

ETERNAL SK 281

## Chapter 281: Drawing Swords

“What’s going on?”

The commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards, Bald Vulture, surveyed the surroundings and asked expressionlessly in a low voice.

Some cultivators from True Fire Elixir Workshop rushed forth and recounted the entire incident with added gossip.

“Hahahaha...”

Bald Vulture looked at Su Zimo playfully with a cruel gaze as he laughed in a maniacal manner.

“It’s over. That green-robed cultivator is definitely going to be tortured to death in the hands of Bald Vulture.”

“If I were him, I’d commit suicide right away. At least, it’ll be an easier death.”

Many cultivators discussed softly.

The commander of the White Hawk guards, Bai Yuhan, could not help but frown when she heard the recount.

The entire incident seemed fishy.

It was originally a feud between True Fire and Azure Frost Elixir Workshop. Or rather, it could be said that it was a private grudge between He Xing and Su Xiaoning.

Even though Pang Ming insinuated the spirit lion to injure Su Xiaoning and knock her Elixir Furnace over while He Xing bullied her, the situation was still within control.

It was only after this green-robed cultivator appeared that the situation spiraled out of control completely...

It was true that He Xing had attacked first, but the green-robed cultivator’s reaction was way too extreme – he killed two men right away without giving the other side a chance to explain things!

Furthermore, even if he killed He Xing in self-defense, it did not make sense for him to kill the two Scarlet Vulture guards thereafter.

Bai Yuhan looked over at Su Zimo instinctively but found herself slightly stunned.

He was encircled by two guard squads of the capital; he was faced with two commanders and one of them was even the cruel Bald Vulture. Yet, that man did not show any bit of fear at all!

In fact, Bai Yuhan could not see a hint of panic in the eyes of that person!

He had killed in the capital and he was even so decisive in killing guards of the capital. Yet, he was calm and composed in the face of this heavy encirclement – just what sort of backing does that man have?

Bald Vulture looked down at Su Zimo from above. Excitement could be seen in his eyes as he said sinisterly, "Very good, very good. It just so happens that I'm bored during this period of time and someone offered himself to relieve my boredom, hehe."

"You won't be able to touch me."

Su Zimo suddenly spoke, looking at Bald Vulture calmly.

The moment he said that, the crowd fell into an uproar.

This man was of a lowly status and yet he dared to openly challenge the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards – did he really want to die?!

Bald Vulture's face darkened.

Ever since he took on the position as the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards, no one had dared to speak to him like this through the years!

"Kid, let me tell you. Even if the Heavenly King came today, he wouldn't be able to save you!"

Bald Vulture said coldly, "Don't worry, I have a hundred ways to make your life a living hell! By the end of it all, you will kneel before me and begging for mercy for me to kill you!"

Right then, another voice could be heard from afar.

"You truly wouldn't be able to touch him."

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice, only to see a figure rushing over as fast as lightning. He strode through the air in an extremely fast speed and arrived in the blink of an eye.

The man wore a green armor and was tall with a dark, bearded face. He was none other than the commander of the Azure Falcon guards, Mu Dongqing!

When the bearded man caught sight of Su Zimo, he shot a look signaling for the latter to be assured.

Su Zimo nodded slightly as a form of greeting.

Today, it should be the Azure Falcon guards' turn to rest and the bearded man should not have appeared here.

However, he must have been informed by someone to be able to arrive in time.

Sweeping his gaze, Su Zimo found out that Nian Qi was gone and instantly had a hunch about what happened.

"That lass sure is smart."

Su Zimo muttered to himself internally.

The appearance of the bearded man and his statement shocked the onlookers as they could vaguely feel that the situation had changed again!

"Mu Dongqing, you are on break for today's shift. What are you doing here?" Bald Vulture looked at the bearded man and Su Zimo before asking suddenly.

The bearded man said in a seemingly casual manner, "Nothing much. I came over to take a look seeing that the commotion had gotten quite big."

"Fufu."

Bald Vulture smiled. "It's none of your business here. It's enough that I'm here, you can leave."

"Alright."

The bearded man nodded and descended on the ground. Grabbing Su Zimo by the arm, he rose into the sky – he was trying to take Su Zimo away from this place!

"Hmm?"

Bald Vulture's expression changed and his body flashed, appearing before the bearded man instantly. Blocking their way, he asked slowly with a darkened expression, "Mu Dongqing, what's the meaning of this?"

"Nothing much."

The bearded man stood in front of Su Zimo with no change in his expression.

Bald Vulture pointed at the corpses on the ground and sneered, "This person has no eyes for the law and slaughtered people in the capital, even killing two of my Scarlet Vulture guards. You want to take him away just like that? Mu Dongqing, aren't you bold?!"

The bearded man frowned.

Suddenly, Su Zimo whispered in his ears and the bearded man's eyes lit up before saying in a deep voice, "Bald Vulture, since He Xing was the one who attacked first, he brought his own death to himself. As for your Scarlet Vulture guards, they had lost their honor and it was a dereliction of duty for them to be biased and failing to notice what had happened."

"Mu Dongqing, it's Azure Falcon's turn to rest today. You don't have the rights to interfere in the matters here!" Bald Vulture's eyes shone brightly and the coldness in his tone intensified.

The bearded man said in a low voice, "Today, I'm Mu Dongqing and I don't represent the Azure Falcon guards! No other Azure Falcon guards will interfere in today's matters as well!"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk!"

Bald Vulture suddenly laughed in a sinister manner, making one's hair stand on end.

After a moment, the laughter stopped.

Slapping his storage bag, Bald Vulture pulled out two silver hooks that shone with a frosty, cold glint before saying slowly in an intimidating manner, "If you insist on protecting him, you'll be going against me and the entire Scarlet Vulture guards! Don't blame me for not showing mercy!"

Upon hearing that, the Scarlet Vulture guards in midair withdrew their spirit weapons and glared at the bearded man with fierce, unfriendly expressions.

The bearded man fell silent.

Bald Vulture was exerting pressure on him using the entire squad!

As long as he dared to make any objections, he would be making enemies with the entire Scarlet Vulture guards!

Just when the crowd thought that the bearded man was about to give him, he did not take a single step back and wiped his hand gently across his storage bag. Instantly, a gigantic hammer appeared in his palms, emanating a sturdy and heavy aura.

That was tit for tat!

“Like I said, you won’t be able to touch him today!”

The bearded man had a burning gaze and the hammer in his hands trembled, radiating with a brilliant spirit light. Four spirit patterns shone in a bedazzling manner, attracting a series of surprised gasps!

Four spirit patterns, it was a supreme-grade spirit weapon!

Everyone was shocked.

On the one hand, they were shocked at the supreme-grade spirit weapon in the hands of the bearded man.

On the other hand, no one had expected that the bearded man would make an enemy out of the entire Scarlet Vulture guards just for that green-robed cultivator!

The hammer in the bearded man’s hand shone with a bright spirit light. Given the situation, the numerous Scarlet Vulture guards in midair channeled their spirit energies, causing the dagger-axes in their hands to shine brightly while flying swords hovered above the skies.

In the blink of an eye, the two parties had drawn swords and were on the verge of fighting!

## **Chapter 282: Meeting the Emperor**

To everyone, no matter the reason that started the conflict, things had gone completely out of control by this point and a massive battle was inevitable.

With two Scarlet Vulture guards dead, there was no way Bald Vulture was going to back down in front of everyone and would definitely ask for redress.

Otherwise, it wasn’t just him; the entire Scarlet Vulture guards would suffer in reputation in the capital after today.

The bearded man’s attitude right now was just adding fuel to the fire.

There was even less reason for Bald Vulture and the Scarlet Vulture guards to back down.

In reality, unlike what everyone thought, Bald Vulture was in a predicament and could neither advance nor retreat.

“How did Mu Dongqing get his hands on a supreme-grade spirit weapon? Damn it!”

Bald Vulture cursed internally and an imperceptible look of caution flashed in his eyes.

While he was the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards, he had not gotten his hands on a single supreme-grade spirit weapon through all these years.

Given normal circumstances, if both sides were to fight, he would be able to hold down the bearded man while the Scarlet Vulture guards could suppress that green-robed cultivator with ease.

However, the bearded man had suddenly whisked out a supreme-grade spirit weapon...

His strength was weaker than the bearded man to begin with.

With that additional supreme-grade spirit weapon, Bald Vulture was no match for the bearded man at all. If they truly were to fight, the outcome was uncertain.

Right then, Bai Yuhan spoke, "Both commanders, if you were to fight in the capital over something so small and cause panic, the both of you might not be able to escape punishment if Your Majesty decides to pursue the matter."

The bearded man and Bald Vulture were in a stand-off with their weapons drawn. Right now, Bai Yuhan was the only one with the rights to speak.

The tension between both parties decreased slightly.

Bai Yuhan continued, "I have a suggestion. The two of you should take a step back and we'll consult the emperor in the imperial court. We'll let Your Majesty decide on how to carry on."

Upon hearing that, the bearded man and Bald Vulture both heaved a sigh of relief and relaxed.

"I'm fine with that."

Bald Vulture scoffed coldly and was the first to speak.

In his opinion, as long as they were to meet the emperor, the bearded man would receive punishment and the green-robed cultivator would not be able to escape death!

The bearded man put away his weapon and nodded. "That'll work."

Bai Yuhan cupped her fists. "That's great. I'll make a move first and report about this matter to the palace."

With that said, Bai Yuhan turned around and transformed into a beam of light, disappearing in front of everyone.

Bald Vulture's gaze shifted between the bearded man and Su Zimo with a mocking look. "Let's go. I'll see what you can say in the mighty main hall of the palace!"

The bearded man smiled and did not reply. Turning to Su Zimo, he asked, "Mr. Mo, is there anything else you want?"

"Hold on."

Su Zimo came before Xiaoning.

"Brother..."

Su Zimo frowned slightly in worry. Her slender hands grabbed Su Zimo's sleeves subconsciously and did not dare to let loose as she cried in anxiousness.

"What are you crying for?"

Su Zimo smiled and stretched his palm to stroke Su Xiaoning's head affectionately, messing up her hair.

When she was young, Su Zimo loved to mess with Xiaoning's hair.

Every time, she would flare up and chase after Su Zimo to hit him.

As one of them chased while the other ran, they crossed the grass fields and streams, running till they were completely drenched in sweat before they collapsed and sat on the ground all tuckered out. Not only were their hairs messy, they were also filled with dirt and looked disheveled.

Back then, the two siblings would look at one another and laugh, enjoying themselves despite knowing that they would be scolded by their eldest brother upon returning home.

Now, Su Zimo's action came with the intention of distracting Xiaoning. However, she ended up crying even more miserably, sobbing non-stop.

Su Zimo said gently, "Don't worry, I won't die."

"Humph!"

