees.

Four years later, Su Zimo kowtowed goodbye before an elderly man with a white beard on his own accord.

### **Chapter 197: Trapped Spirit Monkey**

A streak of light flashed through the air, tearing through the skies and passing through the vast lands, brushing by cities and villages.

A few mortals subconsciously looked up. Some of those with sharper eyes faintly caught sight of a set of green robes. Amidst the clouds, it disappeared before everyone swiftly.

Su Zimo did not return to the sect immediately. Instead, he sped in the direction of the Cang Lang Mountain Range.

He had not seen the damn monkey for two years and missed it a little.

Additionally, Cang Lang Mountain Range had a cold lake.

Back then, Su Zimo was too weak and could not get to the bottom of the cold lake since he had just cultivated the Tendons Transformation section of The Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness.

Now that Su Zimo was at greater mastery of the Marrow Cleansing section and had a rich bloodline, he could attempt to check out the cold lake once more.

The moment he arrived at the skies of the Cang Lang Mountain Range, Su Zimo heard a series of roars that shook the mountains with a murderous aura.

That was the howl of the wolf, something Su Zimo was extremely familiar with.

Back when he lived in Cang Lang Mountain Range for a year, he was fighting those spirit beasts most of the time.

Wolves were cunning and extremely intelligent.

If not for the spirit monkey's help, Su Zimo would have already died in a wolf's belly.

Su Zimo furrowed his brows slightly.

It was daytime right now. Logically speaking, most spirit beasts would lay dormant and it was the same for the wolves. It was rare for such a commotion to happen now.

"This should be the work of a pack of wolves."

Su Zimo muttered softly.

Even when he joined forces with the spirit monkey back then, he could only rely on sneak attacks and was unable to fight powerful wolves head on.

Moreover, after killing a few wolves, it was inevitable that his body would contain the aura of a wolf's bloodline. If he did not conceal it with other auras, he would be tracked by the wolves before long.

Su Zimo ignored the wolf pack and headed towards the cave he used to live in.

If he wanted to look for the spirit monkey, this was his only clue.

Otherwise, searching for a monkey in the vast Cang Lang Mountain Range was akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

Su Zimo had not gone far when his eyes flickered, sensing that something was amiss.

The roar of the wolves came from the direction of the cave!

Was it a coincidence?

Su Zimo pondered for a moment and withdrew his flying sword, descending into the forest.

He dashed towards the cave with all his might while surveying his surroundings with a sharp gaze, trying to search for clues on the ground.

Before he arrived at the cave, Su Zimo already had determined the situation based on the clues on the ground.

The number of wolves this time was large, there should be more than 10,000!

That was a terrifying figure.

Typically, there would be a spirit demon level wolf in a wolf pack amounting in the hundreds.

For a wolf pack of more than 10,000 wolves, there were at least 10 of those spirit demon wolves.

The most terrifying thing was that the alpha of the wolf pack might even be a spirit demon equivalent to a Golden Core!

The difference in strength between spirit demons was huge.

The weakest of them were comparable to Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

The strongest of them were equivalent to Golden Core Perfected Beings!

Su Zimo's expression was grim. When he saw that he was about to reach the cave, he slowed down and moved forward silently.

Soon.

The figures of many wolves appeared before him, their eyes flashing with a green glint. Bloodthirsty and ruthless, they bared their teeth and saliva drooled from their mouths onto the ground as they snarled deeply.

Su Zimo did not proceed forward rashly. Instead, he came beside a huge ancient tree and using all his limbs like a spirit ape, climbed it stealthily.

Standing up high, he looked over and could not help but take a breath of cold air.

There were too many!

Densely packed, they covered the entire mountains, causing chills to run down one's spine.

The wolf pack did not surround the cave, Su Zimo would definitely choose to avoid and not provoke these beasts.

However, only Su Zimo and the spirit monkey knew about that cave.

He was not going to leave until he confirmed the spirit monkey's safety.

There were also hundreds of wolf corpses lying in the cave and most of the blood had dried up.

Only a few wolves that looked like they had their heads smashed in seemed to have died not too long ago.

