

## Chapter 21: Calamity

Su Zimo widened his strides and walked to the front of the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior. As soon as he flipped his hand, the Ground-rupturing Palm was violently executed towards the face of the other party!

The skinny Qi Refinement Warrior was very alert and quick to react. At the sight of Su Zimo dodging the Flying sword, he had searched out a face mirror from the cloth bag on his waist and chanted something.

The mirror enlarged instantly, glistening and crystal clear.

Su Zimo had long noticed the small cloth bag hanging on the waist of the cultivators. It seemed to be a Cosmic Bag. Whenever they touched it, they could retrieve something.

However, Su Zimo did not find it unusual. Compared to the methods that Die Yue used to open up a big and spacious cultivation field, these small cloth bags were obviously much weaker.

In a hurry, the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior lifted the mirror in his hands to shield his head.

Bang!

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Su Zimo's hands landed on the mirror of the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior. First, there was a deafening sound of an explosion. Immediately after, lines of cracks appeared on the mirror surface.

"Ah!"

The skinny Qi Refinement Warrior gave out a miserable cry. His arms had been instantly crushed by the powers reflected by the surface of the mirror. His veins and bones shattered and his body was flung off!

This time, Su Zimo dared to hit with his bare fists.

On the one hand, it was because he sensed that the mirror did not have any attack properties. On the other hand, the surface of the mirror did not shine when the other party took it out.

As expected, this mirror had been destroyed in one hit by Su Zimo. The skinny Qi Refinement Warrior almost died on the spot!

He fell to the ground, looking as white as a sheet and shrieking, "Who are you? How dare you intervene in the matters of my Joy Clan!"

"I'll kill your people!"

Su Zimo sneered. He moved forward with large strides, wanting to end the life of this skinny Qi Refinement Warrior.

At this very moment, Su Zimo sighted a flash of strange looks beneath the eyes of the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior.

"Mmm? Not good!"

Su Zimo was stunned. He quickly moved backwards.

This was the first time that Su Zimo was involved in a fight with a cultivator. He had to be extremely cautious, for fear that the other party might catch him off guard with some methods that he was unaware of.

Splash!

The skinny Qi Refinement Warrior suddenly raised his hand and dispersed a powder that emitted a faint fragrance.

Nevertheless, Su Zimo was a step quicker in moving backwards and did not come into contact with this mist of powder.

“Comrade, this is the Joyful Reunion Powder. You must not breathe this in!” The sound of the yellow-robed lady could be heard. It was gentle and beautiful, carrying a tinge of anxiety.

Su Zimo frowned and looked at the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior who was hiding in the mist of powder. He paused for a moment.

If he were to wait for a while, these powder would naturally disperse and not pose a threat. However, Su Zimo could not waste time because there were three more cultivators nearby.

Su Zimo decisively turned and gave up on that fellow temporarily. He then charged towards the person behind him.

At the sight of the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior being reduced to a handicapped by one hit of the palm, the man behind Su Zimo had long turned pale with fright. He quickly controlled the flying sword to charge at Su Zimo’s glabella with all his might!

There was no flicker or shine of light in this flying sword.

Su Zimo closed his eyes and did not intend to dodge it. Maintaining the posture of downward thrust, he stuck out his right hand and gently lay it on the oncoming flying sword.

Wrap, hit, pull!

Swash!

Although this flying sword did not break, it had been thrown aside by Su Zimo. It landed in the mud, slanted.

This Qi Refinement Warrior was stunned.

Although he was only controlling a low-end Item Spirit, he had never seen anyone receiving a spirit weapon with bare hands and not suffering any injury.

What kind of monster was this?

After a moment of dawdle, Su Zimo appeared by the side of this man. His body curled, one knee seemingly kneeling, his palms put together and lifted up!

Sanguine Ape Fruit Offering!

Bang!

This lift up happened to support the chin of this Qi Refinement Warrior.

Sounds of breaking could be heard coming from the neck bones and chin of this man. His head fell backwards and hung on his back. His eyes were wide open, filled with horror. He was already dead.

There were two more Qi Refinement Warriors attacking the yellow-robed lady. At the sight of this, they were instantly scared out of their wits.

Su Zimo spread his body and charged towards one of them. Left hand guarding his chest, right hand clenched into a fist, large tendons pulsating, blood and flesh expanding, his fists turned into seal and landed from the sky with a deafening thud.

A large shadow engulfed, covering the sky and the sun!

This Qi Refinement Warrior was stunned so badly by Su Zimo's aura that both his lungs and guts were splitting. How would he dare to try to attack or defend? He hurriedly turn and tried to flee.

Believing that he was going to escape from the scope of the large seal above him, he was elated.

At this very moment, he could hear the sounds of bow strings vibrating. It was petrifying.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

Su Zimo's large tendons stretched and his arms swelled and enlarged. The gigantic seal came crashing down, caught up with that Qi Refinement Warrior who was fleeing in panic and landed on the top of his head.

Poof!

After his skull exploded, there was still some left over energy in the gigantic seal. It immediately crushed and shattered this man's body.

At the sight of five of his clan mates dying and one being severely injured, the remaining Qi Refinement Warrior lost his cool. While he was distracted, the yellow-robed lady controlled the flying sword and circled his neck once.

A large head was hurled off and fresh blood splattered. The headless corpse fell to the ground and twitched from time to time without any consciousness.

The yellow-robed lady was covered in delicate beads of sweat. After killing this man, her chest was heaving and she was panting slightly, seemingly to have reached the limit of her physique.

Su Zimo turned and looked at the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior who lost his arm.

However, he discovered that the other party had seized the opportunity to escape to a distance. His right hand was pressing onto his wound. With a flying sword under his feet, he traveled through the sky and disappeared into the forest immediately.

Su Zimo frowned.

At this moment, it was too late for him to chase him. Or rather, even if he could catch up with him, Su Zimo could not do anything to him as he was high in the air.

Suddenly, Su Zimo discovered that he had a fatal weakness.

He could not fly in the sky.

If the Qi Refinement Warrior were to execute the Sword Kinesis Flight immediately before fighting him, he could only be attacked and could not strike back.

After this round of killings, night had gradually fallen. One could vaguely hear the roaring sounds of the spirit beasts shaking the heavens and earth.

Looking at the back view of the skinny Qi Refinement Warrior in the darkness, there was a flash of worry in Su Zimo's eyes.

This man's escape was ultimately a calamity.

No one knew when this calamity would begin to erupt.

However, another thought flashed across Su Zimo's mind. Night had fallen and it was the time where spirit beasts and spirit demons come out preying. This man's broken arm would emit a strong stench of blood. He might not leave the Cang Lang Mountain Range alive.

"Ow! Ow!"

The spirit monkey's shouts interrupted Su Zimo's deep thoughts.

The spirit monkey was tied up. He leaped about on the ground that he was standing at, shouting at Su Zimo. It wanted him to help it remove the iron hoops around its limbs quickly.

"Stay there obediently first. Who told you to run around?"

It was a rare sight for the spirit monkey to be defeated. Su Zimo deliberately cast him aside and went to the corpses of the few cultivators. He removed the six small cloth bags from their bodies and tucked them into his arms without even looking.

Although he did not know what they were, Su Zimo could sense that these small cloth bags were quite famous and seemed to be Cosmic Bags. It definitely contained many treasures.

Su Zimo turned and picked up a flying sword that had fallen to the ground.

The shape of this flying sword was a little unique. It did not have a handle but only a blade that was extremely sharp.

Typical people would have problems holding it.

However, this was not much of an issue for Su Zimo.

Su Zimo held onto the sharp blade with his bare hands and walked to the spirit monkey. He aimed at the iron hoops that bound the spirit monkey's limbs and slashed hard!

Clang!

Sparks were flying everywhere.

A white streak appeared on the iron hoop but it did not break.

Su Zimo furrowed his brows slightly.

This flying sword could even shatter the Thunderbolt Saber. Yet, it could not break the iron hoops on the spirit monkey's limbs.

This was a little troublesome.

Su Zimo could faintly sense that it was not because the flying sword was not sharp enough, but because he did not use it correctly.

## **Chapter 22: Yao Xue**

Just as Su Zimo was deep in thought, the yellow-robed lady gradually approached him and said softly, "I'm Yao Xue from Azure Frost Sect. Thank you for saving me and fighting for justice, comrade."

Su Zimo's thoughts were focused on how to remove the hoops from the spirit monkey's forelimbs. He only glanced at Yao Xue but did not reply.

Yao Xue pondered shortly before saying, "Comrade, you wish to remove this Beast Trapping Hoop, right? Why don't I give it a try?"

Su Zimo took a hesitant glance at Yao Xue before nodding.

Yao Xue tapped the flying sword in her hands gently. Two flashes of light appeared and a layer of frost covered the blade of the sword instantly. The aura of the sword was appalling!

Su Zimo looked on conscientiously.

Earlier on, only one flash of light appeared on the flying swords of the two Qi Refinement Warriors from Joyful Clan. However, there were two flashes of light on the flying sword in Yao Xue's hands now.

Obviously, the sword in this lady's hands was of a better quality. The blade was also sharper!

Su Zimo quietly memorized this and paid careful attention to Yao Xue's every move.

He saw Yao Xue controlling the flying sword's movement from a distance. When her slim and fair finger pointed forward a little, the flying sword drew an arc in mid-air and slashed the Beast Trapping Hoop hard.

Pa! Pa!

Coinciding with the noise, the Beast Trapping Hoop broke.

Having felt aggrieved for some time, the spirit monkey was thrilled after breaking free from the restraint. Oblivious to its bleeding wounds, it chattered 'Ow, Ow!' continuously.

"Thank you."

Su Zimo nodded to Yao Xue.

“It’s not a big deal.” Yao Xue smiled. Suddenly, a doubt arose in her heart and she could not help asking, “Is this a spirit beast that you reared and nurtured?”

Yao Xue could tell that this wild man who was clad in hide knew the spirit monkey. Most likely, he intervened in this matter because he wanted to save the spirit monkey and then saved her in the passing.

In the cultivation world, many cultivators would rear and groom spirit beasts to improve their combat ability. Once the spirit beast had pledge a blood oath, they would not betray the cultivator. Otherwise, they would be punished by heaven and die from a reflux of their own blood flow.

Upon hearing this question, Su Zimo frowned, shook his head and said, “He is my friend.”

“Ah?”

Yao Xue blinked her eyes. She was very puzzled. It was really hard for her to imagine how a human could become friends with a spirit beast.

Since ancient times, human and demon were of different paths and in constant fights with each other. Their relationship was getting from bad to worse. There was only one possibility of interaction – a master and slave relationship whereby one party had taken a blood oath.

The term ‘friend’ truly seemed a little unique when it came to the two different clans. After all, there was an ancient saying that those of different clans would not be of the same heart and mind.

Su Zimo ignored Yao Xue. He approached the few corpses and picked up the five flying swords.

Looking at the broken Thunderbolt Saber, Su Zimo felt a little hesitant. In the end, he still picked it up and tied it behind him.

Suddenly!

Su Zimo sensed great danger and turned behind.

In the deep parts of the forest behind him, two dots of dimmed lights appeared in the darkness. The aura was terrifying. They were exuding a chilling murderous intent!

“Psst!”

Su Zimo exhaled a breath of cold air in shock. He said in a low voice, “It’s a spirit demon. Quickly leave!”

Before Su Zimo spoke, the spirit monkey had already ran off. Although it was injured and limping, it could still move swiftly and agilely in the forest.

Yao Xue was obviously a little panicky and at a loss of what to do.

Su Zimo did not plan to bother about her initially. However, this lady had helped to chop the Beast Trapping Hoop earlier. If he were to leave her behind, she would most probably die here given her current state.

Su Zimo took a glance at her and said in a low voice, “Follow me!”