When Yang Yu of Azure Frost Elixir Workshop heard that, she could not help and sneer before glancing sideways at Su Zimo. "Do you think that you can walk out alive after entering the palace?"

Su Zimo's gaze swept horizontally and a murderous aura burst forth, carrying a thick stench of blood that made one's heart tremble in fear!

Yang Yu's breath tightened and she swallowed the words she was about to say.

The corpses on the ground had yet to go cold and the blood flowing was still warm – who would dare offend someone who had just conducted a massacre in the capital?

Patting Xiaoning on the head, Su Zimo said firmly, "Go back first and wait for me. I'll come and pick you up in a bit."

Sensing the confidence in Su Zimo's tone, Su Xiaoning stopped crying and asked softly, "Really?"

"Really!" Su Zimo nodded.

On the other side, Bald Vulture came before the cultivators from True Fire Elixir Workshop and said in a low voice, "All of you, head back now. Notify the most prominent cultivators from True Fire Sect in the capital such as Elder Zhang from True Fire Weapon Workshop et cetera and have them all head up to the imperial court to greet the emperor!"

"Understood!"

The cultivators from True Fire Elixir Workshop understood and turned to leave.

Turning slightly, Bald Vulture caught sight of Su Zimo not far away and sneered, "Kid, your backing is none other than Mu Dongqing. But, let me tell you, nobody can save you today!"

Su Zimo's expression was calm as he replied indifferently without fear, "Don't be too sure just yet."

The bearded man, Su Zimo and Bald Vulture moved towards the palace and soon disappeared in front of everyone.

"If they meet the emperor, it'll be difficult for that green-robed cultivator to avoid death. If the commander of the Azure Falcon guards wishes to protect that person, he'll be implicated too."

"Yes, while both sides are commanders of the city's guard squads, one side has the backing of True Fire Sect. If the many elders and Perfected Beings of True Fire Sect were to come forth and exert pressure, even the emperor will have to give some face."

"That's right, there's no way the emperor is going to offend True Fire Sect for a mere Foundation Establishment Cultivator. Fufu, not everyone is like Mr. Mo who can win against True Fire Sect."

The crowd did not disperse and continued discussing amongst themselves.

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"Mu Dongqing, where did you obtain that supreme-grade spirit weapon?"

On the way, Bald Vulture asked in a seemingly casual manner.

The bearded man said nothing.

A cold glint flashed in Bald Vulture's eyes as he said darkly, "There hasn't been any supreme-grade spirit weapons on auction in Sky Treasure Auction House recently. Furthermore, your supreme-grade spirit weapon is a hammer that's compatible with you. It's as though someone had customized it for you!"

Pausing for a moment, Bald Vulture said slowly, "That hammer was customized for you by Mr. Mo, right?"

"So what if it is? So what if it isn't?" The bearded man turned around and asked with a fake smile.

Bald Vulture declared proudly, "If you can help recommend and have Mr. Mo customize a supreme-grade spirit weapon for me too, I'll let you off for today's matters. Mu Dongqing, you've got no chance of winning today!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, Bald Vulture felt something and turned his head only to see Su Zimo staring at him with a strange expression, seemingly mocking him.

That gaze made Bald Vulture feel disgusted.

He laughed sinisterly. "Kid, once you're in my hands, the first thing I'll do is to dig your eyeballs out so that you can have your fill of looking at me!"

Upon hearing that, Su Zimo chuckled softly. "Interesting."

Chapter 283: Because He Is Mo Ling

Rain Admiration Pavilion.

In an elegant place in the palace, this was where members of the royal family would listen to and admire rain from.

Clear water flowed in front of the pavilion with lotus flowers and leaves floating on it. Beside the pool were Japanese banana trees and green bamboos.

Be it the gentle rain of spring or the casual showers of autumn, the sound of them landing on the different plants would bring about a different state of mind for those listening. The different sounds ringing in their ears and mind created varying sensations.

Not long after Su Zimo and the other two entered the palace, someone came forward and brought them here.

There were only two people in the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

One of them was Bai Yuhan who came before them.

The other person wore golden brocade robes and his long hair draped over his shoulders. Standing in front of the window, he looked up at the sky. While his back was facing everyone such that his face could not be seen, he exuded an indescribable dignity which left one impressed.

“Greetings, Your Majesty!”

The bearded man and Bearded man knelt on one knee immediately and shouted with cupped fists.

“Yes.”

The Emperor of Great Zhou’s voice was deep and magnetic.

Looking at the back view of the emperor, Su Zimo’s eyes flickered.

“Reporti—”

At this moment, a guard of the imperial army dashed over. “Ten elders of True Fire Weapon Workshop and True Fire Elixir Workshop requests an audience with Your Majesty!”

“Granted.”

The emperor replied with a single word.

Bald Vulture glanced sideways at the bearded man in a provocative manner and laughed coldly.

The bearded man was unmoved and his expression was calm.

Before long, ten Golden Cores tore through the air – almost all of them were old men with long beards!

While those Golden Cores were from True Fire Sect, they had resided in the capital for hundreds of years.

Elder Zhang of True Fire Weapon Workshop was considered young among the ten.

The emperor did not turn around nor did he say anything, merely looking up at the skies.



Unknowingly, the skies were already filled with clouds and it seemed like a downpour was about to rain down.

No one could read the emperor's thoughts.

The atmosphere within the Rain Admiration Pavilion suddenly seemed a little suffocating and gloomy.

Standing out, Bai Yuhan said, "If there's anything you guys want to say, say it here. Your Majesty will make the final decision."

The ten elders of True Fire Sect exchanged glances and someone stood out, pointing at Su Zimo. "That person killed wantonly in the capital and has no regard for the law. Not only did he kill two of our True Fire Sect disciples for no reason, he even murdered two Scarlet Vulture guards! He has no morals!"

Boom!

Right then, a thunder boomed.

Immediately after, rain poured down heavily.

Amidst the pouring rain, Bald Vulture said slowly, "Your Majesty, this person disregards our laws and that's equivalent to challenging the authority of you. It won't do for us to not kill him. We wouldn't be able to appease the commoners and maintain our law and order!"

"In addition, even though this lad committed a heinous crime, Mu Dongqing, as the commander of the Azure Falcon guards, is even standing up for him instead of avoiding trouble! He nearly caused a massive battle and an internal fight between the guard squads! I feel that Mu Dongqing should be stripped of his position as the commander of the Azure Falcon guards and be imprisoned eternally!"

The rain outside became heavier as Bald Vulture's words fell.

Landing on the leaves of the Japanese banana trees, the raindrops portrayed a sound of urgency as a killing intent shrouded the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

The emperor stood with his hands behind his back, merely watching the heavy rain outside without saying anything.

The Rain Admiration Pavilion fell into a momentary silence.

The atmosphere was turning increasingly heavy.

A moment later, Su Zimo spoke slowly, "Everyone missed out something. He Xing was the one who attacked me first."

Elder Zhang of True Fire Weapon Workshop sneered, "From what I know, He Xing merely wanted to slap you. That would be humiliating at most, but you chose to kill him!"

Su Zimo replied indifferently, "Anyone who humiliates me will have to die in regret."

"Haha!"

Elder Zhang burst into laughter. "What a joke! Who are you such that He Xing has to pay with his life for humiliating you?"

“I’m someone that He Xing cannot touch. If he touches me, he’ll have to die!” Su Zimo enunciated each and every word.

The ten elders of True Fire Sect were startled.

They could vaguely sense that Su Zimo was not joking.

Bald Vulture had also noticed that something seemed to be amiss with the situation.

The fact that Su Zimo could maintain his composure in the presence of the emperor meant that he had something to fall back on!

“On what basis?!”

Elder Zhang gritted his teeth and asked.

Right then, another voice sounded from the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

“On the basis that he’s the number one Weapon Refinement Master in the capital of the Great Zhou Dynasty, the master of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop — Mo Ling!”

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice only to see the emperor turn around slowly, revealing his appearance. He had a wide forehead and bright, clear eyes accompanied by an aura of authority — this was the yellow-robed man who had visited Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop a couple of months ago!

The moment he said that, other than the bearded man, everyone present were dumbfounded.

That green-robed cultivator was Mo Ling?

Wasn’t Mo Ling a Golden Core?

That person was only at late-stage Foundation Establishment realm, how could he refine supreme-grade spirit weapons?

Elder Zhang’s mind was in an absolute mess – how did Mo Ling survive the assassination attempt that night a couple of months ago as a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator?

If the emperor had not said it personally, no one would have believed it.

Even now, everyone present had doubts about it.

The bearded man was relatively calm since he knew about Su Zimo’s identity earlier on.

A flash of realization flickered across Bai Yuhan’s eyes as she thought to herself, “So, that’s your trump card. No wonder you are so calm.”

No matter what True Fire Sect or Bald Vulture had to say, as long as Su Zimo’s identity was made known, he could turn the entire situation around!

Among them, the most stunned person was the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards, Bald Vulture.

How could this be...?

How did it suddenly turn into this...?

Bald Vulture had thought of countless possibilities but the only thing he did not expect was that this person was Mo Ling!

If that was truly the case, the fact that He Xing wanted to humiliate the number one Weapon Refinement Master in the capital of Great Zhou would only mean that he deserved to die.

Unknowingly, the rain outside had stopped!

The heavy rain left as suddenly as it came.

The emperor looked at Su Zimo with burning eyes and asked with a smile, "Mr. Mo, it's been a long time. How have you been?"

Initially, the emperor thought that his sudden appearance would definitely cause Su Zimo to be shocked.

On the contrary, Su Zimo looked calm and composed.

He merely bowed slightly with cupped fists. "It's my honor."

The reason for that composure was because a few months earlier, Su Zimo had already deduced the identity of the yellow-robed man!

Bald Vulture knew that his actions had already offended Su Zimo and made up his mind. "Even if you are Mo Ling and it's justified for you to kill He Xing, why did you have to kill my Scarlet Vulture guards?!"

Su Zimo replied, "The Scarlet Vulture guards chose to ignore things when He Xing and Pang Ming instigated the spirit lion to hurt others. Why were they suddenly trying to kill without second thoughts when it came to me?"

"In fact, commander, I suspect that you harbor ulterior motives along with True Fire Sect. You guys worked together to set up this trap in Yongxing City today to have me killed!"

The moment he said that, the expressions of the ten elders of True Fire Sect and Bald Vulture changed.

Su Zimo's words were as sharp as a sword piercing at their hearts!

Previously, the emperor had made a clear declaration that no one was to cause trouble for Mo Ling in the future.

Now, of all people, they clashed with Mo Ling. If they could not explain it clearly, it would indeed cause the emperor to misunderstand.

By then, they would be the ones incurring the wrath of the emperor!

With just a few words, the entire situation had turned!