Although he was a distance away, Su Zimo could still see clearly – most of the wolves looked like they suffered fatal injuries on their heads, as if they were bashed by some blunt weapon.

Su Zimo narrowed his gaze at the dark cave entrance.

If he was not wrong, the spirit monkey should be inside!

Logically speaking, given the alertness of the spirit monkey, it should have escaped long ago once this place was exposed – there was no way it would be trapped by such a large wolf pack here.

Furthermore, this pack of wolves was also behaving strangely. Instead of rushing forth together, they were dragging things out.

Su Zimo did not dare to act recklessly, merely surveying the wolf pack from the tree.

Given the discipline of a wolf pack of this size, there was definitely an alpha wolf around.

If the alpha was a Golden Core spirit demon, Su Zimo could not fight it head on.

However, if the alpha was a Foundation Establishment spirit demon, Su Zimo would be able to break through the wolf pack on his flying sword and kill all of them to try and defeat the alpha... or even kill it!

That was because Su Zimo had an advantage that Foundation Establishment spirit demons did not have.

Sword Kinesis Flight!

As long as Su Zimo were to ride on his flying sword, he would be invincible no matter how many wolves there were.

However, if the alpha was a Golden Core spirit demon, Su Zimo would not dare to barge in.

Be it humans or demons, core formation was an extremely important step.

There is the saying that once one creates a Golden Core, one's lifespan will not be decided by nature!

Once one forms a core, even spirit demons would be able to soar through the skies without the use of any external objects.

This meant that even if the wolf did not have wings, it could fly as well and Su Zimo's advantage would be gone.

Furthermore, Su Zimo was not a match for a Golden Core spirit demon as well – they were on completely different levels.

If the opponent was a cultivator that did not cultivate any concealment techniques and the difference in realm between them was not too great, one could easily detect the other party's cultivation realm using Spirit Peering Art.

However, the Spirit Peering Art was useless against spirit demons.

That was because there was no spirit energy in the spirit demons' bodies.

Before a spirit demon attacked, one could only rely on experience, feelings and observation to gauge their cultivation realms.

At the front of the wolf pack stood more than ten tall and strong wolves that looked malicious. Pacing back and forth, none of the other wolves dared approach them.

Su Zimo nodded silently.

If he was not wrong, those ten odd wolves were Foundation Establishment spirit demons!

Their status in the wolf pack was very high, akin to a small leader.

However, upon further observation, he discovered that none of them seemed like the true alpha wolf.

Su Zimo continued searching.

All of a sudden!

His gaze paused at the top of a tall, green rock.

Above it sprawled a wolf. It was not big and did not look extraordinary when compared to the many spirit beast level wolves below.

However, Su Zimo determined after some consideration that it was the alpha wolf!

Out of more than 10,000 wolves, that was the only one that dared to sprawl around. Its expression was languid and its eyes were half-closed, as if it was taking a rest.

### **Chapter 198: Tricked**

Just as Su Zimo's gaze landed on the alpha, it suddenly moved as if it sensed something.

"Oh?"

Su Zimo's heart skipped a beat.

His gaze was extremely obscure such that the ten odd Foundation Establishment wolves had not noticed it.

If this alpha sensed it, there was an 80% chance that it was a Golden Core spirit demon!

Su Zimo continued observing.

The alpha merely moved a little and did not make any other motions. It did not even open its eyes, as though it was merely adjusting its position to make itself more comfortable.

Su Zimo heaved out a sigh of relief.

"Roar!"

At that moment, five spirit demon wolves growled lowly and walked towards the cave slowly with feral expressions.

The entrance of the cave was squeezey.

The five wolves did not dare to barge in, merely loitering in front of the cave.

"Ow! Ow!"

Before long, a familiar cry came from within the cave, filled with provocation.

Su Zimo's eyes lit up and he no longer had any doubts.

That was the sound of the spirit monkey!

The spirit monkey was very smart and defended the entrance of the cave with a terrain advantage, destroying the wolf pack one by one.

However, that was only a temporary solution.

The spirit monkey had to be constantly on guard against the wolves' sneak attacks and could not relax at all.