Just as he spoke, Su Zimo had already begun to move forward. Yao Xue's cheeks blushed faintly. She gritted her teeth and quickly followed him.

Yao Xue had been poisoned with the Pisces Aqua Powder. She would not be impacted much if she could force out the poison and nurse her injuries.

However, she had just been engaged in a fierce battle with the Joyful Seven earlier and almost exhausted all her spiritual powers. She could not even fly by standing on her flying sword. As such, she gradually could not endure the effects of the Pisces Aqua Powder; she felt her entire body heating up and limbs numb.

Yao Xue was very clear of the effects of the Pisces Aqua Powder. No matter how strong-willed one was, one would not be able to endure the power of this drug.

"If I can't endure it, I will rather be devoured by this spirit demon than to be humiliated by others." Yao Xue bit her cherry-red lips and quietly decided.

The spirit monkey had long disappeared after running off. That wild man in front of her appeared faintly from time to time. Yao Xue tried her best to chase up to him.

The unknown spirit demon behind followed her closely. It's chilling gaze was like a thorn on her back, never disappearing for a moment.

After running for a while, Yao Xue's legs were wobbly. She almost tripped and fell onto the ground.

Although she was already prepared to be buried in the beast's mouth, she was terrified at the thought that she would be torn apart and devoured by the spirit demon.

Sounds of the spirit demon treading on the grass behind her were getting closer and closer. The murderous intent was pervasive and cold. Yao Xue could even smell the fishy breath of spirit demon's mouth.

However, at this very moment, Yao Xue did not have the energy to run anymore.

"Forget it... To think that I, Yao Xue, would die at this place. If father knows about this... sigh."

Yao Xue was totally exhausted. She stood still, panting. She felt aggrieved and sorrowful. Closing her eyes, two streaks of tears flowed down quietly.

At this moment, Yao Xue suddenly felt a strong and sturdy arm on her waist. Thereafter, her body felt light. Someone had taken her away from the place.

"Miss, pardon me. There is a need to adapt to the change in circumstances." The man's voice rang beside her ears.

Yao Xue opened her eyes wide and saw the side view of Su Zimo's face.

"So he didn't leave me behind."

At this moment, Yao Xue had indescribable joy in her heart. She seemed to have found a place to vent all her grievances and sufferings now. Tears streamed down her face.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Winds howled and shadows of trees retreated.

The man held six flying swords with his left hand and one person with his right hand. Yet, this did not slow him down. Instead, he moved even faster!

It was only until now did Yao Xue realize that this man did not use all of his strength during the earlier stretch of journey. Otherwise, she would not have been able to catch up with him.

“This person is not bad.”

Yao Xue was drained of energy. Leaning closer to the man who carried her, the Pisces Aqua Powder was continuously taking effect, causing her thoughts to run wild.

Yao Xue was stunned. She quickly bit the tip of her tongue and tried hard to maintain soberness.

Dashing left and limping right from time to time, the man seemed to be very familiar with the Cang Lang Mountain Range. Although Yao Xue could hear the spirit beast roaring, they did not encounter any attack.

After an unknown period of time, Yao Xue felt dizzy and could no longer control her body.

Yao Xue was gradually losing her consciousness.

At this moment, the man’s voice rang again, “Miss, wake up!”

“Oo. Oo.”

Yao Xue’s body was feverish and she was sleep-talking.

Swoosh!

Sounds of water could be heard.

Ubiquitous feelings of coldness surrounded Yao Xue’s burning body. Shivering, Yao Xue sobered up; her pair of eyes gradually regaining sight.

“T- this.. Where is this?”

Shivering, Yao Xue asked and looked at the surroundings.

This was a small and narrow mountain cave. She was in the middle of a cold lake, and there was nothing around it.

Although the effect of the Pisces Aqua Powder was still present, the bone-chilling coldness from the lake waters constantly stimulated Yao Xue’s nerves and allowed her to maintain sober.

“You are a Foundation Establishment Cultivator. Coupled with the aid of this cold lake, you will most likely be able to defuse the effects of the Pisces Aqua Powder.”

After saying these words, the man turned and left.



Before leaving, that man found a few pieces of wolf skins and covered the entrance of this small and narrow cave.

Sounds of the man's steps gradually faded away.

Noticing all these, feelings of strangeness rose in Yao Xue's heart.

After falling into the lake, her clothes were already drenched. Nevertheless, the man did not peep at her at all. He was also very meticulous. He covered the cave's entrance as he was afraid that she would feel awkward.

Although the effect of Pisces Aqua Powder was strong, it did not constitute as a threat to Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

Yao Xue was feeling miserable that she did not have a chance to force the effect of the Pisces Aqua Powder out. Now that she was sober again, she quickly searched out an elixir from her storage bag and put it into her mouth. She then began to circulate the spirit heart sutra.

At this very moment, she could hear the man's voice mingled with the spirit monkey's chatters outside. A man and a monkey seemed to be communicating.

The man's voice was neither loud nor soft. The volume was just audible to Yao Xue.

Yao Xue felt her heart warmed.

That man used such a method to tell her that he would always stay outside the cave. He was neither too far from nor too close to her. Hence, she could heal her injuries without any worries.

"This man... is really interesting." Yao Xue smiled gently. She looked so beautiful and flawless.

### **Chapter 23: Fallen Deep Into a Vortex**

Su Zimo stepped out of the cave. The spirit monkey was waiting for him outside.

The spirit monkey laughed 'gaga', pointing to the inside of the cave. He winked and made faces at Su Zimo with a strange expression. He even wiggled his body a few times.

Su Zimo cursed and laughed. "This damn monkey. You know everything."

In actual fact, although Su Zimo had not heard of the Joyful Reunion Powder, he could vaguely guess the purpose and effect of this drug.

He had studied for more than a decade. Su Zimo would not take advantage of another person in a perilous state, not to mention that both of them met by chance.

"How are your injuries?" Su Zimo asked.

"Wowo."

The spirit monkey waved its hands to express that it was fine.

The spirit monkey's physique was amazing and body healing capabilities were extremely strong. It would recover in a few days' time.

After being silent for a while, Su Zimo said softly, "I'll be leaving."

"Oh?"

The spirit monkey widened its big eyes. They were filled with puzzlement.

In the cognition of the spirit monkey, Su Zimo was similar to him. He lived in the Cang Lang Mountain Range, had no one to rely on or turn to, and had no strings attached.

Su Zimo pointed to the direction of Ping Yang Town and said, "There is a town about a few dozens of kilometers from Cang Lang Mountain Range. My home is over there. I have to go back now."

The spirit monkey stopped shouting. Tears welled up in its eyes. It looked a little sad. Turning its back, it quietly licked the wounds on his body.

Su Zimo felt a little complicated too.

In Su Zimo's eyes, the spirit monkey was no longer the initial savior that it was.

The spirit monkey was a friend whom he ate, lived and shared weals and woes with. Su Zimo had also thought of bringing the spirit monkey with him but this was not realistic.

On one hand, Su Zimo was worried that the spirit monkey could not get used to the outside world. On the other hand, he was worried that he would not be able to protect the spirit monkey.

The spirit monkey was obstinate and unyielding. It was also eccentric and untamed. He did not know what kind of huge trouble it would stir up outside. Life outside might not be safer, happier and more carefree than life in the Cang Lang Mountain Range.

"Comrade, you can come in."

At this moment, the gentle voice of that lady could be heard coming from inside the cave. It broke the pin-drop silence outside the cave.

Su Zimo patted the spirit monkey's shoulders and stepped into the cave first.

Although the night was dark, after cultivating The Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness, Su Zimo's eyesight was superb. At the sight of Yao Xue, he could not help being slightly stunned.

Yao Xue's beauty was astonishing. Her beauty surpassed that of Shen Mengqi and was comparable to Die Yue. It was just that she did not have the unique charisma of Die Yue.

Yao Xue had just gotten out of the cold lake. Her black tresses were still wet. She looked like a beauty who had just gotten out of a bath, with a touch of gentleness. She was very attractive.

Su Zimo was a little distracted but resumed his normal self after a moment.

Looking at the current Yao Xue, he guessed that the effect of the Joyful Reunion Powder had already faded.

Su Zimo nodded at Yao Xue and walked to his usual resting place. He searched out the few small cloth bags from the Joyful Clan and fidgeted with them curiously.

“Comrade, I still don’t know your name?” Yao Xue smiled and asked.

“Su Zimo.”

Su Zimo responded without even looking up. He continued to fidget with the cloth bags in his hands.

Yao Xue looked at Su Zimo, who was not far away. Recalling the embarrassing state that she had been in when poisoned by the Joyful Reunion Powder, she could not help blushing and feeling shy.

Yao Xue gently gritted her molars. Her distracted eyes glancing everywhere. She tried to appear casual as she asked, “Just now... I...”

“Just now, Miss lost your consciousness. Nothing happened.” Before Yao Xue could finish her words, Su Zimo added.

“Oh.”

Yao Xue furrowed her brows when she discovered that Su Zimo seemed reluctant to respond to her. He had been fiddling with the storage bags in his hands. She could not help feeling a little annoyed at heart.

After watching by the side for a while, Yao Xue could not help asking, “Comrade, you don’t seem to be a cultivator?”

Su Zimo paused. He observed Yao Xue’s eyes and said calmly, “I don’t have a spirit root.”

At the sound of these words, there was not the slightest bit of contempt in Yao Xue’s eyes. On the contrary, there was a flash of shock and regret.

This subtle change made Su Zimo feel a little positive about Yao Xue.

Yao Xue approached Su Zimo. She sat on the ground, not minding the dirt and mess. She said jokingly, “Then I won’t address you as comrade anymore. It’s only right that I call you Mister Su.”

“It’s up to you.” Su Zimo smiled.

Yao Xue pointed at the cloth bags in Su Zimo’s hands and said, “This thing is a storage bag. It is a very common item in the cultivation world. Almost everyone will bring one with him. It is a Cosmos Bag and can store a lot of items.”

“Oh?”

“However, the storage bag will only open after one uses spirit qi to stimulate it.”

While talking, Yao Xue took a storage bag and patted it with her palm. A pile of items dropped onto the ground. Most of them were bottles and jars. There were also dozens of stones the size of a fist.

“These are spirit stones. This is something that a cultivator cannot do without. There are three grades of it – supreme-grade, middle-grade and inferior-grade. These few are inferior-grade spirit stones.”

“As for spirit root, it can be categorized into five grades – pseudo spirit root, ordinary spirit root, superior-class spirit root, earth spirit root and the most rare heaven spirit root...”

Yao Xue was very smart. Seemingly, she could tell that Su Zimo was very curious about cultivators. Hence, she tirelessly told him about the common information of cultivators.

Die Yue hardly talked about such things. Hence, Su Zimo could not help but be immersed in this information.

One party was humble to learn and the other party spoke without any reservation. Before they knew it, it was already dawn and one night had passed.

Even if one was a cultivator, he would feel tired after having a sleepless night.

Su Zimo looked apologetic. He got up and said, “Miss Yao, regarding this information on cultivators, thank you for teaching me generously. I have gained a lot.”

Yao Xue smiled and said, “If you wish to thank me, give me three pieces of wolf skins. This is also my purpose for this trip.”

There were hundreds of wolf skins inside this cave. Su Zimo waved his big hands and said, “Take as much as you want.”

Yao Xue said, “Actually, everything on the spirit beasts are treasures. To a Talisman Master, hides are a necessity. You have so many spirit beast hides in the cave. If you sell them, you will be able to get many spirit stones in return.”

Yao Xue had told Su Zimo earlier. In the cultivation world, there were four types of cultivators with a very special status. Their status was even higher than that of ordinary cultivators.