Outside the Rain Admiration Pavilion, a ray of sunlight broke through the gray clouds and scattered on the water, reflecting a beautiful light.

Chapter 284: Settling of the Dust

Bald Vulture was so frightened that he broke out in cold sweat and knelt on the ground hurriedly. "Before this, I did not even know that this was Mr. Mo let alone set up a trap together with True Fire Sect. Please understand, Your Majesty!"

Elder Zhang of True Fire Weapon Workshop glared at Su Zimo with deathly eyes as though he wanted to rip off a piece of the latter's flesh!

This person in front of him was Mo Ling?

The same Mo Ling who was known as the number one Weapon Refinement Master in the Great Zhou Dynasty and could customize supreme-grade spirit weapons?

How old was this person?

He was merely in his twenties. Despite having a deep-rooted foundation spanning thousands of years in the capital, True Fire Weapon Workshop lost to a young man like this!

The other True Fire Sect elders were also in a state of panic and looked terrified upon hearing the news.

Upon seeing this, the commander of the White Hawk guards, Bai Yuhan, sighed to herself.

In reality, if the green-robed cultivator before them was a commoner, even if He Xing provoked him first, the Emperor of Great Zhou would definitely take on the side of True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards out of political consideration.

That person would not have been able to avoid death!

However, that green-robed cultivator had another identity all of a sudden!

At least in the capital of Great Zhou, the identity of Mo Ling was more than enough to go against True Fire Sect and had enjoyed unprecedented influence in the past two years.

True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards could only consider themselves unlucky bumping into him.

Pondering for a moment, the emperor declared loudly, "True Fire Sect bullied others with their authority and instigated the spirit lion to injure others. Also, He Xing provoked Mr. Mo and deserved to die."

"Bald Vulture, you were from True Fire Sect and could be considered as half a disciple of theirs. It was clear that you were biased in this matter. Furthermore, you could not manage your underlings and failed to control the situation immediately, that is a dereliction of duty."

If the Scarlet Vulture guards had stood out to uphold justice after Pang Ming instigated the spirit lion to injure others, Su Zimo would not have killed anyone on the streets.

It was precisely because of the Scarlet Vulture guards' actions that Su Zimo harbored a killing intent upon seeing Xiaoning bullied helplessly by the people of True Fire Elixir Workshop and Azure Frost Elixir Workshop!

The emperor continued, "Bald Vulture, your punishment shall be a year without salary and break days. If anything similar happens again, you will definitely be severely punished!"

"Thank you, Your Majesty."

The emperor waved it off. "Alright, all of you can leave now. Mr. Mo, stay behind."

With the dust on things settling, the ten elders of True Fire Sect, Bald Vulture, the bearded man and Bai Yuhan left the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

The ten elders of True Fire Sect suffered a huge blow.

Before this, True Fire Weapon Workshop's reputation in the capital had already plummeted after losing to Mo Ling.

And now, of all people, True Fire Elixir Workshop bumped into Mo Ling once more, resulting in the death of one of their most promising Elixir Refinement Master of the younger generation – it was a terrible loss.

"Mo Ling, Mo Ling..."

Elder Zhang gritted his teeth. With a darkened expression, his eyes were filled with endless hatred.

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Rain Admiration Pavilion.

"Mr. Mo, you're quite the schemer."

After everyone left, the emperor looked at Su Zimo with a faint smile and said something baffling.

Su Zimo's expression was unchanged and he did not reply.

The emperor smiled and changed the topic. "Mr. Mo, there's still a month before the sect competition. After it's over, the ancient battlefield will be opened up. What plans do you have?"

"There are huge opportunities within the ancient battlefield and I naturally want to explore it. When the time comes, I'll partake in the sect competition," Su Zimo said.

The emperor laughed. "Given your capabilities, I'm sure you will take a spot in the weapon ranking list without even taking part in the sect competition."

"How about this, I'd like to invite you as one of the judges for the sect competition. At that time, you can give some pointers to the talents taking part. I'll reserve the number one spot on the weapon ranking list for you so that you can enter the ancient battlefield with everyone after the sect competition. How does that sound?"

"Thank you, Your Majesty."

Su Zimo cupped his fists in thanks and paused for a moment before continuing, "Your Majesty, the supreme-grade spirit weapon that you customized previously is already done..."

"I'll leave it with you first. When the time comes, I'll get someone to retrieve it," The emperor replied casually.

Su Zimo was slightly stunned. While he was puzzled, he did not ask further.

Worried about Xiaoning, Su Zimo bowed and bid farewell before leaving the Rain Admiration Pavilion under the lead of guards.

Just as Su Zimo left the Rain Admiration Pavilion, a squad of the Imperial Army was patrolling in the area. Their leader was clad in golden armor and had a cold expression, scrutinizing the surroundings with a sharp gaze.

The gold-armored Imperial Army soldier happened to see Su Zimo leaving the Rain Admiration Pavilion and was about to look away when his expression changed, seemingly recalling something.

“Hmm?”

The gold-armored Imperial Army soldier narrowed his gaze and followed in the direction of Su Zimo.

Su Zimo moved swiftly and in the blink of an eye, the only thing left in the view of the gold-armored Imperial Army soldier was his back view.

“It’s him?”

“How is that possible?”

The gold-armored Imperial Army soldier muttered and his eyes flickered in thought.

A few years had passed and the change in that person’s body was too great.

Logically speaking, that person could not cultivate because he did not have a spirit root.

If not for that familiar green clothes and that delicate side profile, the gold-armored Imperial Army soldier would not have linked the two of them as the same person.

The gold-armored Imperial Army soldier hesitated for a moment and killing intent flashed in his eyes. Turning to a guard behind him, he ordered, “Continue patrolling. I need to go out for a while.”

“Understood!”

The Imperial Army behind him bowed in response.

The gold-armored Imperial Army soldier stealthily followed in the direction Su Zimo left in.

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Rain Admiration Pavilion.

Not long after Su Zimo left, a scholarly man flew over – it was Perfected Lord Ming Ze.

Perfected Lord Ming Ze smiled bitterly. “It seems like that Mo Ling had truly guessed the identity of Your Majesty previously. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been so composed today.”

“Interesting. To think that he would have thought of using my power to break out of the situation.”

The emperor smiled as well and asked, “What’s the name of that girl from Azure Frost Sect who was injured by the spirit lion?”

Perfected Lord Ming Ze replied, "I heard she's called Su Xiaoning and is siblings with Mo Ling. Her background is unknown and no one heard her mentioning anything either, but according to the other disciples, she's rather close with the third princess in Azure Frost Sect."

The emperor frowned.

He analyzed, "There's only two possibilities if their surnames are different. First, Mo Ling's surname is Su. Second, Su Xiaoning is only a younger sister acknowledged in name. No matter the possibility, it proves that Su Xiaoning holds a lot of weight in Mo Ling's heart!"

The emperor nodded, his eyes shining with wisdom as he said slowly, "On the surface, He Xing's death was because he struck first and wanted to punish Mo Ling. In reality, it's clear that Mo Ling was the one who lured He Xing into attacking because he wanted to stand up for his younger sister. That was why he killed He Xing on the streets!"

"That's right, that He Xing was stupid enough to want to try and punish Mo Ling without making clear of the situation. He did not expect to lose his life instead," Perfected Lord Ming Ze shook his head and sighed.

The emperor said casually, "I gave him a hint earlier on that I believe he understood."

"Yes, the fact that you didn't expose him in front of everyone is a huge favor, Your Majesty. As for Su Xiaoning's identity, perhaps the third princess might know something about it," Perfected Lord Ming Ze replied.

"Yes."

The emperor nodded. "Xue'er is coming back soon."

Chapter 285: Too Many Spirit Weapons

Azure Frost Elixir Workshop.

A few female cultivators gathered around Su Xiaoning excitedly, chattering non-stop as the flames of gossip burned in their eyes.

"Xiaoning, was that person really your brother? Why haven't you mentioned him before?"

"What's his name? How old is he? What sect is he from? Does he have a Dao partner?"

"Why didn't he join Azure Frost Sect together with you?"

"Xiaoning, you guys seem so close. Are you his Dao partner?"

Su Xiaoning frowned slightly with worry in her eyes as she pursed her lips in silence.

Sensing that Su Xiaoning was in a glum mood, someone consoled her, "Xiaoning, don't be anxious. It's only been two hours, it's still early."

"I advise you to give up hope!"

Right then, a female cultivator emerged from the back hall with a look of menace on her face – this was none other than their senior sister, Yang Yu.

Yang Yu scoffed coldly. “He killed four people in the capital and you expect him to get out alive? Dream on!”

Taking a deep breath of air, Su Xiaoning replied firmly, “My brother promised me that he would definitely come and fetch me!”

“How naive.”

Yang Yu did not hide the sarcasm in her eyes. “Of the four people that were killed, two of them were disciples of True Fire Elixir Workshop and two of them were Scarlet Vulture guards. Do you think that True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards are to be trifled with?”

“Who do you think your brother is to be able to go against those two powerhouses?”

With every word of Yang Yu’s, Su Xiaoning’s face turned paler.

She knew very well in her heart that the probability of Su Zimo leaving the capital alive was very low, but she was still willing to place her trust in him.

Yang Yu changed the topic. “However, we can’t be too sure about that either. There are indeed people who have what it takes to go against True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards in the capital. For example...”

She was beating around the bush deliberately and waited for Su Xiaoning to let out a hopeful look before continuing slowly, “For example, your brother could be from the royal family itself! Fufu!”

Before she was finished, Yang Yu already burst out in laughter and her eyes were filled with mockery.

She was completely making fun of Su Xiaoning – if Su Zimo was someone of the royal family, how could the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards not recognize him?

Yang Yu added, “Of course, other than the royal family, there’s another person in the capital who can withstand the power of True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards. That is...”

While Su Xiaoning knew that Yang Yu was clearly mocking her, she looked at the latter hopefully waiting for an answer.

“That is... the number one Weapon Refinement Master of the Great Zhou Dynasty, Mr. Mo!” Yang Yu declared.

Su Xiaoning’s eyes dimmed.

Yang Yu chuckled. “Let me think, Junior Sister Su. Could your brother be Mr. Mo? Eh, that’s not right. Your surname’s Su and Mr. Mo’s surname is Mo. That seems a little far off... Also, I heard that Mr. Mo is a Golden Core but your brother seems to be a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator, fufu!”

Su Xiaoning declared, “You don’t have to be sarcastic, Senior Sister Yang. I believe that my brother will definitely return alive!”

“Ha!”

Yang Yu scoffed with a stifled laugh. “If your brother returns alive, I’ll...”



Right after Yang Yu said that, she caught sight of a figure striding over. Dressed in green robes with delicate features, he walked into the main hall slowly.

The cultivators in the main hall were stunned on the spot, watching in shock with their mouths agape.