If this continued, the spirit monkey would not be able to withstand it eventually.

After all, there were more than 10,000 wolves and the spirit monkey was alone.

The five wolves at the entrance did not fall for the spirit monkey's provocation. They continued loitering around the cave with a ruthless glint in their eyes.

Su Zimo's gaze swept over the alpha on the green rock again.

If it was a Golden Core spirit demon, the spirit monkey should have been dead long ago and would not have been able to last till now.

At that thought, Su Zimo no longer hesitated. He wore the Mystic Gold Silk Armor and leapt down from the tree as a flying sword appeared beneath his feet in midair.

Swash!

A sword beam tore through the air and Su Zimo bypassed the dense wolf pack, disregarding their howls and speeding towards the cave.

At the same time, the alpha on the green rock opened its eyes. Narrowing its gaze, a cunning and savage glint was revealed!

Swash! Swash! Swash!

Su Zimo's expression was calm and his eyes were clear in midair. Waving his sleeves, six sword beams flew out of his storage bag.

"Hexagonal Sword Formation!"

He shouted softly and controlled the six flying swords which cut through the air swiftly. The sword qi left behind scars in the air which formed a gigantic hexagonal formation.

"Buzz!"

The light of formation patterns burst forth in a bedazzling manner.

Zeng! Zeng! Zeng!

Su Zimo controlled the gigantic sword formation and directed it towards the five wolves loitering in front of the cave. Everywhere the formation passed, the sound of metal clashing would ring forth, carrying a murderous and intense sword qi.

"Roar!"

One wolf did not know how powerful it was and leapt forth with a ferocious expression. It reached out with its sharp claws and scratched at the Hexagonal Sword Formation.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A crisp sound was produced when the sword formation made contact with the wolf's claws.

Right after, a bloody mist spread out as limbs flew.

A spirit demon wolf was minced to death by the Hexagonal Sword Formation on the spot!



“Damn monkey, come out! I’ll take you out of here!”

Su Zimo shouted as he controlled the Hexagonal Sword Formation to chase the other four wolves.

After a short pause, a tall figure dashed out from the pitch black hole. It was holding a black rod and it had long arms that almost touched the ground.

When the spirit monkey caught sight of Su Zimo, it widened its eyes in joy.

Right after, as though it remembered something, its joy turned into panic.

“Ow! Ow!”

The spirit monkey’s fur stood on end, gesturing behind Su Zimo and yelling loudly.

At the same time, Su Zimo felt an immense danger and his expression changed, sensing that something was amiss.

Before he could turn back, an evil gust of wind struck from behind!

Su Zimo was on his flying sword right now. If a wolf could appear behind him, there was only a single possibility.

The wolf was a Golden Core spirit demon that could fly!

“I was tricked!”

Su Zimo’s mind flashed with the image of the alpha sprawled on the green rock.

Back when he looked at the alpha, it budged slightly.

Su Zimo thought that it was a coincidence.

But now, he was enlightened.

The alpha had sensed something and subconsciously reacted to it.

But right after, it did not move or even open its eyes and feigned ignorance while continuing to sleep – all of that was to lure Su Zimo out!

That cunningness of the wolf was enough to send shivers down one’s spine.

A Golden Core spirit demon could crush Su Zimo completely in terms of strength – there was no fight at all!

A powerful aura that could still hearts enveloped him.

Su Zimo charged forward with all his might and channeled Body Petrification. At the same time, he shifted the Hexagonal Sword Formation to defend behind him!

Swoosh!

Spinning continuously, the Hexagonal Sword Formation gave off a bedazzling sword light that shone like a gigantic mirror, defending Su Zimo’s body.

A look of mockery flashed in the alpha's eyes as it flew into the air. Tossing out a casual swipe, it struck the surface of the sword formation with its sharp talons heavily.

Bang!

There was a deafening sound.

The Hexagonal Sword Formation stopped spinning and slammed heavily against Su Zimo's back.

His expression changed and he spat out a mouthful of blood, falling from the skies.

The sword formation dispersed and all six flying swords had cracks on them, shining with a dim light – they were all broken!