The Elixir Refinement Master could refine elixirs. There were numerous kinds of elixirs with a wide scope of usage. To cultivators, elixirs were indispensable.

The Weapon Refinement Master could refine various types and grades of spirit weapons. To cultivators, spirit weapons could significantly improve their ability and were also indispensable.

The Talisman Master could create talismans. The Augmentation Talisman that Yao Xue used to block the attacks of Joyful Seven earlier was one of such talismans. Without the Augmentation Talisman, Yao Xue would have long been defeated and captured.

The Array Formation Master was proficient in the formation of arrays. Many of the major clans had major defensive array formations. If the cultivators were to fall into any of the arrays set up by opponents, they would be restrained everywhere and their lives might even be threatened.

Of course, the prerequisite for becoming one of these four types of cultivators was the possession of a spirit root and becoming a Qi Refinement Warrior.

Su Zimo shook his head and said, “Even if I can exchange for spirit stones, I have no use for them.”

“Why not?”

Yao Xue said immediately, "You have to know that one piece of inferior-grade spirit stone is worth a thousand taels of gold. In some trading houses of the cultivation world, various and numerous kinds of items are available for sale. One will have to use spirit stones to trade for these items. If you have enough spirit stones, you can even assign some assignments and engage the Qi Refinement Warriors to complete them. Of course, the higher the realm that the Qi Refinement Warrior is at, the higher the cost of hiring."

Upon hearing this, Su Zimo's heart wavered. He had a vague feeling that these spirit stones might really be of some use.

After pondering for a while, Su Zimo asked again, "At what realms were the Joyful Seven at?"

Yao Xue said, "Those two guarding the spirit monkey were the weakest. They are Level 5 Qi Refinement Warriors. The one who escaped and the fat-faced one were the strongest. They are both Level 8 Qi Refinement Warriors. The remaining three were Level 7 Qi Refinement Warriors."

Su Zimo nodded.

One year of training and experience had not been in vain. Now, even Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior was not his match.

Su Zimo even had a hunch that Level 9 Qi Refinement Warrior would also be in danger if he were to close in on him!

Of course, this was on the pretext that the other party would not execute the Sword Kinesis Flight at the first instance.

In fact, Sword Kinesis Flight would deplete a lot of spirit qi. In fights and battles, be it Qi Refinement Warrior or Foundation Establishment Cultivator, they would save as much spirit qi as possible for use in attacking the opponent.

With both feet on the ground, the other party could still defeat you by controlling the flying sword even if one were to execute Sword Kinesis Flight.

Hence, in the midst of killings and fightings, almost none of the Qi Refinement Warriors or Foundation Establishment Cultivators would execute Sword Kinesis Flight and attack at the same time.

This would not only cause distraction but also deplete a lot of spirit qi.

Of course, it would be a different matter when it came to the Perfected Golden Core realm.

The ability of the Perfected Golden Core was vastly different from the two mentioned before. One of the abilities was that the Perfected Golden Core could completely lift himself off the ground without relying on any foreign object!

"Where do we go to sell these items?"

Su Zimo had quite a huge harvest yesterday. He had six storage bags. There were about seven hundred pieces of spirit stones in total. In addition, there were other flying swords, elixirs and so on.

Yao Xue said, "In the Great Zhou Dynasty, the largest trading house is the Sky Treasure Pavilion. Sky Treasure Pavilion will set up branch stores in the town of cities where cultivators gather. Most of them are situated in the cities of the various states where the kings live in."

"Sky Treasure Pavilion?" Su Zimo said in slight puzzlement. He frowned. "There seems to be one in Cang Lang City."

When he was studying at Cang Lang City previously, Su Zimo had unintentionally heard of Sky Treasure Pavilion. He heard that it was a place that was even more mysterious than the palace.

The gathering of the cultivators? Cang Lang City, Sky Treasure Pavilion?

Su Zimo narrowed his eyes, seemingly pondering about something.

"Since they are cultivators, why would they intervene in pugilistic and royal court affairs of the mortal world?" Su Zimo asked again.

Yao Xue explained, "The Qi Refinement Warrior's life span is almost similar to that of ordinary people. Even a Foundation Establishment Cultivator's life span is at most over a hundred years. It is so hard to attain alchemy. When they see that they have no hopes of attaining alchemy, most of the Qi Refinement Warriors and Foundation Establishment Cultivators will enter the royal court and enjoy a materialistic and carefree life in their remaining years."

"Of course, when there are traces of cultivators in various states, most of them belong to the Qi Refinement Warriors. However, it is said that in the Great Zhou Dynasty... one of the armies is solely formed by the Foundation Establishment Cultivators and there are even some Perfected Golden Cores in the dynasty. This is the reason why the Great Zhou Dynasty stands towering like a giant and dominates the various states!"

Countries such as Da Qi and Yan all belonged to the vassal states and had to pay tribute to the Great Zhou Dynasty every year.

Su Zimo suddenly had a realization. "It is no wonder the Great Zhou Dynasty hardly intervenes in the battles of the various states. This is because the rise and fall of any states will not threaten the rule of the Great Zhou Dynasty."

"That's right." Yao Xue nodded.

After pausing for a moment, Yao Xue smiled and said in a profound manner, "The Cang Lang City is one of the cities in the state but Sky Treasure Pavilion set up a branch there. It seems that the City Lord of this city is conceiving a huge plan."

Sky Treasure Pavilion would only set up a branch in places where the cultivators gather. This implied that Cang Lang City had many cultivators!

What did the City Lord of Cang Lang want to do?

Was it related to the Su family?

Su Zimo vaguely felt that the Su family had very likely gotten itself into a massive vortex, and it would be shattered into pieces in the event of any slip up!

## Chapter 24: Sky Treasure Gold Badge

“Coincidentally, I also wanted to go to the Sky Treasure Pavilion to trade for something. Where is Cang Lang City? Bring me there, please.” Yao Xue said smilingly.

Su Zimo could tell that Yao Xue was very sensitive and considerate. She was worried that he could not enter the Sky Treasure Pavilion on his own as he was not a Qi Refinement Warrior. As such, she told him that for fear of hurting his self-esteem.

Su Zimo did not expose her lie either. He said, “Let’s go. It is also time that I leave Cang Lang Mountain Range.”

Su Zimo packed up many spirit beast hides. Besides these, he also put away the storage bags and flying swords harvested yesterday in Yao Xue’s storage bag temporarily to avoid appearing too ostentatious.

Outside the cave, the sky was already bright.

The spirit monkey curled himself up in a corner with his back facing the two of them. It seemed to be sound asleep.

“Let’s go. Don’t disturb him.” Yao Xue said softly.

Su Zimo shook his head. He went to the side of the spirit monkey and kicked it without giving any warning. He chided smilingly, “Stop pretending to be dead. Wake up and send me off!”

This kick was very sudden and forceful. Even Yao Xue was taken aback.

Unexpectedly, the spirit monkey who was initially sleeping soundly seemed to be long prepared for this. Swoosh! It dashed up and avoided Su Zimo’s underhanded kick. Teeth gnashing and jaws opened, it waved both arms at Su Zimo with a face full of disdain, and rolled its eyes from time to time.

Su Zimo smiled faintly and said, “If you don’t want to send me off, so be it. Look at you. Damn monkey. Be smarter next time. Don’t foolishly go lose to the cultivators when you meet them.”

“Humph!”

The spirit monkey snorted and waved it’s fists.

“I’m leaving.”

With his back facing the spirit monkey, Su Zimo waved his hands and left the cave with Yao Xue.

Not far away, Su Zimo sensed something and instinctively turned back. He saw the spirit monkey standing at the cave entrance and watching him from afar. Under the reflection of the morning glow, the tall and big figure looked a little lonely and desolate.

At the sight of Su Zimo turning back, the spirit monkey felt that he could no longer stifle his expression. Lifting its head proudly, it turned and wriggled back into the cave, disappearing from sight.

Yao Xue noticed this and said softly, “In the end, it came out to send you off.”

Su Zimo hung his head silently.

Yao Xue said, "Since you can't bear to leave it. Bring it along?"

After a moment of silence, Su Zimo looked up and smiled. Pretending to be casual, he said, "It's okay. Don't need to bother about him. This monkey has great ambitions. It wants to be the lord of Cang Lang Mountain Range, a happy and carefree king of the mountains."

Yao Xue found a flying sword from the storage bag and suspended it in the air. She jumped onto it. She then turned to Su Zimo and said, "Come up. It'll be faster in this way."

Su Zimo did not decline. He leaped onto the flying sword immediately.

Swoosh!

Lights from the sword flashed. The two had already disappeared from the place that they were at at lighting speed.

Sword Kinesis Flight was as graceful and swift as a startled swan. It was breezy, carefree and indescribable. Su Zimo would be lying to himself if he were to say that he was not envious.

However, he was on the path of demon cultivation. He would have to cultivate the Core Formation section to rise from the ground and fly in the air.

After Tendons Transformation, there were four major realms – Bones Strengthening, Marrow Cleansing, Organs Refinement, and Orifice Clearing. He did not know how long it would take.

...

After one and a half years, he felt completely different upon returning to Cang Lang City.

Looking at Cang Lang City from the heights while on Yao Xue's sword, Su Zimo discovered that this city was much bigger than he had thought it to be.

The two landed in a quiet and deep small alley. There was a wall at the end of the small alley.

Before Yao Xue reached the wall, she pointed with her finger and release a flow of spirit qi. Before hitting the wall, it had turned as clear as a water curtain at that instant.

Yao Xue explained, "This is a kind of array formation. It has the effect of a visual bulwark. Mortals without spirit qi will not be able to discover this place. There are two ways to enter the Sky Treasure Pavilion. First, become a cultivator. Second, possess the Sky Treasure Badge."

Su Zimo nodded and followed Yao Xue in crossing the wall. It was spacious and bright on the other side. A sparkling and glittering palace appeared right in front of them.

Three words 'Sky Treasure Pavilion' was written on the plaque.

Under the bottom right corner of the Sky Treasure Pavilion, there was an exquisite and small word 'branch', representing that this was a store branch of the Sky Treasure Pavilion.

After entering the main hall of the Sky Treasure Pavilion, one could see many Qi Refinement Warriors loitering around.



The main hall was filled with plenty of treasures collected in the cultivation world. There were elixirs, spirit items, talismans, cultivation technique secret manuals and so on. It had everything that one wished for.

“Follow me upstairs. These items downstairs are all ordinary ones.” Yao Xue whispered.

Under the envious gaze of many Qi Refinement Warriors, Su Zimo followed Yao Xue upstairs.

These Qi Refinement Warriors were aware that only Foundation Establishment Cultivators or those with the Sky Treasure Badge could be granted access to the second floor of the Sky Treasure Pavilion.

However, it was too difficult to attain a Sky Treasure Badge. Even the most inferior-grade Sky Treasure Bronze Badge required a certain number of spirit stones in exchange for the eligibility.

On the second floor, there were obviously less cultivation world treasures. However, each of the items looked better than those downstairs.

Apart from a few Qi Refinement Warriors who were selling items, no one else was present. It was very quiet.

Yao Xue knocked on the table. She flashed a piece of exquisite, gold badge and said in a low voice, “Get your pavilion manager out!”

The Qi Refinement Warrior was startled instantly. He responded to the rudeness with a flattering smile. “Senior, please wait here for a moment.”

Very soon, a figure dressed like a businessman hurried over. He was rather plump but swift in his movements.

“Selling something.”

Yao Xue went straight to the point. She took out the hundreds of spirit beast hides, various elixirs and the few flying swords.

Su Zimo had already planned to sell everything and exchange them for spirit stones.

“It will be a total of 3,070 pieces of inferior-grade spirit stones.” The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion calculated before he wiped his sweat and said.

Yao Xue waved her hands and said undoubtedly. “Let’s round it to 3,100.”