“H-How could that be? You, you...!”

Yang Yu looked at the person who arrived and her mind was in a mess.

Someone that she thought would definitely be dead was standing alive and well right before her!

Su Zimo glared at Yang Yu coldly. “Continue. What did you say you were going to do if I were to return alive, hmm?”

Yang Yu felt her heart clench as Su Zimo glared at her. She turned away instinctively, not daring to meet his gaze as she felt an unprecedented sense of fear.

“Brother!”

Su Xiaoning exclaimed in delight and buried herself head first into Su Zimo’s arms, sobbing softly.

He let out a gentle expression and patted her on the back.

Su Zimo supported Xiaoning to the side before walking over to Yang Yu slowly with a cold expression — his gaze was sharp as a knife and emitted a chilling killing intent.

“W-What do you want? This is Azure Frost Elixir Workshop, it’s not a place for you to be brazen!”

Yang Yu was somewhat flustered as she pretended to be tough on the outside and scolded while she retreated subconsciously.

“Even within the capital, I dare to kill! Do you think that I won’t dare to kill someone in Azure Frost Elixir Workshop?”

Su Zimo continued to approach with a cold gaze.

Yang Yu gulped and felt increasingly flustered and horrified.

While she was at perfected Foundation Establishment, a cultivation realm higher than Su Zimo’s, she was completely stunned by Su Zimo’s aura right now!

Who wouldn’t be afraid of someone that could walk out of the palace safely after starting a massacre in the capital?

Even the Golden Cores of Azure Frost Sect were feeling wary at the moment, let alone Yang Yu.

No one dared to lay a hand on Su Zimo without knowing his identity!

Someone that could survive against the combined forces of True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards definitely had a high status – who would dare offend someone like that?

Before long, Yang Yu was already backed against the wall with nowhere to run.

“Do you know why those four people were killed?”

Su Zimo came before Yang Yu and asked with narrowed eyes.

Yang Yu's face was pale as she shook her head.

He replied slowly, "It was because they bullied Xiaoning. You bullied her as well."

"I-I... didn't!"

Yang Yu's defense was powerless.

Su Zimo changed the topic and said, "But don't worry, I won't kill you."

When she heard that, Yang Yu heaved a long sigh of relief. Unknowingly, her back was already wet with sweat.

A mocking look flashed in Su Zimo's eyes as he smiled. "I won't kill you because someone else will deal with you."

Instantly, Yang Yu's relief was short-lived.

Right then, Su Xiaoning ran over and pulled Su Zimo away, saying to Yang Yu, "Senior Sister Yang, do we still have the deal we agreed on previously? I'll sell you this Elixir Furnace for 5,000 superior-grade spirit stones or a superior-grade spirit weapon."

Slowly, she took out an Elixir Furnace from her storage bag.

It was this Elixir Furnace that attracted the attention of He Xing from True Fire Sect and the series of conflicts thereafter.

The Elixir Furnace let out an extraordinary phenomenon when it was touched by Xiaoning's blood.

Furthermore, Su Zimo could tell that Xiaoning was extremely fond of the Elixir Furnace – why was she selling it all of a sudden?

"Xiaoning, why are you selling this furnace?" Su Zimo asked, puzzled.

Su Xiaoning replied in seriousness, "Brother, you're always empty-handed. You most likely don't have any handy spirit weapons with you. Once I sell this furnace, I'll have the money to customize a superior-grade spirit weapon for you."

Su Zimo felt his heart flood with warmth as he rubbed Xiaoning's head dotingly. "Hurry and put the furnace away."

He said in a matter-of-factly manner, "Xiaoning, let me tell you, the reason why I'm empty-handed isn't because I've got no spirit weapons. It's because I've got too many..."

"Hmph, you're bragging again!"

"Let's go, I'll take you to my place to take a look."

No longer bothered with Yang Yu, Su Zimo brought Xiaoning away from Azure Frost Elixir Workshop.

Chapter 286: Hunting Mutually

By the time they left Azure Frost Elixir Workshop, it was already evening and there were less people on the streets.

The siblings naturally had a lot to say after not seeing each other for years.

“Senior Sister Yang even said that only Mr. Mo or someone from the royal family could return safe and sound. Hehe, seems like my brother can do it too.”

“She isn’t wrong about that.”

“Ah?”

“That’s because I’m Mr. Mo.”

“I don’t believe you!”

Su Zimo smiled and did not explain, leading Xiaoning towards Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Before long, the two of them arrived at the entrance of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Under Su Xiaoning’s bewildered gaze, Su Zimo knocked on the door of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Before long, an extremely stunning girl with withered, yellow hair stuck her head out – it was Nian Qi.

“Sir.”

Nian Qi greeted crisply in delight after seeing Su Zimo.

“Yes.”

Su Zimo nodded and pushed Xiaoning over. “This is my younger sister. You guys can chat first. I have some other matters to attend to and will return a little later.”

“Alright, don’t worry, sir.”

Nian Qi nodded obediently.

Su Xiaoning looked at the words ‘Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop’ with an agape mouth and widened eyes, unable to link Su Zimo with Mr. Mo who was famous throughout the capital.

It was only after Su Zimo left and Su Xiaoning was brought to the courtyard by Nian Qi in a daze before she gradually regained her senses.

“Is my brother really Mr. Mo?”

Su Xiaoning looked at Nian Qi and asked cautiously.

“That’s right.”

Nian Qi pointed at the big, black dog sprawling on the side and smiled. “It’s called Night Spirit and is sir’s spirit beast. Mo Spirit’s name is combined from sir and Night Spirit’s names.”

Night Spirit opened its eyes and glanced at Su Xiaoning indifferently before going back to sleep without moving.

Nian Qi chuckled. "Night Spirit is like this. Other than sir, it's not close to anyone. Don't be misled by how it always looks so lazy. When it's angry, it's really scary."

The two of them were about the same age and they soon became close.

...

After following the green-robed cultivator out of the capital, Dai Xu took off his armor and changed into a common set of robes, hiding himself in the crowd and hung from the back.

He was unable to verify if this person he was following was the same man he had seen that small town a few years ago.

After all, the man in that small town was only a mortal that could not cultivate. However, this green-robed man was already at late-stage Foundation Establishment!

Furthermore, it shouldn't make sense for that man to appear in the capital or even the palace.

How was that possible?

Everything would not really make sense if they were the same person.

However, for some reason, even though it was only a single glance, Dai Xu had an extremely strong feeling about it in his heart.

They were the same person!

While that man seemed like a frail scholar on the surface, his spine was extremely straight as though there was nothing or no one in this world that could crush him!

Dai Xu followed the green-robed cultivator and saw the latter enter Azure Frost Elixir Workshop.

Not long later, he came out with a female cultivator.

When he saw the face of that female cultivator, Dai Xu no longer had any doubts.

This green-robed cultivator was the same scholar from that unremarkable small town of that vassal state – Su Zimo!

The woman beside him was his younger sister, Su Xiaoning. She was taken away by the third princess back then and brought onto the path of cultivation after joining Azure Frost Sect.

Dai Xu continued to follow Su Zimo.

When he caught sight of Su Xiaoning sent into Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop, Dai Xu's eyes flickered in thoughts.

"Su Zimo, Mo Ling..."

Right after, Su Zimo left and headed out of the city.

Dai Xu's expression flickered as he looked at Su Zimo's back. After pondering for a while, the killing intent in his eyes disappeared and he continued following silently.

The two of them left the city one after another.

After leaving the capital, Su Zimo summoned his flying sword and sped off to the distance on it.

Dai Xu hurriedly followed.

Not long after, Su Zimo entered a dense forest.

He removed his flying sword and in a flash, sprinted through the forest at an extremely fast speed – it was completely unpredictable.

They were in a forest after all and the view wasn't as open compared to outside with many places to hide and blind spots all around.

Dai Xu's Sword Kinesis Flight had to slow down.

A while later, Su Zimo disappeared from Dai Xu's sights entirely!

Arriving at the vicinity of where Su Zimo was last seen, Dai Xu surveyed the surroundings with a grim expression.

At this moment, the night grew darker and the beasts of the forest had already left their caves with the appearance of the moon.

The light in the forest was dim and the roar of spirit beasts could be heard from time to time. Branches and leaves rustled, filling the air with an eerie hint of blood stench.

Feeling uneasy, Dai Xu took out his golden armor. Just as he put it on properly, he felt something and turned around suddenly.

Not far behind him was a green-robed cultivator with his hands behind his back. The cool moonlight shone through the dense branches and leaves, illuminating his face in patches.

The green-robed cultivator's expression was calm and there was a slight mockery in his eyes.

"Su Zimo!"

Dai Xu narrowed his eyes and said word by word.

Su Zimo smiled faintly. "It's been a long time, Commander Dai."

"You've changed quite a bit after a few years. I'm truly impressed."

Dai Xu's lips curled as he remarked coldly, "You were just a mere mortal back then but you're already at late-stage Foundation Establishment now. Not bad, not bad."

Su Zimo replied with a fake smile, "It's all thanks to you not killing me back then, Commander Dai."

"Humph!"

Dai Xu snorted coldly upon hearing that.

If Su Zimo had not been tactful enough to keep his distance from Ji Yaoxue back then, this man would have been dead a couple of years ago!

While Dai Xu had hidden himself well back then, Su Zimo had sensed Dai Xu's killing intent with his spirit perception!

"Commander Dai, why have you followed me all the way here?" Su Zimo asked straightforwardly.

"Su Zimo, if you were smart enough, you should have stayed away from the capital and kept your distance from the third princess!"

Dai Xu said slowly with a murderous expression, "Now that you've appeared in the capital, I can only say that you're courting death!"

Dai Xu took out a flying sword from his storage bag as he said that.

Su Zimo smiled. "You're not telling the truth, Commander Dai."

Dai Xu remained silent.

Su Zimo continued, "That's not the only reason why you want to kill me. It's because you've also guessed my identity as Mo Ling and you want to steal my treasures by killing me, right?"

"Haha!"

Dai Xu laughed out loud. "You're very smart, but you will still die today!"

Su Zimo raised his brows slightly and asked, "I've already noticed that you were following me after I left the palace. However, do you know why I chose to leave the city?"

"You want to hunt me!"

Dai Xu laughed. "You're confident enough to lure me to this desolated forest to hunt me down! However, I harbored the same intentions!"

Su Zimo nodded. "Not bad."

With a cold voice, Dai Xu remarked, "There's nothing much to say then. The outcome will depend on our skills. Let me see how much you've grown over these past few years!"

### **Chapter 287: Killing**

This time, both of them wanted to kill.

Furthermore, both of them were confident that they could kill the other party!

That was why Su Zimo lured Dai Xu out of the capital.

At the same time, Dai Xu chased fearlessly despite knowing Su Zimo's intentions.