The attack of a Golden Core spirit demon had actually destroyed six inferior-grade flying swords!

How terrifying was that strength?

“Roar!”

The alpha stood in midair. Suddenly, it opened its mouth and bared its grisly fangs and scarlet tongue, letting out a deafening roar that shook the forest and caused boulders to tumble down from the mountains.

It was majestic and possessed an overwhelming ferocity!

The spirit monkey leaped up and in the midst of the panic, caught Su Zimo who was falling from midair, intending to return to the cave.

However, the cave behind the spirit monkey was now sealed by many wolves!

From up above, the alpha looked at the man and monkey on the ground. Its eyes were filled with contempt but it did not continue to attack.

The surrounding wolves began to move towards the circle, layer after layer.

“Ow!”

The spirit monkey held Su Zimo with both hands and poked its head out, baring its teeth at the enemies. Its eyes shimmered with a bloody glow as it let out threatening snarls.

“Damn monkey, let me down.”

Right then, Su Zimo said with a weak voice.

“Ow?”

The spirit monkey was stunned for a moment and helped Su Zimo stand up.

Wiping away the blood at the corner of his mouth with his sleeves, Su Zimo took a deep breath and swallowed an elixir. He regulated his breathing although his face seemed rather pale.

A Golden Core spirit demon was way too strong!

Even with the Hexagonal Sword Formation and Mystic Gold Silk Armor, Su Zimo's organs still trembled from the impact and nearly shifted positions within.

It was not hard to imagine that without the Hexagonal Sword Formation and Mystic Gold Silk Armor, Su Zimo would have been smashed to pieces with that attack!

The man and wolf exchanged looks.

Raising its head proudly, the alpha turned towards the green rock as though it could not be bothered to attack again.

In the eyes of the alpha, that attack was enough to severely injure Su Zimo even if he was not dead.

Coupled with the loss of his flying swords, the man and monkey would definitely die against the combined attacks of the wolf pack!

### **Chapter 199: Fight Alongside**

Su Zimo looked at the alpha on the green rock and endured the pain from his organs. He racked his brains, thinking about all possible methods of escaping.

There was a very small possibility!

First off, the alpha was too strong.

It crushed and devastated Su Zimo entirely – this was an existence he had no chance of resisting against.

Secondly, the alpha was too fast.

Without the help of his spirit perception, Su Zimo would have already died earlier on!

The only shot at life that Su Zimo had was on his blood bone palm.

Till now, Su Zimo did not know what that blood bone palm was.

However, he knew that it was indestructible and possessed terrifying power. If it could strike the alpha, there was a high chance it could deal serious damage!

“Roar!”

The surrounding ten odd Foundation Establishment wolves bared their fangs and lowered their heads, howling with shimmering, murderous glints.

“Oo, Oo!”

The howl of wolves that lined the entire mountains was terrifying and shocked countless birds.

Su Zimo took a deep breath and faked a relaxed smile. “Damn monkey, it's back to two years ago when we fought alongside one another.”

“Ow! Ow!”

Even though it was in the midst of wolves and could lose its life at any moment, the spirit monkey did not show any fear. Instead, it was filled with excitement and joy.

The joy came from being reunited with Su Zimo.

Sensing the emotions of the spirit monkey, Su Zimo could not help but laugh. "Two years ago, we didn't dare to fight these beasts head on. Today's a rare opportunity. Let's kill to our hearts' content! Damn monkey, show me how much you've grown over the past two years!"

"Roar!"

The spirit monkey roared when it heard that.

Its bloodline raced rapidly, causing its flesh to swell and its body to expand. Raising its rod, charged into the wolf pack first!

That rod was filled with immense power and might. Even though the opposing wolf was also at Foundation Establishment realm, a trace of fear flickered through its eyes and it dodged to the side, not daring to fight it head on.

Poof!

The wolves at the back were not so lucky. After the spirit monkey swept across with its rod, many wolves had their brains splattered to the ground and died on the spot.

Whoosh!

Su Zimo channeled his blood and his body gushed with a terrifying sound of tsunami. Streaks of blue lightning appeared on his skin and crackled wildly with a blinding light.