“This... okay.” The manager hesitated slightly but agreed thereafter.

Su Zimo suddenly realized that Yao Xue seemed to be born of an extraordinary origin. Every move of hers was filled with a strong aura of elegance.

3,100 pieces of spirit stones. Coupled with the 700 other pieces in the storage bags of the Joyful Seven, Su Zimo had close to 4,000 spirit stones now!

This was also considered a huge wealth amongst the high-level Qi Refinement Warriors.

“How do you intend to use this sum of spirit stones?” Yao Xue asked.

Su Zimo had some plans in his heart. He said in a deep voice, "I want to refine two weapons. One bow and one saber."

After the battle with Qi Refinement Warriors at Cang Lang Mountain Range, Su Zimo discovered his own weakness. He was unable to leave the ground and fly in the sky.

If he were to encounter Qi Refinement Warriors who used Sword Kinesis Flight in the future, Su Zimo would deal with them with his bow and arrows!

As for the saber, apart from protecting himself and attacking the enemy, it could also block the spirit item of the Qi Refinement Warrior and take the chance to reduce the distance separating them.

Besides inferior-grade, middle-grade, superior-grade, supreme-grade weapons, there was also another type of spirit weapon called pseudo spirit weapon.

The reasons why spirit weapons were powerful were twofold. On one hand, the materials used to refine the weapons were rare spirit items. On the other hand, after numerous hammering and refining by the Weapon Refinement Master, the impurities had been removed. The weapon would not break easily as it was both hard and strong.

Most importantly, one had to look at the spirit pattern condensed on it to analyze the grade of the spirit weapon.

An inferior-grade spirit weapon would have one spirit pattern. Amongst the Joyful Seven, two of them had flying swords of this grade.

The flying sword in Yao Xue's hands was a middle-grade spirit weapon as it had two spirit patterns.

Weapons with three spirit patterns were superior-grade while those with four spirit patterns were of supreme-grade!

Before the cultivators engaged in a fight, it would inject the spirit qi into the spirit weapon. This would invigorate the spirit pattern to shine. The more lines there were, the more powerful the spirit weapon.

The so-called pseudo spirit weapon was referring to weapons made of the same materials as the real ones. They were also made by the Weapon Refinement Master but there was no spirit pattern condensed on them.

To Su Zimo, whether the weapons had spirit pattern or not did not make a difference. He could not invigorate them at all.

As long as the weapon was strong and hard enough to block the impact of spirit weapons and cause death and injury to the Qi Refinement Warrior, it would suffice.

The manager of the Sky Treasure Pavilion said, "It costs very little to refine two pseudo spirit weapons. Including the costs of materials and hiring the Weapon Refinement Master, a few hundred inferior-grade spirit stones are enough."

"How long will it take?" Su Zimo could feel that the Su family was going to face a calamity soon. He wanted to improve his ability as soon as possible.

“At least three days.” The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion said. “On a separate note, it is easy to refine the bow but not the bowstring.”

Yao Xue pointed at Su Zimo’s waist and smiled gently. “The python tendon on your waist can be used as a bowstring.”

Su Zimo was still clad in a beast hide and a python tendon was used as a belt. Yao Xue reached out her hands and gently pushed Su Zimo, covering her nose. “Quickly bathe and change your clothes. You can remove the python tendon then.”

Su Zimo coughed lightly to conceal his embarrassment. He quickly followed the two female waiting staff and left the second floor of Sky Treasure Pavilion temporarily.

Not long after, Su Zimo returned to the Sky Treasure Pavilion. When Yao Xue glanced at him from the corner of her eyes, she could not help feeling stunned.

At this moment, Su Zimo was dressed in a green robe. He had shaved away his stubble. Bright, clear eyes and delicate features, he exuded a strong scholarly aura. He was like a different person from before!

“Eh, who is this?” Yao Xue turned both her palms, leaned forward slightly and moved closer to him. She tilted her head and asked with a trace of a smile in her eyes.

Su Zimo’s gaze was bright and clear. He smiled but was silent.

“A young master, indeed. Addressing you as Young Master Su is really not wrong.” Yao Xue smiled and said.

Su Zimo could barely endure this. He cupped his fists and said, “Miss Yao Xue, you’re being humorous.”

“Alright, I’ll not tease you anymore.” Yao Xue waved her hands and asked, “What do you intend to use the remaining spirit stones for?”

“How many spirit stones do I need to hire a Qi Refinement Warrior?” Su Zimo planned to hire one Qi Refinement Warrior to protect the Su family.

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion said, “This depends on the level that the Qi Refinement Warrior is at.”

“The higher the better!”

“For a Level 7 Qi Refinement Warrior, five pieces of inferior-grade spirit stones a day will be enough. For a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior, you need ten pieces a day. For a Level 9 Qi Refinement Warrior, you need 100 pieces!”

Su Zimo did some mental calculations.

He had a total of over 3,000 pieces of spirit stones left. Of course, it was good to hire a Level 9 Qi Refinement Warrior. However, he only had enough spirit stones to hire one of them for a month.

No one could guarantee when the danger would come.

On the other hand, hiring a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior could protect the Su family for an entire year. It was relatively more cost effective.

After pondering deeply for a while, Su Zimo said, "I'll hire a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior for a period of one year."

"Okay."

The manager waved his hands. One of the female waiting staff nodded and walked towards the main hall on the first floor of the Sky Treasure Pavilion.

Yao Xue explained. "There are always new missions at the main hall of the Sky Treasure Pavilion. If the Qi Refinement Warriors are interested in them, they will look for the hirers accordingly."

After pausing for a while, Yao Xue passed the piece of gold badge in her hands to Su Zimo. She said. "This is the Sky Treasure Pavilion Gold Badge. With this badge, you can get half the price for every item of purchase when you come here next time."

"So much?" Su Zimo was shocked.

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion who was standing at the side explained, "There are three types of badges in the Sky Treasure Pavilion. The lowest grade is the bronze badge which will give you a ten percent discount. Next is the silver badge that gives a twenty percent discount, followed by the gold badge."

"This item is too precious and costly. I can't accept it." Upon hearing the manager's explanation, how could Su Zimo not know how precious this gold badge was?

"Accept it. I still have more of it."

Not allowing any further deliberations, Yao Xue tucked the item into Su Zimo's arms and reminded him, "You have to hide it well and don't let anyone see it. Otherwise, you will attract trouble easily."

Su Zimo frowned and wanted to decline again. Yao Xue face turned stiff, "You saved my life. Isn't my life worth this piece of lousy gold badge?"

"..."

Su Zimo was speechless.

The manager at the side rolled his eyes continuously, muttering in his heart, "Lousy gold badge... there are less than 10 such gold badges in the entire Great Zhou Dynasty! This madam is so generous. I don't know where this poor lad's good fortune came from."

At this moment, Su Zimo was unaware that the Sky Treasure Gold Badge in his hands was not an ordinary one.

Even if he had the ordinary Sky Treasure Gold Badge, he could only get a thirty percent discount at the Sky Treasure Pavilion.

There was only one place with Sky Treasure Gold Badges that could give a fifty percent discount!

## Chapter 25: Trouble

After stepping out of the Sky Treasure Pavilion, it was already close to noon.

Su Zimo turned and looked at Yao Xue. He said sincerely, "I must thank Miss Yao Xue for today's matter."

"Call me Yao Xue."

"That... Okay then."

Su Zimo hesitated slightly before he agreed.

At the sight of Su Zimo nodding, Yao Xue pursed her lips and smiled. She said immediately, "I'll call you Zimo then."

Su Zimo, "... "

Yao Xue took a sideways glance at Su Zimo and asked, "Where will Zimo be going next?"

Su Zimo pondered deeply and said, "I have to stay in Cang Lang City for a few days to wait for the two spirit weapons to be refined. At the same time, I will check out if any Level 8 Qi Refinement Warriors are taking up the mission."

After thinking, Yao Xue said, "I'll return to my clan then. I won't keep you company."

"Have a good trip. We will meet again if we have fate." Su Zimo nodded.

Yao Xue jumped onto the flying sword. When she was about to leave the Sky Treasure Pavilion, she suddenly looked back and gave a charming smile. "Not if we have fate. We will definitely meet again."

Upon finishing her words, Yao Xue leaped onto her sword and left. She disappeared from Su Zimo's sight soon after.

Su Zimo did not think much of it. He left the small alley of the Sky Treasure Pavilion and looked for an inn nearby to stay at.

...

Three days later, in the mansion of the City Lord.

Cao Gang, the wolf guard, stepped in and bowed to pay his respects. He said in a low voice, "City Lord, my subordinate's guard saw Su Zimo in the city. The strange thing is that... this lad seemed to have appeared out of thin air. No one saw him entering the city."

Luo Tianwu, the City Lord of Cang Lang City nodded and said, "Yes, perhaps we have been negligent. No need to worry. I have long received news of this and sent someone to test him. Since we are making use of him to kill, we have to test if this blade is sharp enough!"

"I heard that, some time ago, Su Hong had a narrow escape from death in the capital of the Country of Yan. 16 years of preparation work fell short in the last battle. He nearly lost his life. Now, the capital of

the Country of Yan is tightly guarded. Many Qi Refinement Warriors were gathered near the King of Yan. What can this Su Zimo do?" Cao Gang frowned slightly.

Luo Tianwu smiled and said, "Su Hong has black armored cavalry under his wings. He was powerful but also too ambitious. It is expected that his assassination of the King of Yan would fail. But this Second Young Master Su is different... No one views him as a threat. The more you neglect one's existence, the easier it is for him to carry out a successful assassination."

...

Su Zimo had been in Cang Lang City for three days but did not hear any news from Sky Treasure Pavilion.

The hiring of Qi Refinement Warrior was not as easy as he expected it to be. Furthermore, he wanted to hire a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior.

Su Zimo felt a little vexed. He was prepared to have a meal at the first floor of the inn.

Just as he arrived downstairs, he could hear people sneering. Someone said in an eccentric manner, "Yo, isn't this Second Young Master Su who has been reduced to an inferior commoner? Why do you still have the shame to come to Cang Lang City?"

Su Zimo slanted his eyes and saw a seemingly wealthy young man with a graceful bearing waving a fan. Sneering continuously, he had a look of contempt on his face.

Two middle-aged men were by his sides. They were bright-eyed and had a restrained aura. They were seemingly guarding the young man who was sitting in between them.

This young man's name was Chu Liang. He could not take the hardship of learning martial arts but was also reluctant to focus on his studies quietly. With the power of his family clan as his backing, he lounged around all day long, bullying the young and weak.

Su Zimo had some impression of this man as he had been his classmate back then when studying in Cang Lang City previously. Although he could not see eye to eye with this man's conduct, the two never had any animosity between them.

Su Zimo cast a faint glance at Chu Liang. His gaze was calm and his expression normal. He then turned back and ascended the stairs.

The Su family already had enemies on another land. Su Zimo did not wish to attract more trouble. It was pointless to make more enemies.

Chu Liang sneered. "Boss Lee, when did your inn start to take in inferior commoners? Break both legs of this inferior commoner and throw him out, in case he affects my appetite!"

"This..."

The boss of the inn looked like he was in a difficult position.

"Yes? You want to break both my legs?"

Su Zimo halted his steps and turned gradually, his gaze sweeping across the main lobby.

The guests in the inn did not seem to be ordinary commoners. They had weapons on the table beside them. Although they were also eating and drinking, their gazes inadvertently landed on him. Moreover, there were traces of hostility in their eyes!

This was not a chance encounter. The other party deliberately came here to seek trouble!

In the blink of an eye, Su Zimo had figured it out.

Su Zimo strode towards Chu Liang. The two middle-aged men by Chu Liang's side showed obvious signs of nervousness. The muscles tightened as they lowered their palms placed them on the weapon on the waist.