They were one another's prey and whoever was hunted would depend on who had stronger means!

Dai Xu channeled his spirit energy and a beam of light shone on his body. A spirit meridian flickered and emitted a dazzling light.

"You're only a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator but I'm a meridian cultivator! What do you have to fight me with?"

Dai Xu laughed coldly as he channeled his spirit energy, causing the flying sword in his hands to buzz and three spirit patterns to shine.

A superior-grade spirit weapon!

Pshew!

A sword beam tore through the void and sped towards Su Zimo.

At the same time, Dai Xu waved his sleeves and conjured a hand seal, pointing a finger forward as he shouted.

“Roar!”

A deafening roar sounded out of nowhere.

A spirit demon that was condensed from spirit energy appeared in the void. Looking menacing, it hollered into the skies with a torrential killing intent before lunging towards Su Zimo.

The flying sword and spirit art attacked simultaneously!

Su Zimo’s expression was unchanged as he pressed his middle finger and thumb together, forming a strange hand seal that he pushed slowly forward.

Fiend Suppression Seal!

He did not test the waters at all.

Su Zimo released the strongest spirit art he knew immediately!

The spirit energy in Su Zimo’s dantian surged furiously into the handprint that he had conjured.

Boom!

A huge golden palm descended from the sky accompanied by a deafening bang, breaking through the firmaments and crushing air currents as it slammed down towards the direction of the spirit demon and flying sword in a terrifying manner!

Dai Xu’s expression changed.

He could clearly tell that the golden palm seemed like it was formed by spirit energy. However, it seemed corporeal, as if the palm of a god was descending from the heavens, bent on purging all evil in the world!

Bang!

In midair, the howling spirit demon collided with the golden palm and cracks immediately appeared on the surface of its body.

In the blink of an eye, it dissipated in the air!

Dai Xu’s expression changed.

Normally, the spirit art conjured by his spirit energy as a one meridian Foundation Establishment Cultivator should be able to defeat a late-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator with ease.

However, the situation was exactly opposite right now!

There was only one possibility – the other party’s spirit art was way stronger than his own!

In midair, Dai Xu’s flying sword pressed against the center of the golden palm and could not advance.

The sword was trembling and its spirit energy was unstable, showing signs of breaking apart – it was on the verge of giving out at any moment now.

Dai Xu sneered and channeled his spirit energy once more.

Whoosh!

A beam of light shone through Dai Xu’s gold armor.

Two spirit meridians!

Spirit Peering Art could not be used to tell how many meridians a perfected Foundation Establishment Cultivator had unlocked – the only way of knowing is if the cultivator revealed it personally.

But now, Dai Xu had already revealed two spirit meridians!

Spirit energy surged within the two meridians in a sturdy manner.

Dai Xu manipulated the flying sword which shone brightly as its strength continued climbing. Straight and sharp, the sword actually stopped the golden palm!

No matter how strong the Fiend Suppression Seal was, it had its limits and it was difficult to make up for the difference in cultivation realms.

“Su Zimo, if that’s all you’ve got, today will be your death anniversary a year from now!”

The fact that Dai Xu was able to divert his attention to speak in the face of such an immense battle proved that he was not using his full strength!

Su Zimo had a calm expression and did not reply.

While Dai Xu was not using his full strength, Su Zimo had backup plans too.

“Break!”

Right then, Dai Xu’s body shone with another beam of light once more as he shouted softly.

A third spirit meridian!

The power of the three meridians erupted at the same time as the flying sword in midair shone brighter.

Both parties fell into a stalemate and with a bang, the flying sword pierced the golden palm. It continued its trajectory towards Su Zimo’s head without any loss in momentum!

The moment Dai Xu revealed the third meridian, Su Zimo had already realized that it was going to be difficult to kill Dai Xu using immortal cultivation methods given his current cultivation realm.



Cracks appeared on the golden palm after it was pierced and it was on the verge of collapsing.

Pshew!

The sword beam was piercingly cold and extremely fast.

However, Su Zimo was even faster!

The moment the flying sword pierced the golden palm, Su Zimo moved and left a series of afterimages from where he was.

Swoosh!

Like a fierce horse, Su Zimo arrived before Dai Xu in the blink of an eye.

After Divine Steed Fleeting, he made a sudden move and took a huge stride forth, using the stance of Plow Heaven Stride.

Boom!

That single step caused the ground to quake as Su Zimo's aura increased tremendously!

His eyes lit up with a frenzied killing intent. Suddenly, he reached out with both hands and grabbed Dai Xu's arms, bending his knees while smashing forth!

Divine Steed Dismemberment!

With Divine Steed Fleeting, he was able to shorten the distance between them and close in. Right after, Plow Heaven Stride aided him in bursting forth with a torrential aura and he finished off with Divine Steed Dismemberment in a fluid motion without any sluggishness!

As long as Dai Xu's arms were locked by Su Zimo, he would definitely die!

The burst of Divine Steed Fleeting as well as Plow Heaven Stride coupled with the power of Divine Steed Dismemberment was enough to rip Dai Xu apart!

In the face of Su Zimo's attacks that were like a tempestuous storm, Dai Xu's eyes were filled with an initial flash of panic before calming down.

"Ah!"

He roared and yet another spirit light shone on his body!

Boom!

The fourth spirit meridian had appeared!

The fifth!

The sixth!

Instantly, six spirit meridians appeared on Dai Xu's body.

His aura expanded rapidly and his spirit energy was rich as he entered a berserk state.

Six meridian Foundation Establishment!

There were not many Foundation Establishment Cultivators who could unlock six of the eight meridian channels.

Furthermore, the more meridians one had unlocked, the tougher it would be to unlock more – the difficulty level of unlocking the meridians wasn't the same.

Unless one entered the ancient battlefield and obtained a huge opportunity within, it was already almost the limit for one to unlock six meridians in Tianhuang Mainland!

Initially, Dai Xu did not use all his strength.

That was because in his opinion, Su Zimo was only at late-stage Foundation Establishment – this was someone who was far inferior to his cultivation realm and there was no need for that.

The outcome of the battle was already decided.

But now, after Su Zimo unleashed that formidable chain of attacks, Dai Xu realized that the battle was not as simple as he thought it was.

The spirit energy of six spirit meridians exploded instantly!

“You’re courting death!”

There was a fierce look on Dai Xu’s eyes as he clasped his hands in front of him and formed a huge ball of spirit energy, blocking Su Zimo’s way.

This ball of spirit energy was condensed from almost all of Dai Xu’s strength and was not to be underestimated.

Su Zimo narrowed his eyes.

If Dai Xu was only at three or even four meridians, Su Zimo was confident that he could kill the former with just the burst of his physical strength!

However, Dai Xu’s strength at six meridian Foundation Establishment was not something that Su Zimo could take head on with his physical strength.

Right then, the combined momentum of Divine Steed Fleeting and Plow Heaven Stride was too strong and it was too late for Su Zimo to make a change in move.

He channeled his bloodline.

Bang! Boom! Boom!

Splash!

A horrifying sound came from Su Zimo’s body. It was like thunder rumbling and it surged like a tsunami in a terrifying manner!

### **Chapter 288: The Terrifying Blood Qi**

Blood like a tsunami and the sound of thunder rumbling!

At that moment, Su Zimo who was charging over resembled a divine steed that was shining with lightning as furious tsunamis gushed from behind him!

Boom!

Su Zimo's knee hit the spirit energy ball that was created by Dai Xu, exploding with a loud bang!

A huge halo of energy burst out from the middle of the collision in a bedazzling manner, shining like daylight!

The light ball exploded and the violent spirit energy within was released entirely.

The spirit energy of a six meridian Foundation Establishment Cultivator was extremely concentrated and Su Zimo's body was repelled immediately, flipping a few times in the air before landing on the ground slowly.

Dai Xu stumbled back a couple of steps and his feet sank into the mud before he stood firmly.

It was an even split!

That was completely a frontal clash without any techniques involved.

The spirit energy of a six meridian Foundation Establishment Cultivator could match the power of bloodline that Su Zimo had released!

While Su Zimo was able to kill a Golden Core on that night a couple of months ago, he knew very well that if it was a one-on-one battle, neither he nor Night Spirit would be a match for Golden Cores.

On the one hand, the reason why Su Zimo lured Dai Xu to this place was to kill the latter.

On the other hand, Su Zimo wanted to know how powerful his demonic cultivation strength was and what cultivation realm of cultivators he could go up against.

In short, Su Zimo viewed Dai Xu as a guinea pig.

The moment the previous attack collided, Su Zimo understood.

With greater mastery of the Organs Refinements section, the strength released by him channeling his bloodline was enough to go head on against the strength of a six meridian Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

Dai Xu dug out an elixir with his left hand and swallowed it. He manipulated his flying sword with his right hand and glared at Su Zimo, panting slightly.

While Dai Xu appeared calm on the surface, he was in shock internally.

In his eyes, Su Zimo was only at late-stage Foundation Establishment. Given his cultivation at six meridian Foundation Establishment, he should be able to kill Su Zimo with ease!

But now, Dai Xu suddenly realized that Su Zimo's actual trump card was his terrifying physique and melee combat strength!

Tsunami blood?

That was a mystical realm of the legends! How could someone have cultivated it for real?

Even ancient ferocious beasts should not have been able to cultivate it!

The elixir that he had just swallowed had turned into a thick wave of spirit energy that coursed through his six meridians, making up for the consumption previously.

Pshew!

Dai Xu struck first and pointed forward. His flying sword transformed into a rainbow and sped forth.

Su Zimo's body flickered and he dodged the flying sword barely.

Ta! Ta! Ta!

Within a few steps, Su Zimo had already arrived in front of Dai Xu.

Dai Xu's expression was unchanged as he conjured a hand seal, summoning a sword of spirit energy in front of him that he used to stab at Su Zimo fiercely with his back hand!

At the same time, the superior-grade flying sword that was in midair changed directions and was already behind Su Zimo.

"Break it!"

With a loud shout, Su Zimo's blood began to surge in his body. He flexed his arm and drew a semicircle in midair before slamming it heavily against the incoming spirit energy sword using his hand like a seal!

Snap!

Cracks appeared and extended on the spirit energy sword, covering it entirely.

Dai Xu shuddered and shock flashed across his eyes.

At the same time, Su Zimo's arm twitched in reverse and he rested it gently on the incoming flying sword like an elephant's nose without even looking back.

He coiled his hand around the sword!

The spirit energy on the superior-grade flying sword dispersed and it fell into Su Zimo's palms in the blink of an eye!

Swash!

Su Zimo did not stop and he seized the snatched superior-grade flying sword, stabbing it towards Dai Xu's head!

"Ah!"

Dai Xu exclaimed and exerted strength in his legs as he leaped up.

Clang!

The superior-grade flying sword struck the armor around Dai Xu's chest area.