Snap!

Swinging his arms backwards, a thunderbolt as thick as an arm exploded in the pack of wolves, radiating with electric sparks and green smoke billowed.

Under that terrifying power of lightning, the spirit beast wolves were all electrocuted to death on the spot. Two Foundation Establishment wolves shivered pathetically as their furs curled from the electric shock.

Swoosh!

Two other Foundation Establishment wolves pounced over from the side, their sharp claws flashing with cold light as they revealed sharp fangs and gnawed towards Su Zimo's neck.

If Su Zimo was bitten, he would not be able to endure it even with his powerful body!

"You must be courting death!"

His eyes lit up brightly as he hollered, swinging his left arm to form a huge arc in the air. Using his fist like a stamp, he pummeled down suddenly!

Bang!

The large stamp slammed heavily on the wolf's head and the sound of bones cracking could be heard.

Without a single sound, the Foundation Establishment wolf fell from midair.

On the surface, it looked intact without any injuries. However, the inside of its head was splattered by that tremendous force!

At the same time, Su Zimo flipped his right hand and opened his palm, striking the chest of the other wolf with an attack that could split mountains.

“Howl!”

The wolf let out a sad cry and its body fell towards Su Zimo.

Bang!

Instantly, that Foundation Establishment wolf was sent flying with its bones completely broken. It was already dead before it fell to the ground.

In the blink of an eye, Su Zimo had killed two Foundation Establishment wolves. His aura increased tremendously, letting out a chilling killing intent as the air emanated with a murderous aura.

The spirit monkey swung its rod widely with such vigor that even water might not be able to penetrate it.

Piak! Piak! Piak!

The spirit monkey's gaze was fierce. With its height, long limbs and tremendous strength, any wolves that were struck by its long rod would be severely injured if not dead.

Behind the spirit monkey, Su Zimo's expression was calm. Despite the circumstances, his eyes were cool and did not show signs of fear.

Six inferior-grade flying swords were destroyed by a single slap of the Golden Core alpha.

Su Zimo's Cold Moon Saber and Sanguine Crystal Bow were dropped inside the inheritance ground of the fiend sects and he could not get them out in time.

Right now, he could only rely on his bare hands to fight against the wolves.

Even so, Su Zimo's physical strength was not something that the wolves would definitely be able to defend against.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His casual punches and kicks possessed thunderous force, causing the air to explode.

Many wolves pounced on Su Zimo in a dense pack. Even as he was about to be drowned, all it took was a slight pause before those wolves were sent flying to the ground, mostly dead.

In the blink of an eye, corpses of the wolves were piled at the feet of the man and monkey.

The massacre continued.

Of the ten odd Foundation Establishment wolves, only nine were left.

Those wolves were highly intelligent and noticed that their strength might not be enough to be a threat for the man and monkey. As such, they prowled around the borders, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

Wolves were extremely patient.

They knew that be it the spirit monkey or human, the time would come when their strength would be exhausted.

Once the man and monkey were weakened and mentally exhausted, their defenses would definitely reveal openings. That would be the best moment for a lethal attack!

However, those nine wolves were disappointed as time passed by.

The spirit monkey revealed clear signs of exhaustion as its speed and strength were far inferior to before.

However, the openings revealed by that spirit monkey were all compensated by the horrifying strength of that human!

That human seemed to possess an endless amount of strength. Despite being engaged in battle, his eyes remained clear and bright. They sparkled with fighting spirit and killing intent.

Not only that, the more he fought, the stronger he seemed!

This human's body and physique was even stronger than theirs!

This human... was more like a true spirit demon!

The wolves would never know that The Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness was incomparably strong to begin with.

Furthermore, Su Zimo had even cultivated the Void Thunder Manual, Blood Refinement Fiend Sutra and many other secret skills to reach the realm of having his blood echo with the sounds of tsunamis and thunder. His physique was even more astonishing and those wolves were no match for him at all!

Even though they were demons as well, wolves had too ordinary of a bloodline.

The reason why they were able to reign over the Cang Lang Mountain Range was due to their sheer numbers and intelligence.