Su Zimo smiled and sat on the seat opposite Chu Liang.

"Who told you to sit down!"

Chu Liang hollered. Bang! He slammed his hands on the table.

Clang!

One after another, the surrounding diners rose from their seats, unsheathing their weapons.

Su Zimo's expression was unchanged. Without looking sideways, he did not seem bothered as he took Chu Liang's wine jar and poured himself a cup of wine.

The two middle-aged men opposite him looked grave and solemn. They moved towards the middle, blocking Chu Liang behind them.

Su Zimo had not made any moves and did not even reveal any trace of murderous aura. Yet, the two middle-aged men felt uneasy and had chills running up their spines.

"The two of you are Perfected Connate Experts, right?"

Su Zimo lifted the wine cup and asked casually.

"So what if we are?" One of them responded.

"The two of you..."

Su Zimo raised his head and drained the strong wine in his cup. He then shook his head. He continued to say, "Won't be able to protect him."

The moment he put down the wine cup, Su Zimo made his move.

Snap!

The wine cup dropped on the table top. The fall was neither hard nor soft but the entire table suddenly split open!

Su Zimo closed in and flipped his palms, enshrouding the top of heads of the two Perfected Connate Experts.

His moves were sudden and he attacked two people at the same time!

The two middle-aged men were terrified.

The aura of Su Zimo's palm strike was powerful and suffocating. They could even smell a gust of bloody stench at the wave of his palm.

In the blink of an eye, the graceful scholar had transformed into a man-eating beast!

The two men unsheathed their weapons immediately to block the attack.

Swoosh!

There was a deafening and crisp sound.

Two extremely sharp weapons had actually been slammed to pieces by Su Zimo's palm. They were scattered on the ground.

Bang! Bang!

Su Zimo moved forward and kicked both his legs casually. The two Connate Experts were hurled outside. Horror filled their eyes. Their chests were crushed and they were vomiting fresh blood. They were almost dead.

In comparison to the spirit beasts in Cang Lang Mountain Range, the close combat techniques of the two men before him were really too poor.

If Su Zimo were to use all of his strength, the two of them including their weapons would be crushed instantly with the pressure of this palm!

Chu Liang was so scared that his face was drained of all colors.

Never did he expect that the two Connate Experts that he relied on most would turn invalid in the blink of an eye!

Furthermore, Su Zimo was already nearing him. Su Zimo grabbed his neck and lifted him up in the air.

It was too fast!

When Chu Liang landed in Su Zimo's hands, the surrounding diners had not even recovered from their shock.

No matter how much they wanted to dash forward, they were fearful of the consequences and full of reservations.

"What are you doing?!"

"Release my family's young master!"

A loud and stern voice rang from the surrounding. Su Zimo did not seem to have heard it. He just looked at Chu Liang with an imperceptible smile on his face. "I heard that you want to break both of my legs?"

"Ee.. "

Chu Liang's neck was strangled. His face turned purplish blue as he let out a weird sound from his mouth.



Su Zimo's gaze gradually turned cold. He swung his legs.

Pa! Pa!

Sounds of bones cracking could be heard coming from Chu Liang's knees. They had been crushed by Su Zimo's kick in that instant.

Chu Liang was in so much pain that beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. His entire body was shivering but he could not bring himself to say a word.

"Who told you to come?" Su Zimo pressed him.

Chu Liang could not catch his breath. He rolled his eyes and looked like he was going to faint at any point in time.

At this very moment, a loud shout could be heard from outside the door.

"Stop!"

A man clad in armor with a firm and resolute face was standing at the entrance of the inn. He was leading numerous guards. He dashed in with large and vigorous strides. This man was none other than Cao Gang, one of the Five Wolf Guards of Cang Lang City.

"Fighting is forbidden in the city. Su Zimo, quickly release that man!" Cao Gang stepped forward and hollered.

At the same time, Cao Gang also moved forward two steps and whispered into Su Zimo's ears. "Second Young Master Su, the City Lord would like to meet you."

Su Zimo narrowed both his eyes. A thought flashed in his mind and he vaguely understood what was happening.

Su Zimo waved his hands and flung Chu Liang aside nonchalantly.

"Bring criminal Su Zimo back to the City Lord!"

Cao Gang shouted again. Numerous guards behind him moved forward and surrounded Su Zimo. Yet, no one cuffed him up.

Su Zimo was expressionless but he sneered in his heart. He followed Cao Gang and the group and left the inn.

## **Chapter 26: Heard about the Secret**

This was the first meeting between Su Zimo and the City Lord of Cang Lang City.

It was very difficult to read the City Lord's mind just by looking into his eyes. He was expressionless and seemingly very deep and scheming.

Luo Tianwu was also sizing up Su Zimo at the same time.

His first impression of Su Zimo was a cultured and polite man; no different from other scholars.

If he had not known in advance the many deeds of Su Zimo in Ping Yang Town, it was very hard for Luo Tianwu to imagine that such a weak and frail-looking scholar could actually subdue the two big family clans!

Immediately after, he sensed that Su Zimo was mysterious and unfathomable!

The gazes of both parties collided in mid air. Very soon after, Luo Tianwu revealed a smile first. He said in a loud and clear voice, "I've long heard about the famous Second Young Master Su. We finally meet today. Please have a seat."

From the side, a slouching old servant dressed in a gray robe walked over. Gray-haired, he had a gaunt face and cloudy eyes. He carried a chair and put it carefully in front of Su Zimo.

Su Zimo's gaze seemed casual as it swept across the old servant. He did not decline and took the seat immediately.

Luo Tianwu was very polite to him. However, there was more to this case and it became more evident that this meeting was not so simple.

There must be something going on when things occur out of the ordinary.

What was the status, power and prestige of a City Lord?

Luo Tianwu had never invited Su Zimo when the latter attained scholarly honors previously, much less his inferior status currently.

The gray-robed old servant stood beside Su Zimo and filled a cup of tea for Su Zimo respectfully.

Su Zimo's thoughts were deep as he cast a profound gaze at the gray-robed old servant. With an imperceptible smile, he said, "You served me tea. This must have been hard on you."

The gray-robed old servant paused for a moment. He placed the teapot on the table without any expression. Thereafter, he retreated to stand behind Luo Tianwu and did not utter a word.

Upon hearing this, a beam of light flashed across Luo Tianwu's eyes but disappeared after a moment.

Su Zimo's words seemed unintentional but others were not sure of the implied meaning.

He could be mocking himself for his inferior status or pitying the gray-robed old servant for his old age.

Of course, there was another possibility. This lad had already seen through the Qi Refinement Warrior identity of this old servant dressed in shabby and gray clothes!

"This fellow... is not easy to deal with."

Luo Tianwu furrowed his brows secretly.

The gray-robed old servant had hid himself very well. Yet, he could not deceive the spirit perception that Su Zimo had attained via his near death experiences.

Without a word, Su Zimo raised his teacup and sipped tea in a leisurely manner.

Luo Tianwu was silent too. His fingertips were knocking on the table neither lightly nor hard.

About eight minutes passed...

The pin-drop silence in the room was frightening. Only sounds of fingertips knocking on the table were resonating. The atmosphere was stifling.

The smile on Luo Tianwu's face had already disappeared.

In such a circumstance, ordinary people would not be able to withstand the pressure. They would have long spoken up to ease the atmosphere. However, right from the beginning, Su Zimo's expression did not change the slightest bit. His gaze was as calm as an old monk who was meditating.

"This lad is only 18 years old and he has such a calm and mature temperament. It is very tricky to deal with him!"

Luo Tianwu muttered in his heart. He was already feeling a little restless.

In actual fact, this was a tactic of psychological pressure. Whoever could not endure the situation and spoke would inevitably be on the back foot.

Luo Tianwu had initially wanted to subdue Su Zimo in the first instance. However, he did not expect to hit him on the wrong spot. He felt very upset.

"Isn't Second Young Master Su curious about why I invited you today?" Luo Tianwu asked smilingly.

Su Zimo put down his teacup in a leisurely manner and glanced sideways at Luo Tianwu. He said calmly, "May I ask City Lord to give me an explicit reason."

"The two young masters of the Su family are both cream of the crop. Young Master Su's patience and endurance, and Second Young Master Su hiding your light under a bushel... The Five Wolf Guards under my wings and me admire you guys greatly." Luo Tianwu praised.

Su Zimo frowned slightly and said, "City Lord, you don't need to probe further. Please come straight to the point."

"You're straightforward! I admire people like Second Young Master Su."

Luo Tianwu gave a slight smile. "Your older brother has failed to assassinate the King of Yan. He is severely injured and bedridden now. I know that Second Young Master Su's heart must be filled with fury."

Upon hearing this, Su Zimo's countenance changed.

Older brother assassinated the King of Yan? He was injured?

Su Zimo had not returned for a year. Hence, he did not know that such a severe matter had happened to the Su family.

Why did older brother assassinate the King of Yan?

Could the King of Yan be the Su family's enemy?

Observing the change in Su Zimo's expression, Luo Tianwu was slightly stunned. He asked, "Don't tell me that Second Young Master Su doesn't know about this?"

"I am not aware." Su Zimo shook his head and endured the urge to rush back to Ping Yang Town.

Luo Tianwu felt that he had regained some victory with this. He revealed a slight smile and said, "Actually, I still admire and respect Su Mu, Lord Wuding, the most. How powerful and prestigious were the black armored cavalry under his wings then? Which of the surrounding states doesn't know the famous Su Mu? It is sheer pity..."

Su Mu!

Upon hearing this name, for some unknown reason, Su Zimo seemingly felt pangs of pain in his heart.

Su Zimo had already sensed that this man called Su Mu was very likely his father!

He only heard Luo Tianwu continuing with his words, "16 years ago, we heard that Su Mu had been framed and schemed against by villains. The King of Yan gave orders to annihilate his entire family. At that time, I was also wringing my fists in sorrow and pain. I mourned for the loss of an outstanding hero! Fortunately, Lord Wuding's bloodline is still in existent... The two young masters of the Su family escaped."

Upon hearing this, Su Zimo already understood in his heart. He had found the answers to many of his doubts.

Without a word, Su Zimo's lanky body rose and headed outside.

"Where is Second Young Master Su going?" Luo Tianwu asked quickly.

Su Zimo's face was solemn. He turned and look at Luo Tianwu. Visible red veins could seen in his eyes. It was extremely frightening!

Luo Tianwu was stunned.

The gray-robed old man behind him moved a step back instinctively. He slipped his hands into his chest and searched the storage bag inside.

In fact, Luo Tianwu did not know that Su Zimo was unaware of the Su family's background. He did not expect that Su Zimo would react so greatly.

Luo Tianwu calmed himself down and took a deep breath. He said in a deep voice, "I know that Second Young Master Su is keen to take revenge. I also wish to seek justice for Lord Wuding. Why don't we do this? I have spies in the city where the King of Yan lives in. I can try my best to help Second Young Master Su get close to the King of Yan. With Second Young Master Su's capability, we will definitely be able to execute the King of Yan and avenge Lord Wuding if we join forces!"

Su Zimo shut his eyes. After some time, he gradually opened them. The blood color in his eyes slowly faded and his eyes regained brightness and clarity.

"This is a private vendetta of the Su family. Why should I bother the City Lord?" Su Zimo asked.

Luo Tianwu smiled and said, "Lord Wuding is the person that I admire most in my life..."

"You can only deceive children with such words." Before Luo Tianwu could finish his words, Su Zimo interrupted him ruthlessly.

Su Zimo's words were considered a great form of disrespect for the City Lord.

However, the smile on Luo Tianwu's face did not lessen. He continued to say, "Second Young Master Su is a little angered. I... "

"You're the one who sent Chu Liang to the inn, right?" Su Zimo interrupted Luo Tianwu again and said calmly.