Shining with three golden spirit patterns, the golden armor emitted a strong power of resistance.

The flying sword merely pierced it but it had difficulty penetrating through.

It was a superior-grade defensive armor!

Dai Xu was frightened and broke out in cold sweat.

While they had only fought for a single round, he would have been a dead man if not for that golden armor of his.

“Kill!”

Dai Xu hollered in anger and conjured spirit seals with both hands, releasing spirit arts that shot towards Su Zimo.

Bang! Bang!

Su Zimo waved his fist and knocked over the incoming spirit energies, causing them to disperse with a slight pause of his body.

Making use of the collision's impact, Dai Xu retreated violently. He summoned a flying sword and leaped onto it, speeding towards the direction of the capital.

He realized that he was no match for Su Zimo and made an instant decision to run away without hesitation.

There was no way Su Zimo was going to let Dai Xu get out alive as he stood up and chased after the latter.

The two men sped through the forest, alarming countless birds and beasts.

Dai Xu gritted his teeth as spirit energy circulated crazily in his dantian and it throbbed in pain – it was almost at its limits!

He knew that he would definitely die if Su Zimo caught up to him!

Given that they had quite a huge gap between their cultivation realms, the speeds of their Sword Kinesis Flight differed equally as well.

As long as he could get out of the forest, the skies were much more spacious outside and Su Zimo would not be able to catch up to him no matter the methods he had up his sleeves!

Su Zimo sped through the forest and his bloodline circulated relentlessly. He was also at the limits of his circulation and he was closing in to Dai Xu.

With a calm gaze, Su Zimo looked at Dai Xu's back view.

The edge of the forest was not far away!

He had to kill Dai Xu before the latter got out of the forest!

A demonic glint flickered in Su Zimo's eyes as he reared his head and howled into the skies, releasing an extremely terrifying aura from his body that permeated through the forest – it was enough for all beasts to bow their heads!

This was something that was even more terrifying than his power of bloodline... the power of blood qi!

In that scarlet mist, Su Zimo's figure was partially invisible. His eyes were black as ink, looking like he was a peerless demon that was treading through darkness as he chased after his prey that was not far away.

Dai Xu suddenly felt a sense of trepidation.

It felt as though he was being targeted by an ancient ferocious beast and his scalp tingled like he was being stabbed in the back.

Instinctively, Dai Xu turned around.

Under the cover of the scarlet demonic qi, a tall figure walked through the forest and by making use of his body's burst, flickered between the trees in an extremely fast speed!

In the blink of an eye, the figure had arrived in front of Dai Xu.

Boom!

Stomping its feet on the ground, the figure produced such immense force that the ground was ripped apart, revealing two deep and dark cracks!

With the burst of his physical body, the figure leaped into the air and reached a height of about 100 feet!

A shadow enveloped the place.

The next moment, Dai Xu's pupils constricted and he felt his limbs go cold.

"You are..."

He only managed to say those two words when a white palm landed on his throat and grabbed ruthlessly!

Dai Xu's throat was fragile as tofu in the hands of Su Zimo and was ripped into a bloody mist that permeated the voids.

With a scoop, Su Zimo took away the storage bag on Dai Xu's waist and descended.

By the time he landed on the ground, the demonic qi around Su Zimo had already vanished entirely and the blood qi within his body was calm as normal.

In no time, under the hazy night sky, a green-robed cultivator left the forest and sped in the direction of the capital.

The forest regained its calm once more.

### **Chapter 289: Xiaoning's Path**

By the time Su Zimo returned to Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop, it was already late at night.

Landing softly in the courtyard, his ears quivered and he listened intently, vaguely hearing two stable streams of breathing emanating from Nian Qi's room.

In the darkness, a black figure that resembled a ghost walked over silently – it was Night Spirit.

Su Zimo relaxed slightly and calmed down.

As long as Night Spirit was around, it meant that Night Spirit and Xiaoning were safe.

They must have already slept.

Xiaoning had experienced many things today.

Initially, she was able to create a perfect Spirit Regeneration Elixir during her elixir competition with He Xing, but she was met with an ambush and her elixir formation failed.

Later on, she was left helpless against the encirclement of cultivators from True Fire Elixir Workshop and Azure Frost Elixir Workshop. Right after, she met Su Zimo.

Thereafter, Su Zimo killed on the streets and was brought to the palace, causing Xiaoning to be worried all the way until he returned safely.

Going through a roller-coaster of emotions as such was the most draining for one's mental state.

Su Zimo did not wake the two of them up. He returned to his room and sat cross-legged in deep thoughts.

Today, he was reunited with Xiaoning and met with the Emperor of Great Zhou again. He believed that it wouldn't take long before the emperor guessed that Mo Ling was Su Zimo.

In reality, given the emperor's intelligence, the main reason why he hadn't guessed the truth was because in his knowledge, Su Zimo was a mortal who could not cultivate.

However, Mo Ling was a Foundation Establishment Cultivator and the number one Weapon Refinement Master of Great Zhou renowned throughout the capital!

One of them was buried in soil while the other sat on clouds – the difference was too great.

But of course, that identity could not be hidden for long and would definitely be exposed at the sect competition.

Su Zimo was indifferent to this matter – he would just let nature take its course.

The night passed by silently and the next morning arrived.

Xiaoning woke up bright and early to check if Su Zimo had returned.

The moment she walked out of her room, she caught sight of him sitting in the courtyard, drinking freshly brewed tea in a pleased manner.

"Brother, sorry, I fell asleep yesterday."

Xiaoning had wanted to wait for Su Zimo to return the previous night. However, she could not fight the fatigue and fell into a deep sleep.

“Don’t worry about it.”

Su Zimo smiled and pointed to a stone stool beside him. “Sit down and talk to me.”

“Yes.”

Xiaoning sat down obediently and took over a cup of tea that Su Zimo handed to her. When she took a single sip, the fragrance wafted into her nose and she felt like all her pores had opened up.

“When did you come to the capital?” Su Zimo asked.

“I’ve been here for almost a year.”

Xiaoning replied, “I was the one who requested to be sent here. Sister Yaoxue and the others have not arrived yet.”

After saying that, Xiaoning paused on purpose and looked up at Su Zimo’s face.

His head lowered, Su Zimo was sipping his tea with a calm expression as though he hadn’t heard anything and did not react to it at all.

Xiaoning had no choice but to continue, “I was thinking that I could kill two birds with one stone. Not only can I help others refine elixirs, I can improve myself on the Dao of elixirs.”

Su Zimo asked again, “How did you think of becoming an Elixir Refinement Master?”

Xiaoning only had a pseudo spirit root; even if she focused on cultivation entirely without spending time on elixir refinement, she might not be able to reach Golden Core realm.

Su Zimo was puzzled as to why Xiaoning would still choose to become an Elixir Refinement Master given such circumstances.

She sighed softly, suddenly looking somewhat dejected. After a moment, she said slowly, “Among the three of us, only big brother can’t cultivate. I’m afraid that... he will leave us one day.”

Su Zimo remained silent.

There were countless nights where he had pondered over the same question and carried the same worries.

If he and Xiaoning could both form cores, Su Hong would definitely leave the world before them as his lifespan would not be longer than more than a hundred years.

Perhaps, no one could understand the kinship between the three of them.

Even though Su Zimo and Xiaoning were already on the path of cultivation, both of them carried a strong sense of dependence and attachment towards Su Hong in the depths of their hearts.

If not for Su Hong, both of them would not have been alive back then!

Ever since Su Zimo and Xiaoning could remember things, neither of them had met their parents. In their hearts, Su Hong was like their parents.



Xiaoning said in a smitten manner, "I know that it's something we have to experience eventually, the fact of life and death. However, I wish for that moment to come a little later."

"I heard from others that some powerful Elixir Refinement Masters are able to refine elixirs that can increase one's lifespan. Therefore, I want to try. Even if it's for a single year, a single month, or a single day, I'll be happy to do it."

Su Zimo was moved as he stretched his arms and hugged Xiaoning who had tears in her eyes gently, remaining silent.

Most cultivators took on the path of cultivation in pursuit of longevity.

Su Zimo had never heard of elixirs that could increase one's lifespan. Even if there was a recipe for that in the world, the conditions required must be unimaginably harsh, akin to ascending the heavens.

However, Xiaoning chose to walk the path of an Elixir Refinement Master despite knowing that.

Even if an elixir as such only existed in the illusory tales of the legends, she wanted to give it a shot for that sliver of hope in her heart.

Suddenly, Su Zimo realized something.

It was not a coincidence that Xiaoning had such achievements in elixir refinement.

Her persistence was not something that everyone possessed.

After a moment, Su Zimo asked, "What is up with that Elixir Furnace?"

Xiaoning stood up and took out the exquisite and old Elixir Furnace, placing it on the table. "I came across it on a small store in Yongxing City. Back then, I didn't think much about it, only that it looked rather ancient and there was nothing special about it."

"However, when I picked it up, I felt a strange feeling in my heart. That's why I bought it but He Xing of True Fire Elixir Workshop happened to see it."

Su Zimo looked at the Elixir Furnace thoughtfully.

Xiaoning continued, "Later on, I realized the difference after I started refining elixirs with this Elixir Furnace."

"As long as I carry this Elixir Furnace with me, I'll be extremely focused when I refine elixirs. If nothing major happens, it will be extremely difficult for me to be distracted!"

Suddenly, Su Zimo was enlightened.

It was no wonder that Xiaoning was in a perfect state of focus during the elixir competition the previous day. So, it was also in part thanks to this mysterious Elixir Furnace.

"Put it away."

Su Zimo instructed, "Don't give this Elixir Furnace to anyone no matter what. Keep it for yourself! I have a feeling that this Elixir Furnace has an impressive background."

It was an inanimate object but it could affect one's mental state.

Even Su Zimo would not be able to forge an Elixir Furnace as such.

"Yes!"

Xiaoning nodded.

Su Zimo pondered for a moment before saying, "From today onwards, you can cultivate here at my place. You can head back when it's time for the sect competition."

Many things had happened yesterday and Su Zimo would be worried if Xiaoning continued to stay in Azure Frost Elixir Workshop.

Furthermore, he was intending to make use of this final month to help Xiaoning raise her cultivation realm.

She had a pseudo spirit root and her cultivation speed was the slowest.

Therefore, Su Zimo made some supplementary array formations for Xiaoning to help her absorb spirit qi better. He only used superior-grade spirit stones for the formations!

Usually, only Golden Cores would be the ones to cultivate with superior-grade spirit stones.

However, Su Zimo's plan was simple – he would just splurge on superior-grade spirit stones.

After all, the one thing he did not lack right now was spirit stones.

### **Chapter 290: Exposed Identity**

As the sect competition approached, the number of cultivators that arrived in the capital gradually increased and there were already major sects that arrived with their disciples.