If not for the Golden Core alpha that was watching from the side, Su Zimo would have long fled with the spirit monkey!

Although there were many wolves, they were nothing but mere chickens against Su Zimo that could not withstand a single blow!

“Roar!”

Right then, the alpha sat up from the green rock and let out a deafening roar.

It could no longer sit still.

It had initially thought that its wolves would be able to kill the man and monkey with ease given the fact that Su Zimo was severely injured – that would provide an opportunity for him to raise the fighting strength of its wolf pack.

But as time went by, the alpha started to realize that something was amiss.

If this were to continue, its wolves would suffer heavy casualties!

The alpha decided to take action personally and bite that man and monkey to death decisively!

“Psst!” Psst! “Psst!”

Sensing the alpha’s motions, Su Zimo slowly breathed in.

A huge stream of air tore through his throat and let out a strange sound. Blood oozed out slowly as the skin around his throat was cut by the air current.

Su Zimo knew that the clash between him and the alpha would determine whether or not they would survive!

## **Chapter 200: Terrifying Strength**

Anaconda Eclipse!

It was a secret skill of The Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness.

Su Zimo’s chest heaved up and down at a speed visible to the naked eye in a terrifying manner. A scene seemed to have flashed across the eyes of many wolves.

An anaconda coiled around his body, rearing its head and devouring the moon. Its belly was full and it had two horns, seeming as though it wanted to soar into the skies and transform into a dragon!

A look of mockery flashed in the alpha’s eyes.

No matter what the human in front of him did, it was useless.

The difference between them was too great.

Anyone with a core would crush a Foundation Establishment Cultivator without any single doubt!

Ever since the primordial era, countless monstrous geniuses have appeared over the years. However, there were only a handful who could kill living beings with a core when they were at Foundation Establishment realm.

All of those were terrifying beings that surpassed their contemporaries and left a name for themselves through the ages!

The alpha did not believe that the puny human before it possessed that capability.

Swoosh!

With a single leap, the alpha brought with it a murderous gust.

It was too fast!

It had completely surpassed Su Zimo's perception ability.

Su Zimo closed his eyes subconsciously, using his keen spirit perception to determine where the danger was and predict the approximate location of the alpha.

The middle finger and thumb of his left hand touched to form a hand seal as an image of fiend suppression appeared in his mind. Pressing forward, he shouted at the same time, "Kill!"

The Anaconda Eclipse and Thunderclap Kill coupled with the Fiend Suppression Seal exploded at the same instant!

In the process of fighting against the wolves, Su Zimo had never used those three trump cards nor did he waste any of his spirit energy – it was all for this moment!

The purpose of throwing these trump cards out was to confuse and stop the alpha momentarily.

Even if it was just for a moment!

Su Zimo's real killing move was on his right hand.

Swash!

Clenching his right hand like a dagger, Su Zimo thrust forth!

Four trump cards at the same time!

The first ones to strike were the Anaconda Eclipse and Thunderclap Kill.

A deafening roar instantly produced a power of thunder that threatened to shatter the stars and the world!

The surrounding wolves revealed a hint of pain as they retreated subconsciously.

However, the alpha who was facing the Thunderclap Kill head on did not pause at all!

Suddenly, a crimson air stream burst forth from the alpha's chest and shrouded around its body. Accompanied by the sound of bloodline channeling, the alpha's aura intensified by another layer!

The might of one with a formed core descended suddenly, filling the air with a demonic qi that could capture one's soul!

The alpha reached out with both claws and swiped forward, smashing the golden hand seal that was descending from midair with ease.

It did not stop its momentum and continued to gnaw towards Su Zimo's neck with a feral expression.

Right then, Su Zimo's right hand cut in.

The same time the alpha bit Su Zimo on the neck, his right hand stabbed the alpha!

Even though it looked like a simple counterattack, for some reason, the alpha sensed a dangerous aura.



If it was any other spirit demon, it might not have chosen to dodge and would definitely have bitten Su Zimo's throat first.

However, the alpha was wary and cunning. It would definitely not take the risk.