Luo Tianwu retracted his smile. There was a flash of murderous intent in his eyes but it disappeared a moment later. He questioned back, "What makes Second Young Master Su say that?"

"From the moment that I made the first move till I subdued Chu Liang, it only took a duration of ten breaths."

Su Zimo pointed to Cao Gang at the side and added, "Guard Cao suddenly dashed in. Ha... it's a little too fast. It was as if this had been prearranged."

"I... I only happened to pass by..." Cao Gang explained hurriedly.

Luo Tianwu waved his hands to stop Cao Gang from continuing with his words.

It was just a short interaction and Luo Tianwu realized that this kind of small tricks could not deceive the person before him. To force an explanation would only make a joke out of themselves.

Su Zimo gave a sneer and turned back. He paused his steps when he reached the doorsteps and said calmly, "If City Lord Luo is sincere in helping the Su family, I, Su Zimo, will naturally be grateful to you. However, I don't like to be made use of by others. City Lord Luo... you better watch your conduct!"

Having finished his words, Su Zimo left without even turning back.

When Su Zimo's figure disappeared from the residence of the City Lord, Luo Tianwu's expression turned solemn and sinister. There was already a handprint on the sandalwood table beside him!

"This green and young lad... He actually dared to be so arrogant in front of me!" Luo Tianwu was enraged. He gritted his teeth and scolded.

After some time, Luo Tianwu gave a long sigh. He turned and asked, "Sir, how do you feel about this lad?"

At this moment, the gray-robed old servant straightened his back. His eyes were clear and bright. There were no signs of the earlier old and fatigued look.

When he heard Luo Tianwu's question, he said in a deep voice, "Second Young Master Su is not simple. Although he is not a Qi Refinement Warrior, he could see through my identity as a Qi Refinement Warrior with one glance. This lad's hands are certainly stained with a lot of fresh blood. When he was angered earlier, I could feel trepidation in my heart. He is a very dangerous man!"

"Oh?"

Luo Tianwu raised his brows slightly. He asked again, "What will happen if you fight with him?"

The gray-robed old servant's expression was proud. He said, "I am a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior. How can a mortal compete with me?!"

"However..."

After pausing for a while, the gray-robed old servant changed his stance. "Given this lad's temperament and ability, he has a high chance of success in assassinating the King of Yan! As to whether he could escape the capital alive... Haha..."

The gray-robed old servant smiled but did not speak a word.

"I am not concerned whether he can escape the capital where the King of Yan lives at. As long as the King of Yan is dead, the country will become leaderless and there will certainly be chaos. It will be the best time for me to invade the city and declare myself as the king!" Luo Tianwu smiled. Everything was under his control.

### **Chapter 27: Sanguine Crystal Bow, Cold Moon Saber**

Men of letters preferred swords. Even if they did not know any martial arts, they liked to carry a sword with them, as they appeared to be noble and elegant with it.

The saber was used by the armies on the battlefield and the ruffians of the pugilistic society. It was totally unlike the aura of the scholar.

When choosing his weapons at Sky Treasure Pavilion, Su Zimo did not choose the sword but the saber automatically. He did not know the reason behind his actions as well.

Su Zimo finally understood why when he left the mansion of the City Lord. That was because he was no scholar deep down inside.

He was the son of the mighty Lord Wuding, that all the dukes were in awe of. He should be galloping on the battlefield, killing countless enemies with his fearless and indomitable spirit, blood staining his robe!

Originally, Su Zimo could not understand why he was not the least nervous, scared or frightened when the knife that he held pierced Zhou Dingyun's throat that night. Instead, he was slightly excited and eager to try.

Su Zimo finally understood everything right now.

It was in his blood to kill without the slightest hesitation. Although he had spent more than ten years studying, he could not hide his true nature!

The words that Luo Tianwu said were like sharp thorns that pierced Su Zimo's heart. He was in agony at hearing them.

His older brother was seriously injured. How was he doing? Was he in a critical state?

Was Xiaoning frightened out of her wits at the calamity that befell the Su family?

Upon passing by the inn that he stayed temporarily last time, Su Zimo chanced upon the unique mark made by Sky Treasure Pavilion.

“Could it be that the two pseudo spirit weapons have been refined?”

Su Zimo hesitated slightly before heading to Sky Treasure Pavilion.

When he reached the end of the alley, the walls sensed his Sky Treasure Gold Badge. It turned transparent as water instantly, and Su Zimo walked right through it.

Upon reaching Sky Treasure Pavilion, Su Zimo did not stop but continued to go upstairs.

There were many Qi Refinement Warriors at the main hall. Many of them turned to look at Su Zimo with a searing and examining gaze.

The atmosphere in the main hall was strange.

There was a detection skill in the cultivation world. Therefore, all the Qi Refinement Warriors present could tell that there was no spirit qi within Su Zimo, yet he was able to reach the second level of Sky Treasure Pavilion.

There was only one explanation for that—Su Zimo had Sky Treasure Badge with him!

With the Sky Treasure Badge, one could be given a ten percent discount when making purchases in Sky Treasure Pavilion. This was very tempting!

When Su Zimo went to Sky Treasure Pavilion for the first time, he had Yao Xue, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator with him. Therefore, nobody dared to have any designs on it.

But now that it was Su Zimo who had the Sky Treasure Badge, it was tantamount to a three-year-old kid who walked around with a gold brick.

He was a mortal, yet he had the Sky Treasure Badge. He must have come from an illustrious family. Although many of the Qi Refinement Warriors were tempted, they gave up the idea of snatching the Sky Treasure Badge, as they did not want to court death.

However, there were still exceptions.

A man's wealth was his own ruin by causing another's greed.

There would always be someone who was willing to take the risk in the face of great temptation!

A pair of cold eyes trailed after Su Zimo from the corner of the main hall. It followed him all the way to the end of the staircase.

Su Zimo had something on his mind, therefore he did not notice the fleeting malicious gaze at the main hall.

As soon as Su Zimo reached the second floor, the manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion stood up to welcome him with a big smile on his face. “Young Master Su is finally here. The two pseudo spirit weapons have been refined. Come and have a look.”

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion slapped on his storage bag and one long saber and a longbow floated right in front of Su Zimo. There were twelve sharp arrows as well.

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion said, "The Cold Moon Saber is about three feet long, it has a silver blade, and a thick and sharp razor edge, suitable for slashing and killing. It is mainly made up of rare spiritual items. We have added ten types of hard materials including seven stars gravel and golden light rocks to cast the saber in accordance with your requirements. Although it had no spirit pattern, it can withstand the impact made from middle-grade spirit weapons and it would still be good as ever!"

"Mmm."

Su Zimo nodded, reaching toward the long saber that floated in the air.

Just then, there was a look of mockery in the manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion's eyes.

He was waiting for Su Zimo to make a fool of himself.

Su Zimo asked that the pseudo spirit weapons to be as heavy as possible. The Cold Moon Saber weighed close to 500 kilograms. Given his Level 9 Weapon Refinement cultivation realm, he could barely handle the spirit weapon with his spirit qi. It was impossible to kill the enemy with such a weapon.

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion believed that the moment Su Zimo took the saber, it would crush his feet!

However, the manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion was dumbstruck the next moment.

Su Zimo took Cold Moon Saber easily in his hands. He even tried a few strokes with it. It was as light as a feather to him. He nodded and said, "The saber is pretty good. It is just that it is still quite light."

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion, "..."

"What kind of monster is this man? He has no spirit qi, but he could handle the weapon that weighed 500 kilograms with his physical strength. The most annoying part is that he finds it too light..." The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion rolled his eyes.

"This is Sanguine Crystal Bow. Take it." The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion could not be bothered to go into details. He was in no mood to explain to him.

The Sanguine Crystal Bow was bloody red and there was a crystal clear luster to it. It was as if blood was flowing in the bow, exuding a strange aura. It weighed as heavy as the Cold Moon Saber.

Su Zimo slanted the Sanguine Crystal Bow over his body, while he tied the quiver on his back, putting the twelve sharp arrows into the quiver. He tied the Cold Moon Saber at his waist. He was all ready.

"By the way, Young Master Su, we have found someone suitable regarding your hiring notice. However, the person is somewhat different from your requirements," the manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion said.

"Oh?"

"He is Song Qi, a Level 7 Qi Refinement Warrior. According to him, if you are willing to pay him with some spirit stones in advance, he could reach Level 8 Qi Condensation. Of course, if you don't agree, I can say no to his request."



He did not know how long he had to wait before a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior could take on the assignment. Su Hong was seriously injured, he had no idea of his condition. Now that the Su family had suffered such misfortunes, Su Zimo intended to rush back to Ping Yang Town immediately. He had no time to wait.

“Tell him to come. I would like to meet him,” Su Zimo said in a deep voice.

The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion brought someone with him in no time. He was a Qi Refinement Warrior in his forties. He looked handsome and composed.

“This is Young Master Su. You can talk to him regarding your requests.” The manager of Sky Treasure Pavilion stood to the side after finishing the introductions.

Upon seeing Su Zimo, Song Qi did not look down on him or flatter him. He cupped his fists and said, “Young Master Su.”

Su Zimo asked, “Are you in a hurry to use spirit stones?”

“Yes. If I have sufficient spirit stones, I will be able to get through Level 8 Qi Condensation.” Song Qi nodded.

“How long will it take?”

“Well... I can't say for sure. Nobody can tell you the exact timing to break through a realm.” Song Qi was being very frank.

Su Zimo had a good first impression of the man. He was silent before he asked, “Since you are lacking spirit stones, why don't you join a clan?”

“I am a pseudo spirit root. No major clans are willing to accept me. Even if they accept me, they will only treat me as a servant.” Song Qi smiled bitterly.

A pseudo spirit root was the worst spirit root. It contained the five elements: metal, wood, water, fire and earth. It would absorb a mixture of spirit qi. It was impure and one's cultivation speed was very slow.

There were also spirit roots that only contained one element, for example metal spirit root, wood spirit root and fire spirit root, it was akin to the legendary heaven spirit root. It could take in the purest spirit qi, and its cultivation speed was fast. If one did not encounter any mishaps, one would most likely become a Golden Core!

Given that he was a pseudo spirit root, Su Zimo knew that Song Qi must have been through a lot of suffering to be able to reach Level 7 Qi Condensation in his forties.

“Let's go. Come with me to Ping Yang Town. I will give you one thousand spirit stones in advance,” Su Zimo said.

“Ah!”

Song Qi exclaimed. He could not conceal his joy.

Song Qi did not expect that Su Zimo would agree to his request. After all, he was not a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior, and he requested his employer to pay him spirit stones in advance. He felt sorry about it.

He did not expect that Su Zimo would give him one thousand spirit stones right away!

“Young Master Su, thank you very much. I will do everything possible to protect the Su family!” Song Qi thanked him profusely.

## **Chapter 28: You Would Not Be Able To Leave Today**

Upon exiting Sky Treasure Pavilion, Song Qi took out a flying sword from his storage bag. He touched it lightly with his fingertips, infusing it with spirit qi, and the flying sword floated in front of the two of them.

Song Qi could tell that Su Zimo had no spirit qi. Since he had a bow and saber with him, he must know martial arts. It should not be a problem to get onto the flying sword.

Song Qi said, “Young Master Su, get on the flying sword. Don’t be afraid. I will protect you while on the sword. I won’t let you fall down from the sword. We will reach Ping Yang Town in no time.”

Su Zimo’s eyes swept over Song Qi’s flying sword, shaking his head. “Let’s walk, we will see how it goes when we exit the city.”

There was no spirit pattern on Song Qi’s flying sword. It was a pseudo spirit weapon.