Among them, of the five major sects, Iridescent Clouds Palace, True Fire Sect, Azure Frost Sect and Southern Mountains Sect had already sent Golden Cores that led people with them to the capital.

Even though they were also one of the five major sects, Ethereal Peak did not have any disciples arriving yet.

Many cultivators had expected such a situation.

Three years ago, news of the battle in Dongling Valley spread and everyone had heard about it. It was said that the battle was extremely tragic and almost all of Ethereal Peak's elite disciples of Foundation Establishment realm were killed.

They even lost several Golden Cores as well!

It was almost impossible for them to nurture Foundation Establishment Cultivators who were qualified to contend for the Spirit Ranking within three years.

Before this, Ethereal Peak could take up at least three of the ten spots on the Spirit Ranking!

But now, Ethereal Peak was no longer qualified to compete for the Spirit Ranking which they had the most advantage in.

As for the Elixir and Weapon Rankings, disciples of Ethereal Peak had never ever been on it.

The only hope they had left was for the Talisman Ranking, but even then, the chances were slim.

Hence, in the eyes of the masses, there was even a possibility that Ethereal Sect would choose to give up on the sect competition this time round.

Palace, Rain Admiration Pavilion.

A man and woman stood side by side.

The man was dressed in a yellow robe. Hands behind his back, his forehead was broad and his gaze was filled with wisdom – this was none other than the Emperor of Great Zhou!

The woman beside him wore a faint, pale yellow dress with a ribbon tied around her waist, revealing her exquisite figure perfectly.

She was extremely beautiful, graceful and elegant. This was none other than the third princess of the Great Zhou Dynasty, the emperor's daughter, Ji Yaoxue.

"Why didn't you come back earlier?" The emperor asked.

Ji Yaoxue lowered her head in silence.

Frowning, the emperor turned slightly and asked, "You're still blaming me?"

"I wouldn't dare."

Ji Yaoxue shook her head gently and her tone was calm.

The emperor sighed, somewhat helplessly. "Xue'er, you have to know that I will never harm you. If there's a single person in this world that wholeheartedly wishes for your best interests, that would be me."

"I know that your intentions definitely mean well, father."

Ji Yaoxue turned around and looked at the emperor, somewhat indifferently. "However, I have grown up. There are many decisions that I wish to make for myself."

"How do you decide for yourself? Do you really want to become Dao companions with a mortal?"

The emperor furrowed his brows and looked at the stubborn Ji Yaoxue. Suddenly, he felt furious and could not help but raise his voice, "In a hundred years' time, you will be in your prime while he would be in his twilight. How are you guys going to face that together? Have you ever thought about these problems?!"

Ji Yaoxue kept her silence and did not wish to argue against the angered emperor.

Taking a deep breath of air, the emperor composed himself and suddenly said, "I customized a supreme-grade flying sword for you recently. The specifications are entirely according to your preferred weight and design. Go and collect it yourself."

A supreme-grade flying sword?

Customized?

Ji Yaoxue was slightly stunned and looked shocked.

However, she snapped out of it almost instantly and probed, "It's from Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop?"

"You've heard about Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop as well?"

The emperor raised his brows, turning to ask.

"Yes."

Ji Yaoxue nodded. "In the past year, the reputation of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop has long been spread to our sect. I'm afraid there aren't many people who haven't heard of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop within the territory of the Great Zhou Dynasty."

Pausing for a moment, Ji Yaoxue continued, "I heard that today's the day for Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop's start of the month auction. My master has long prepared materials and spirit stones to partake in it."

"That's perfect."

The emperor revealed a smile. "Go over and take a look. You can conveniently collect your flying sword as well. All you have to do is tell them my name."

Ji Yaoxue frowned.

For some reason, she felt that there was another meaning behind her father's smile.

The emperor continued, "I've met this Mo Ling before and he's quite a decent young man. Even though he's only in his early twenties, he is mature. Furthermore, he has already attained such achievements!"

"You wouldn't have been able to imagine that even though he's only a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, Mo Ling is already able to refine supreme-grade..."

"Hold on!"

Seemingly sensing something, Ji Yaoxue interrupted the emperor and asked with raised brows, "Father, what are you trying to do?"

The emperor chuckled. "Don't worry, I don't mean anything. I merely want to show you what a true genius looks like. Mo Ling is definitely far superior compared to that Su Zimo."

"Father!"

Ji Yaoxue interrupted the emperor once more and shook her head, expressing her displeasure. "I don't want that flying sword anymore nor do I want to meet this Mo Ling."

"Xue'er, listen to me."

The emperor said tenderly, "There's no disadvantage for you to take a look at this person. It's fine even if you aren't fated with him and don't fancy him. At the very least, you're able to make acquaintances with the number one Weapon Refinement Master of the Great Zhou Dynasty, right?"

Ji Yaoxue went silent.

Seeing that Ji Yaoxue was tempted, the emperor joked. "Furthermore, that flying sword was customized for you. If you don't collect it, do you want Mr. Mo to send it over to you personally?"

"There's still two more hours before the auction begins and many Golden Cores must be gathered outside Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop. Have Bai Yuhan accompany you there."

Ji Yaoxue thought about it for a moment before nodding.

Just as she was about to turn and leave, she was held back by the emperor.

He asked in a seemingly casual manner, "Right, there's a Foundation Establishment Cultivator named Su Xiaoning in Azure Frost Sect. She's an Elixir Refinement Master and I heard that you guys are pretty close. What's her background?"

At the mention of Su Xiaoning, Ji Yaoxue's expression changed.

She looked agitated with a fierce glare in her eyes as she replied loudly, "Father, I have cut off all contact with him long ago! Why do you have to keep an eye on the Su family?"

"Father, I told you not to touch anyone from the Su family! This has nothing to do with them at all!"

With a frosty expression, Ji Yaoxue left the Rain Admiration Pavilion without turning back.

The emperor was expressionless as he looked at Ji Yaoxue's back view. However, his eyes shone brightly and a ripple spread within his heart.

Ji Yaoxue's sudden agitation coupled with what she said stirred the emperor's suspicions.

Su Xiaoning?

Someone from the Su family?

Why would a disciple of Azure Frost Sect be related to the Su family?

Were there truly such coincidences in the world?

The emperor's expressions changed continuously alongside his mood.

He had a feeling that there was some sort of a secret that was placed right before his eyes and he was just short of addressing the elephant in the room!

All of a sudden!

The emperor's heart skipped a beat as he suddenly recalled something.

A few years ago, the Imperial Army vice commander that accompanied Ji Yaoxue to Ping Yang Town of Yan Country reported that the Su family had two sons and a daughter.

If Su Xiaoning was the daughter...

That would mean that the brother she acknowledged in the capital would be...

Chapter 291: Mass Gathering

Mo Ling, Su Zimo...

The emperor furrowed his brows as he fell into deep thought.

How was that possible?

Even though the truth was seemingly out, the emperor was still unwilling to accept it.

In his heart, he could not comprehend how the two completely different people became one!

After some thought, he ordered in a deep voice, "Men!"

Before long, two guards appeared and knelt on one knee. They had respectful expressions as they awaited the emperor's orders.

"Summon the Imperial Army vice commander, Dai Xu."

The emperor did not know much about the Su family's situation and intended to summon Dai Xu to ask the latter once more.

Upon hearing the emperor's order, the two guards froze up and exchanged glances. Looking troubled, they did not leave immediately.

"What's wrong?" The emperor's gaze turned cold.

The two guards shuddered and one of them replied hurriedly, "Your Majesty, Vice Commander Dai died about ten days ago and his corpse was discovered in the forest tens of kilometers outside the capital."

"He's dead?"

The emperor narrowed his eyes and a cold light flashed.

The other guard said, "Vice Commander Dai's throat was shattered. From the looks of it, the claws of a demon beast should have ripped it apart. Our preliminary guess is that he was attacked by a spirit demon."

The emperor asked expressionlessly, "Is his storage bag still there?"

"No."

The emperor scoffed coldly. "If his storage bag is not there, it means that he was murdered by someone!"

While spirit demons possessed intelligence, they were unable to open the storage bags of cultivators and as such, it would be meaningless for them to take the storage bags away.

Generally speaking, the death of an Imperial Army vice commander was nothing much in the palace and news of it would not reach the ears of the emperor.

Even if he heard about this news, the emperor would not be bothered about the death of a Foundation Establishment Cultivator either.

However, the emperor felt that something was amiss right now.

Things were way too coincidental!

Pondering for a moment, the emperor said in a deep voice, "Summon the Imperial Army soldiers who accompanied the third princess to Ping Yang Town of Yan Country a couple of years ago. Also, summon the soldiers that were patrolling with Dai Xu in the palace before his death!"

"Understood!"

The two guards retreated.

...

People came and went on the long streets.

Among the crowd, two cultivators attracted the attention of many other cultivators who looked on with awe and fear.

"See that? The emblem on their sleeves and the sect badges on their waists indicate that they're from one of the five major sects, Southern Mountains Sect!"

"The one in front should be Perfected Being Yun Shan and the young man behind him should be the number one of all Foundation Establishment Cultivators in Southern Mountains Sect, Shi Jian."

"I heard that Shi Jian is extremely strong and has already unlocked five meridians. He should be able to get a spot on the Spirit Ranking."

Before long, the two of them were submerged in the crowd.

Soon, another female cultivator arrived in the crowd that caused another commotion.

"Look, that seems to be Perfected Being Yi Ning from Azure Frost Sect!"

"Yes, it's really her. Although she's a little old, she still looks ravishing as ever."

"Seems like Perfected Being Yi Ning must be the one leading the group from Azure Frost Sect for the sect competition."

Before long, Perfected Being Yi Ning left in front of everyone's gazes.

Not long later, another three cultivators arrived.

Their leader was dressed in aquamarine robes and was at Golden Core realm. With one hand behind his back, his eyes were long and narrow as he walked over slowly with a cold, sharp gaze.

That man was accompanied by a man and woman walking side by side behind him – they were both Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

The man was extraordinarily handsome and his eyes were like stars. Smiling, he was chatting with the woman beside him.

She wore a faint green dress and looked to be in her twenties, exuding a gentle temperament with skin as fair as snow.

"Look, those three are from Iridescent Clouds Palace!"

“If I’m not wrong, the aquamarine-robed cultivator at the front should be Perfected Being Cang Lang. It’s said that he’s immensely strong and has even cultivated an extremely powerful Golden Core phenomenon! He’s one of the top experts among Golden Cores!”

“The handsome man behind him is Si Yutang and he should be here for a spot on the Spirit Ranking! It’s said that he has already unlocked five meridians and is a genius of the Iridescent Clouds Palace Foundation Establishment Cultivators!”

“That woman’s name is Mengqi or something. She is rather comfortable to look at.”

“To be able to be brought by Perfected Being Cang Lang and stand on Si Yutang’s side, she’s probably rather capable.”