Against Su Zimo's incoming right hand, the alpha suddenly stopped in its tracks. It swiped its claws forward against Su Zimo's chest, creating a distance between them as it leaped back.

Bang!

Su Zimo felt as if he was struck by lightning as his body flew back uncontrollably, his face pale.

The attack missed!

The alpha was too fast and wary. Not only did it manage to dodge Su Zimo's right hand, it even took the opportunity to injure him severely.

That swipe was intended to rip Su Zimo's stomach open, but it was blocked by the Mystic Gold Silk Armor.

Being a broken connate spirit weapon after all, even though the Mystic Gold Silk Armor was able to fend off the sharpness of the alpha's claws, it could not withstand the power that attack contained.

That light swipe that did not require the alpha's full strength had already managed to break several bones in Su Zimo's chest!

Even his internal organs were shaken violently and showed signs of tearing.

Su Zimo coughed out blood and looked at the alpha who was closing in on him, sighing internally.

"There's no more chance left."

He failed to succeed even when the alpha was caught off guard.

Now that Su Zimo was seriously injured and had already lost his fighting strength, there was no way he could kill the alpha.

"If I manage to master the Organs Refinement section, my overall strength will increase greatly. Be it in terms of power or reaction time, everything will be swifter and I might have been able to kill it with my previous method. However... what a pity."

It wasn't because the plan could not work, it was because the difference in strength between them was too great. The strength of a spirit demon with a core was far beyond Su Zimo's expectations.

On the other end, the spirit monkey was covered in wounds. Falling to the ground, it tossed its rod aside and panted, clearly exhausted.

The alpha walked slowly towards the man and monkey, as if it was the king of the world. It looked at Su Zimo's right hand with scrutiny, doubt and curiosity.

Just what was it that could cause it to feel fear?

Was it an illusion?

The alpha decided to check out what was that human's right hand after biting him to death.

"Oo, Oo!"

The surrounding wolves howled excitedly, awaiting the final kill.

Striding over, the alpha leaned its head in front of Su Zimo. Its nose and mouth let out a nauseating stench as sticky drool dripped onto Su Zimo's body.

With no strength left to resist, Su Zimo merely glared at the alpha coldly.

Its face was filled with disdain as it opened its mouth and bared its fangs. Right as it was about to chomp down, its expression changed drastically, turning the ferocity in its eyes into shock.

Su Zimo was momentarily stunned as well.

Before he could react, he felt an overwhelmingly domineering force ripple out from the cave behind him before suddenly bursting forth!

For that brief moment, Su Zimo had an illusion.

The entire world seemed to stop.

The world was filled with a murderous aura and the atmosphere was stifling.

There was complete silence and one could hear even a pin drop!

It was as if all living beings were choked by an invisible force, unable to make a sound.

That energy fluctuation was extremely foreign and Su Zimo had not come across anything like this. While it didn't seem like a spirit art, it was extremely terrifying.

Poof!

There was a crisp sound.

Right in front of everyone, the alpha's head which was a mere inches away from Su Zimo suddenly exploded as though some force had collided on it!

A bloody mist filled the air and splattered all over Su Zimo!

Su Zimo's entire body stiffened as he looked at everything in disbelief, almost unable to smell that gooey blood that covered his body with a nauseating smell.

Even the spirit monkey was scared out of its wits and froze on the spot.

The alpha was a powerful Golden Core that crushed Su Zimo completely. Yet, it died without any chance to resist against that powerful energy fluctuation!

How tough was the head of a Golden Core alpha?

Even if Su Zimo used the Cold Moon Saber and cleaved with all his might, he would not be able to leave a scratch on it.

But now, a head so tough had exploded right in front of Su Zimo.

If he had not seen it himself, Su Zimo would not have been able to imagine it.

This scene dealt a huge blow to him!

Su Zimo only snapped out of his stupor and let out a long breath when the headless corpse of the alpha fell onto his body.

After a momentary silence, the thousands of wolves remaining whimpered and hung their tails low, fleeing into the distance without turning back.

In the blink of an eye, they were completely gone, leaving nothing but a pile of wolf corpses and bloodstains.