Su Zimo himself, with the Sanguine Crystal Bow and Cold Moon Saber would weigh an entire ton. Given Song Qi’s Level 7 Qi Condensation realm, he would not be able to carry all of them.

Su Zimo did not point out the truth. They walked out of the city with long strides.

There were not as many pedestrians outside the city. Su Zimo was about to execute Plow Heaven Stride to get to Ping Yang Town when he noticed something.

“Mmm, someone is following us?”

Su Zimo did not turn back to check, but he could sense it.

Su Zimo did not say anything but maintained his usual speed, walking toward Ping Yang Town. Song Qi frowned, not saying anything.

In no time, there was the sound of clothes flapping in the wind. The person was moving at a very fast speed!

Cultivator?

Song Qi was alarmed. He placed his hands on the storage bag as he turned to check.

Not far away was a cultivator dressed in a black Taoist robe. He was speeding forward on his flying sword. There was a murderous look in his eyes. Obviously he had evil intentions!

Level 8 Qi Condensation!

Song Qi let out a low shout, before he pulled Su Zimo to a side. He prayed fervently that the person was only passing by.

In the blink of an eye, the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior stopped in front of them. He leaped down from his flying sword, smiling coldly at Song Qi. "Comrade, you had better step aside. Don't be a busybody. I have an enmity with this man."

Song Qi glanced at Su Zimo, noticing that he had no expression on his face. Perhaps he was in a state of shock or that he did not know that there was danger.

Song Qi cupped his fists. "Comrade, you must be joking. My friend is a mere mortal. Why would you have any enmity with him?"

"Buzz!"

The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior touched his flying sword lightly. A beam of light shone from the flying sword. The sword's aura intensified.

Inferior-grade spirit weapon!

Song Qi had sweaty palms. The other party's cultivation realm was one level higher than him and he had an inferior-grade spirit weapon. If they engaged in fights, he had no chance of winning.

"Since you are dense, don't blame me for being ruthless!" The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior said coldly.

"Young Master Su, you should run for your life!"

Song Qi hurried to whisper to Su Zimo before he slapped his storage bag and a flying sword landed on his hand.

"Jee!"

Song Qi controlled the flying sword, making the first move so that he could take the other party by surprise.

The flying sword turned into beams of lights, speeding toward the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior. They reached him in no time.

"It was merely a pseudo spirit weapon. How dare you act arrogant in front of me!"

The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior sneered before he took his time to tap his sword, sending it flying forward, colliding with Song Qi's flying sword.

Sparks were flying everywhere as the swords clashed into each other!

Song Qi's flying sword was not as powerful. It almost flew off from the collision.

The Qi Refinement Warrior's body was relatively weak. This posed a danger to them when in fights. If one was not careful, one might be injured by the other party's spirit weapon, and one would have no chance of surviving.

Song Qi seemed to be on the losing end after sparring for a few rounds. He had no way to attack but could only defend himself.

Fortunately, Song Qi was composed. He used all his energy to spar with the other party. His flying sword circled him, forming an impenetrable defense.

Su Zimo nodded as he watched the scene from the side.

Song Qi could have left under such circumstances. After all, he had gotten the one thousand inferior-grade spirit stones. There was no need to put his life at risk for a mere mortal.

Even though Song Qi knew that he could not defeat the other party, he did not leave by himself. It proved that he was a man of his words. Su Zimo could be reassured that Song Qi could be left in charge of protecting the Su family.

Song Qi and the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior was still in an intense battle.

They were one level apart in terms of cultivation realm and their spirit weapons were of different grades as well.

Song Qi's defenses gradually weakened in no time. The flying sword was not as steady as before. He had used up too much of his spirit qi and he was weakened.

Right then, Su Zimo asked, "Why do you want to kill me?"

The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior felt that he had the situation under control. He cast a sideways glance at Su Zimo, before saying in a pitiful tone, "I will tell you the reason so that you will know what caused your death. You are just a mortal yet you had the Sky Treasure Badge. This is why you must die!"

Song Qi turned to check in the midst of the battle, realizing that Su Zimo was still standing on the same spot. He could not help but be anxious, shouting out to Su Zimo. "Why didn't you leave?"

Swash!

Song Qi was distracted and the other party made use of the chance to cut through his defense with his flying sword. The flying sword was right before him. It was chilling!

Song Qi had no time to steer the direction of his flying sword. He panicked and could not be bothered with maintaining his dignity. He had no choice but to roll on the ground, barely escaping from death. He was muddy all over, looking like a terrible sight.

Su Zimo smiled but did not say anything.

Song Qi was helpless, saying through clenched teeth, "I am not his opponent. Young Master Su, you should leave as soon as possible, or it will be too late!"

"No one will be able to leave today!"

The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior hollered, and the flying sword sped up, hitting Song Qi's defense. Sound of metal clashing against one another could be heard.

Right then, the two of them who were in a fierce fight heard a long sigh.

“Yes, you would not be able to leave today...”

Both Song Qi and the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior were shocked. Before they could figure out what Su Zimo meant by that, they saw a terrifying sight from the corner of their eyes!

Su Zimo was standing forty feet apart from them.

But Su Zimo reached them within two to three strides. There was a murderous glint in his eyes. He was like a human-devouring beast that had the single intent of killing the person in front of him!

Song Qi who was by the side felt a sense of fear, let alone the black-robe Qi Refinement Warrior who had been targeted by Su Zimo.

“It’s not good!”

The black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior’s heart jumped a beat. He retreated while he maneuvered the flying sword, thinking of changing its direction to kill Su Zimo.

However the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior was too slow and in Su Zimo’s eyes, he had too many weaknesses.

Su Zimo had a cold glint in his eyes. He had a backhand grip on Cold Moon Saber, swinging it in front of him.

There was a flash of light from the saber, it was blinding.

Poof!

A large head was hurled off and it was cut neatly at the neck area. Fresh blood splattered everywhere.

Song Qi opened his mouth slightly. He was confused. He stared at the scene, dumbstruck, unable to recover himself.

Dead.

A Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior was dead from one single slash of the saber!

By luck? Down on his luck? Careless?

“Good saber!”

Su Zimo looked at the Cold Moon Saber. It did not have the slightest drop of blood on it. He praised the saber and put it back into its scabbard with a backhand motion.

Song Qi could not help but swallow his saliva.

What kind of man would be so calm after killing a Level 8 Qi Refinement Warrior?

In Song Qi’s eyes, Su Zimo had turned out to be a mysterious man. He was a different person from the frail scholar that he knew previously.

Song Qi could not help but think of the scene just now. The more he thought about it, the more terrifying it was. He broke out in cold sweats thinking of it.

He realized to his horror, that if Su Zimo used the saber on him, he would have no way to dodge it!

Su Zimo took the storage bag that was tied at the waist of the black-robed Qi Refinement Warrior. He did not take another look before he threw it to Song Qi, "Take it."

"I-I cannot take it." For some unknown reason, Song Qi seemed to be nervous around Su Zimo.

Su Zimo smiled. "Keep it and cultivate to Level 8 Qi Condensation as soon as possible."

When Su Zimo smiled, he seemed to look like the frail scholar again. Song Qi relaxed slightly, no longer feeling as stressed, accepting the storage bag from him.

Su Zimo continued, "You can concentrate on maneuvering the flying sword to reach Ping Yang Town as soon as possible."

Song Qi agreed and was about to ask where was Su Zimo going when he realized that he was no longer in the same position. He strode forward, covering twenty feet at one time. His speed was amazing!

It was not until now that Song Qi realized that his employer was no simple man...

Song Qi hurried to maneuver the sword to keep up with Su Zimo.

### **Chapter 29: I Would Take Revenge For The Su Family**

Su Zimo and the other man arrived at Ping Yang Town one after another.

Su Zimo did not want to attract attention, therefore he told Song Qi to put away his flying sword and to walk with him to Su family's residence.

The door to the mansion was tightly shut. Su Zimo had good hearing. From the intermittent sobbing sounds coming from the mansion, he could tell that it was Su Xiaoning.

Su Zimo frowned, striding forward, exerting strength in his arms and pushed the door open.

The crossbar behind the door broke into pieces.

"Who's there?!"

A dozen black armored cavalymen dashed to the front door right away. They were seeing red, looking ready to kill. They were stunned at the sight of Su Zimo.

"Second Young Master?"

Su Zimo nodded, bringing Song Qi toward the direction where the crying sounds came from.

Song Qi swept his gaze over the guards, slightly fearful of them.

He could sense the murderous aura of the guards. They had obviously been through a lot on the battlefields to have such a fearsome aura. They were no ordinary pugilistic experts.

Many people from the Su family were gathered outside Su Hong's room. Some of them were standing while some were sitting. Everyone looked solemn and crestfallen. Sorrow and misery hung in the air.

“Second Young Master is back,” Uncle Zheng stood up and said.

Su Zimo squinted his eyes as he asked, “How is brother now?”

There was a look of worry on Uncle Zheng’s face. He shook his head. “Wait for a while. Young Master is still unconscious.”

Su Zimo swept his gaze over everyone in the Su family, saying in a low voice, “Do you still intend to keep it from me now that things had come to this stage?”

Everyone in the Su family looked at each other, giving out a long sigh.

“My father used to be Su Mu, Lord Wuding of the Country of Yan. Is that right?” Su Zimo said softly.

Everyone in the Su family looked alarmed. Uncle Zheng was shocked. “Second Young Master, you...”

“Luo Tianwu came to look for me.”

Upon hearing his words, Uncle Zheng suddenly saw the light. He sighed before saying, “Luo Tianwu is no good man. He has rapacious designs. He dreams of being the king in troubled times. He sought Young Master, wanting to collaborate with him, but was refused. The Su family and King of Yan may be enemies, but Young Master does not want to implicate the people in the Country of Yan.”

“Your father had been on the battlefield all his life. His troops, the black armored cavalry were famed for guarding the frontier, resisting the external enemies. The Country of Yan did not lose a single piece of land in the battles. The general made a vow that he would protect the people of the Country of Yan all his life, so that they would have a place to live, and be spared from the pains of wars. Young Master would continue his father’s mission, therefore he refused to join hands with Luo Tianwu.”

Speaking of this, Uncle Zheng had no wish to keep things from Su Zimo anymore. He continued to say, “Over the years, Young Master would always be on the road. He was in fact gathering the former black armored cavalry under the pretense of selling horses. He was training them while waiting for the opportunity to take revenge.”

“How many people are there now?”

“Five thousand!”

“Where can so many people hide? How can they hide from the spies of the countries of Yan and Qi?” Su Zimo frowned.

Uncle Zheng replied. “They have been hiding at a ghostly village near the Country of Yan.”

A few decades ago, the entire village was devoured and wiped out by packs of wolves, even fowls and dogs were not spared. There was not a soul to be seen. No one dared to live at the village. In the end, it turned out to be the best cover for them.

Su Zimo thought before asking, “Uncle Zheng used to hint that the enemies of the Su family are Qi Refinement Warriors. What do you mean by that?”

“A few decades ago, there were many Qi Refinement Warriors in the capital city of the Country of Yan. They guarded the King of Yan and therefore we had to keep postponing the plan of assassinating King of

Yan. Young Master waited patiently for a chance when the spies in the palace sent news a month ago that King of Yan was going hunting at the southern suburb.”

“The black armored cavalry would only be most powerful in wide terrain. The Qi Refinement Warriors would die if they make the slightest mistake when sparring with them.”

Su Zimo nodded.

Qi Refinement Warrior’s had weak bodies. They were no different from normal mortals. If armies went into battles, and there was a storm of arrows, a few Qi Refinement Warriors would not be able to change the outcome. They might even die.

Uncle Zheng shook his head and let out a long sigh. “Unfortunately, the assassination this time failed. There were not a few but dozens of Qi Refinement Warriors beside the King of Yan! There was even a cultivation clan as the King of Yan’s support!”

Su Zimo was shocked to hear this.

In the cultivation world, the clan leader had to at least reach the Foundation Establishment Realm before he could establish a clan.

Uncle Zheng continued. “Young Master was worried that they would attract attention, therefore, he only brought over thousands of black armored cavalry with him and they went into the city in small groups. But they were besieged by dozens of Qi Refinement Warriors at the southern suburbs. They suffered heavy losses and Young Master was heavily wounded, while only a few dozen black armored cavalry survived out of the thousands of them.”

Song Qi came forward and whispered. “Second Young Master Su, I have an essence nourishing pill. It is very common in the cultivation world. It can be used to stabilize the foundation and nourishing the essence. It should be useful to Young Master.”

“Thanks.” Su Zimo nodded.

Uncle Zheng said in disappointment, “It’s easy to heal the body, but it’s difficult to heal the heart. The failure this time was too big a blow to Young Master.”

“Mmm?” Su Zimo frowned. “Brother has strong willpower and determination. Why would he be defeated after one failure?”

Uncle Zheng smiled forlornly and sighed. “Young Master knew that if there is a cultivation clan to support King of Yan, there will be no way for the Su family to take revenge. There is no grief so great as despair. I guess... there is no way to change things.”

“Young Master is awake.” Right then Liu Yu walked out of the room with a grave expression on his face.

There was a strong pungent smell of medicine upon reaching the door.

Su Zimo turned and looked toward the bed. His brother, Su Hong lay silently on the bed. His injuries were serious and his breathing was getting weaker.

“Brother!”



Su Xiaoning who stayed vigil beside the bed cried out loud, running into Su Zimo's embrace, bursting into tears. "Older Brother is seriously injured. Second Brother, can you think of a solution?"

Su Zimo patted Su Xiaoning gently on the back, comforting her with soft whispers. He helped her to the side before he went to check on Su Hong.

Su Hong's hair had turned white. He had just reached thirty years old but he seemed aged. His face was gaunt and yellow and his lips were cracked. He stared blankly at the roof, as if he had lost his soul.

His hair turned white overnight. Indeed, there was no grief so great as despair!

Su Zimo's heart ached at the sight of his older brother. There were tears in his eyes.

The Su family had been ensnared in a blood feud for years and his brother had to seek justice for the family by himself!

For the past 16 years, this man protected his younger brother and sister from harm, for fear that they would suffer any slightest grievances or be hurt. He remained tight-lipped, worried that they would be embroiled in it.

This man bore the hatred and feud by himself for 16 years. He could not imagine the kind of life that he led over the years.

Had he ever be able to have a good night's sleep in the past 16 years?

How painful and torturous it must be for this man to be living in hatred all the time for 16 years?

"Brother..."

Su Zimo's lips quivered as he called for his brother.

There was never a moment where this word sounded so depressing as when Su Zimo spoke of it.

Su Hong turned his head slowly, resting his blank gaze on Su Zimo's face for a long while before there was finally some sparkle in his eyes. He moved his stiff lips, forcing a smile on his lips, as he spoke softly, "Zimo... you are back."

Su Zimo knelt down on the floor, holding Su Hong's cold hands in his palms. He squeezed his lips tightly together, fighting back the tears in his eyes.

"Zimo, I won't be able to make it." Su Hong sighed softly.

Su Zimo lost control at his words. Tears trailed down his cheeks, wetting his sleeves.

This was the first time that Su Zimo cried in the past 18 years.

Su Hong tried to lift his arm to wipe the tears on Su Zimo's face. But his arm was too weak and it fell back onto the bed in mid-way.

"Don't shed tears, don't shed tears. The men in the Su family only shed blood but not tears."

Su Zimo lifted his sleeves to wipe his tears, nodding.

“Zimo, after I die, leave with Xiaoning and the Su family. Go to a place as far away as possible,” Su Hong said.

Su Zimo lowered his head, keeping silent. He clenched his fists, his nails digging into his skin, blood oozing out of it.

Su Zimo raised his head after a long while, looking calm. “Brother, have a good rest. Don’t think too much.”

There was something else that Su Zimo kept to himself.

He would take revenge for the Su family!

### **Chapter 30: An Eye For An Eye**

Su Zimo left the room.

Uncle Zheng noticed that Su Zimo looked odd. he hurried to chase after him, saying in a low voice. “Second Young Master, don’t be foolish to attempt another assassination on the King of Yan. The Su family could leave for a faraway place. The world is huge, we will have a place to go.”

“Uncle Zheng, you have been worrying too much. I am not thinking of assassinating the King of Yan.” Su Zimo shook his head, he did not seem like he was lying.

Uncle Zheng nodded, not totally believing him. “I intend to move to the ghostly village to stay low for the time being. There are after all still five thousand black armored cavalry over there. It will be safer. Second Young Master, you should come with us.”

“I have some matters to attend to. I will go to the ghostly village to look for you later.”

Su Zimo changed the topic, pointing to Song Qi at the side. “This is Mr. Song Qi. He is here to protect the Su family. If there’s anything, you can discuss with him.”

Uncle Zheng did not think too much into it. He thought that Song Qi was a friend from the pugilistic society that Su Zimo knew.

Su Zimo turned to leave. He had reached the door of the mansion when Song Qi caught up with him.

“Young Master Su, are you thinking of going to the city where the King of Yan lives?” Song Qi could vaguely sense the murderous intent of Su Zimo, therefore he asked of his intention.

Su Zimo kept on walking and he remained silent.

Song Qi caught up with him again, saying in a deep voice, “Young Master Su, I know that you have the ability to kill Qi Refinement Warriors and you are very powerful in close proximity fights. However, that is only for one to one fight. You will not be able to reach the Qi Refinement Warriors when you are surrounded by the huge army. You won’t have any chance!”

“Even if you manage to kill King of Yan, will you be able to escape from the closely guarded city where the King of Yan lives in?”

“There are the city army, the elite Imperial Army, the siege crossbows and various killing devices, as well as the attack by the Qi Refinement Warriors. There is no way for Perfected Qi Refinement Warriors to assassinate the king of a country, let alone you. There is no chance of survival!”

“All right!” Su Zimo turned abruptly, his face gloomy.

Song Qi was startled.

Su Zimo was expressionless. “Your mission is to protect the Su family. Don’t worry about me!”

“But...”

Song Qi was about to persuade him further but Su Zimo waved his hands to stop him. “I will leave my brother in your hands. I hope that you will be able to nurse him back to health. As for his concern deep down inside of him, leave it to me. I will resolve it for him.”

With that, Su Zimo executed Plow Heaven Stride and disappeared out of sight in the blink of an eye.

There was only a single way to resolve Su Hong’s concern, and it was King of Yan’s head!

Su Zimo hurried along the streets in Ping Yang Town. There was nothing but coldness in his eyes. He could feel a burning rage inside of him. It was flaming.

He could only douse the flames with the fresh blood of his enemy!

Su Zimo reached his mansion in no time. He pushed the door open and walked straight to the cultivation field.

Die Yue was still lazing around on the green stone in the cultivation field. She had an indifferent expression on her face as she cast a glance at Su Zimo.

It had been a year since he last saw Die Yue. Nothing seemed to have changed about her. She still looked very beautiful. It was as if she had not aged at all in the past one year.

Su Zimo had thought of all kinds of scenes where he met up with Die Yue after one year. But... he had not expected that it would be like this.

“I am leaving,” Su Zimo lowered his head, speaking softly. He dared not look at Die Yue.

“Oh?” Die Yue raised her eyebrows slightly.

“Now that I leave this time, I might... not be able to come back.”

“Courting death?”

“Sort of.”

Since Su Zimo wanted to enter the capital and kill the King of the country, he had to face not a man, but an entire country, as well as the multiple Qi Refinement Warriors and a cultivation clan.

It was the cultivation clan that had Foundation Establishment Cultivators with them!

Su Zimo did not dream of coming back alive from his trip to the Country of Yan.

This might be the last farewell for the two of them.

Die Yue looked at Su Zimo, there was a tenderness in her eyes. "Even though you know you are courting death, you are going to go anyway?"

Su Zimo remained silent.

Die Yue continued. "Actually, you have other better options. You can choose to take it lying down and continue to cultivate until you are strong enough."

Scenes seemed to flash in Su Zimo's mind. It was as if it was 16 years ago.

He saw how his parents died a terrible death under the saber.

He saw how the Su family was massacred, and the river turned into blood, the corpses piled into a mountain.

He saw how his older brother protected he and Xiaoning, and escaped from the city. He suffered a slash at his face and it went unnoticed even though it was covered with blood.

In the end, Su Zimo's gaze rested on his brother's white hair, his gaunt and yellow face, and his blank eyes.

"Why do I cultivate?"

Su Zimo blurted out all of a sudden, as if asking Die Yue, but he seemed to be muttering to himself as well.

"I cultivate not to take things lying down. If I want to do so, I would have knelt down at Perfected Cang Lang's bullying behavior one year ago. If I wanted to do so, I would have pleaded for mercy when Zhou Dingyun came to take my life."

The next moment, Su Zimo suddenly looked up. He could feel the blood surging in his body, his eyes bloody red. He shouted. "Since I feel unjust, I will make sure to seek justice. So what if he is the king of a country? So what if he has a cultivation clan to support him? I will kill to my heart's content! It is better to do things on a grand and spectacular scale this moment than to take things lying down for the entire life. I cultivate so as to go all out to exact revenge. I cultivate as I believe in an eye for an eye!"

"Good."

Die Yue nodded.

In the one and a half years of cultivation, Die Yue had never praised him. This was the first time that he heard this word coming from Die Yue.

"Remember what you said today. It concerns your future and achievements." Die Yue made another remark which Su Zimo could not understand.

There was a demonic glitter in Die Yue's eyes. Thereafter, there were several sutras in Su Zimo's mind.

This is the Bones Strengthening Sutra, It is taken from the Divine Steed Demon King. The divine steed was headstrong. It had the fastest gallop, it was forceful and resilient, there was a strong momentum and explosive power in its gallop.”

“I will impart another three styles to you. Divine Steed Dismemberment, Divine Steed Trampling and Divine Steed Fleeting. You can try to figure it out along the way. If you are able to comprehend it, you might be able to be on par with Level 10 Perfected Qi Refinement Warriors.”

Die Yue leaped down from the green stone and began to show him the moves.

Su Zimo did not blink at all, he was focused on learning the three styles. He knew that this could be his last hope at killing the King of Yan and returning alive!

Die Yue was done with the demonstration of the three styles in no time. She looked toward Su Zimo as she said, “Go along. One word of reminder. Demon cultivators are best at skipping the levels and killing the opponents. Given your capabilities now, although you are not as good as Foundation Establishment Cultivators, if you are able to be in their close proximity, you will still be able to kill them instantly!”

Su Zimo nodded.

Foundation Establishment Cultivators would release an explosive energy when they maneuvered flying swords. It was far better and much more flexible than Qi Refinement Warriors. They might have other attack and defensive moves that were sufficient to kill Su Zimo.

But this did not mean that Foundation Establishment Cultivators had no weaknesses. Although they had stronger bodies than Qi Refinement Warriors, their physical strength was still no match for Su Zimo.

If Su Zimo had the opportunity to get close to them, he would still be able to kill them on the spot!

It sounded simple, but it was in fact as difficult as reaching the sky.

Su Zimo looked at Die Yue, no longer hiding his reluctance to part with her. He smiled lightly and said, “Miss Die, goodbye.”

Die Yue turned with her back facing him as she waved to him.

Su Zimo took a deep breath and walked out of the cultivation field, looking toward the capital city of the Country of Yan that was far in the distance. He clenched his fists as he said softly, “King of Yan, wash your neck clean. I am coming!”