As everyone discussed, the three of them gradually walked away.

“Eh? Look at the cultivators from Southern Mountains Sect, Azure Frost Sect and Iridescent Clouds Palace. They seem to be walking in the same direction. Could something big be happening over there?” Right then, someone suddenly realized and asked aloud.

“Don’t you know?”

“Today is the day for Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop’s monthly auction! Those cultivators must be heading there to customize supreme-grade spirit weapons.”

Listening to the discussions around them, the handsome man from Iridescent Clouds Palace, Si Yutang, smiled. “Junior sister, look. The auction that’s held at Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop at the start of every month is a rare event in the capital.”

“Yes.”

Shen Mengqi nodded and a trace of shock flickered through her eyes.

Along the way, almost all the cultivators were discussing about the auction at Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop today.

Furthermore, they were not the only ones – even Southern Mountains Sect and Azure Frost Sect were taking part as well!

The fact that a Weapon Refinement Master could command such immense influence in the capital where he could almost have anything he wanted was something that Shen Mengqi was completely impressed with.

Even with the strength of her master, Perfected Being Cang Lang, he was not able to achieve some influence!

Shen Mengqi was looking forward to it as she said, “I wonder how Mr. Mo looks like. It’ll be great if we have a chance of befriending him.”

“That’s going to be difficult.”



Si Yutang shook his head. "It's said that only a few people had the chance to see Mr. Mo in the three years that Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop had been open. Let alone befriending, even the chance to catch sight of Mr. Mo would be something worth bragging about."

Shen Mengqi pursed her lips, feeling a little disappointed.

Si Yutang comforted her, "However, don't worry too much, junior sister. Master's purpose for heading there is to auction for a supreme-grade spirit weapon! If he succeeds, we might be able to bask in his glory and have a chance to meet Mr. Mo."

Shen Mengqi nodded.

"I'll definitely succeed!"

Right then, Perfected Being Cang Lang remarked indifferently with certainty without looking back.

He had prepared for three years just for this auction and was confident that he would be able to bid for the chance to customize a supreme-grade spirit weapon!

Before long, the three of them arrived in the vicinity of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Looking over, all three of them could not conceal the shock in their eyes and were dumbfounded.

Even Perfected Being Cang Lang's expression changed slightly.

There were way too many people at the entrance of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop!

A single glance over could tell that there were tens of thousands of cultivators gathered in the area. It was so densely crowded that it was like a sea of people – it looked extremely majestic!

A rough scan of the crowd showed that just Golden Cores alone amounted to more than a thousand people!

It was rare to see so many Golden Cores gathered.

However, all of them were now gathered in front of this seemingly ordinary residence, looking at it from time to time with expectant expressions.

Chapter 292: Auction

"There's so many people?"

Ji Yaoxue was a little shocked when she saw the dense crowd before her.

Even though she had long heard of the reputation of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop, she never expected that an auction at the start of the month would attract so many cultivators!

"Yaoxue, you have no idea. I heard that this auction could very likely be the last."

The person who spoke was dressed in a pure, white shirt – she was the commander of the White Hawk guards, Bai Yuhan.

The two of them were on very good terms and could address each other as they pleased in private.

“The last?” Ji Yaoxue was puzzled.

Bai Yuhan explained, “Yes, I heard that Mr. Mo’s going to leave the capital after the sect competition. These Golden Cores are probably worried that they might not have such an opportunity again after Mr. Mo leaves.”

Pausing for a moment, Bai Yuhan swept her gaze across the crowd not too far away. “Look over there. There’s Golden Cores from Iridescent Clouds Palace, Southern Mountains Sect and even your Azure Frost Sect. I reckon that this auction will be extremely intense!”

Ji Yaoxue nodded somewhat distractedly, looking a little troubled.

Noticing Ji Yaoxue’s strange behavior, Bai Yuhan asked softly, “What’s wrong? Is something bothering you?”

Ji Yaoxue lowered her head in silence.

“You had a fight with Your Majesty and it’s because of that Su Zimo?” Bai Yuhan probed further.

“Yes.”

Ji Yaoxue replied and did not hide anything.

She had spoken to Bai Yuhan about this matter a couple of years ago.

Bai Yuhan continued, “Your Majesty probably had a motive for letting you collect this supreme-grade flying sword. He wishes for you to get to know Mr. Mo, right?”

Ji Yaoxue nodded. She hesitated for a moment before asking, “Sister Bai, what do you think of this?”

“Me?”

Bai Yuhan chuckled. “Even though I’ve never met that Su Zimo, I’ve met Mr. Mo. I dare to say that Su Zimo is definitely inferior to Mr. Mo.”

In the Rain Admiration Pavilion, that green-robed cultivator was neither servile nor overbearing. He remained calm against the pressure of two immense forces, True Fire Sect and the Scarlet Vulture guards. The way that he overturned the entire situation with a few words left a deep impression in Bai Yuhan.

Ji Yaoxue frowned.

Bai Yuhan said, “Yaoxue, you may not believe me when I say that. However, you will definitely feel that this Mr. Mo is different from everyone else the moment you meet him.”

Ji Yaoxue replied indifferently, “We’ll see.”

...

Perfected Being Cang Lang had his hands behind his back and his gaze was cold. Puffing his chest out, he led his two disciples, Shen Mengqi and Si Yutang, into the crowd with a sharp aura.

Many people turned around instinctively when they sensed it.

Iridescent Clouds Palace was one of the five major sects. In addition, Perfected Being Cang Lang was famous and ruthless to begin with.

While the crowd pushed against one another, many cultivators were wary and still chose to make a path.

Before long, Perfected Being Cang Lang and the other two arrived at the front of the crowd.

Other than Perfected Being Cang Lang and his two disciples, there was Perfected Being Yun Shan and his legacy disciple from Southern Mountains Sect as well as Perfected Being Yi Ning from Azure Frost Sect in the first row.

“I’m determined to get my hands on the supreme-grade spirit weapon this time round. Don’t fight with me for it, fellow Daoists,” Perfected Being Cang Lang glanced sideways. Even though his tone was calm, it had an unquestionable authority.

“Fufu.”

Perfected Being Yun Shan laughed. “Cang Lang, your words are meaningless. You’re determined to get it? So am I!”

Right after, Perfected Being Yun Shan turned to ask, “What do you think, Fellow Daoist Yi Ning?”

“Nothing much. Since it’s an auction, we’ll just have a fair competition. There’s nothing much to think about.”

Perfected Being Yi Ning had prepared a long time for this supreme-grade spirit weapon auction as well and naturally would not leave just because of a single statement from Perfected Being Cang Lang.

Perfected Being Cang Lang scoffed coldly and said nothing more.

Creak!

Right then, a small gap opened from the main door of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop suddenly.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Countless gazes landed on Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop’s door in excitement and anticipation.

A girl came out of the door. Her hair was yellowed and disheveled. However, she was so beautiful that people would subconsciously ignore that flaw.

“Fellow Daoist Nian Qi, you’re finally out.”

“Fellow Daoist Nian Qi, you’ve gotten more beautiful,” A Golden Core said shamelessly.

“Fellow Daoist Nian Qi, it’s me. Cough, cough... I’m here again.”

All the cultivators who had stayed in the capital for over a year knew that Mr. Mo would not appear at every auction and Nian Qi would always be the one hosting.

Even though she was dressed like a maidservant and was only at Foundation Establishment, none of the Golden Cores present dared to look down on her.

Nian Qi did not say anything and pushed down against the air with both hands.

That initially noisy scene quietened down.

There were tens of thousands of cultivators present with Golden Cores among them. However, a simple hand gesture from a maidservant was enough to have everyone quieten down!

Shen Mengqi's eyes revealed a trace of envy.

What sort of an extraordinary character was this person's master if she could possess such power even as a maidservant.

"I see many new and foreign fellow Daoists present today so I'll repeat the rules of the auction once more in simple terms. All bidders will obtain a number from me and they will need to prepare 30 sets of materials. The starting price will be at 500,000 superior-grade spirit stones and each bid must be no less than 10,000. The highest bidder will win."

With it, Nian Qi took out a large number of jade tokens from her storage bag. They had numbers marked on them and were scattered into the air.

Perfected Being Cang Lang waved his sleeves and snatched the first token.

Perfected Being Yun Shan obtained the second token and Perfected Being Yi Ning obtained the third.

The other numbered tokens were taken away by the many Golden Cores behind them.

While there were many people present, of the tens of thousands of people, most of them were disciples of the Golden Cores.

The true bidders were the thousands of Golden Cores present.

"Let the auction begin!"

The moment Nian Qi's voice faded, someone in the crowd started bidding.

An exquisite carriage was parked in a small alley not far away from the crowd.

There were two women sitting inside the carriage. One of them was voluptuous with a curvy figure, exuding a mature and alluring aura.

The other woman wore a pink dress with a veil over her face. While her appearance could not be seen, each time she blinked her eyes, there was a ripple of light that bewitched one's soul!

"Auntie Gu, what's the background of this Mo Ling? He's stealing business away from Sky Treasure Auction House with his auction," The girl in pink frowned slightly with a tinge of anger and curiosity in her voice.

"I'm not sure," The mature woman referred to as Auntie Gu shook her head.

"I heard father mention that he's a young man in his early twenties. He seems to admire this man a lot and has high regards for him," The girl in pink replied.

"Why? Our great mistress of the Pure Maiden Sect is personally interested in him?"

Auntie Gu looked at the girl in pink with an ambiguous smile and asked jokingly.

“Tsk.”

The girl in pink pursed her lips in slight disdain and raised her chin, saying confidently, “If I were to show myself, all I need to do is beckon my finger at him and that so-called Mo Ling is going to bow beneath my feet obediently!”

### **Chapter 293: And the Winner Is?**

Auntie Gu smiled without saying anything. Suddenly, a strange energy fluctuation emanated from her glabella and scanned through the courtyard of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

That was the spirit consciousness that only Nascent Souls possess!

It was even more powerful than the five senses of cultivators. Unblocked by any obstructions, it could permeate to every single corner like an air current.

After a while, Auntie Gu’s expression turned extremely strange as her eyes widened in shock. She muttered to herself in disbelief, “It’s him?”

“Who?” The girl in pink leaned over and asked curiously, blinking her sparkling eyes.

Auntie Gu smiled. “Yan’er, this is someone... that you can’t do anything to even if you beckon your finger.”

“I don’t believe you!”

The girl in pink pouted and said, “If I meet some old monster, perhaps my powers might not be enough to charm him. But a young man in his early twenties that’s hot-blooded? Hmph, hmph! There’s no way he can escape my grasp.”

“What I’m worried about now is that you’ll chase after him like a silly lass if he beckons his finger at you...” Auntie Gu shook her head and smiled gently. However, a simple motion and smile of hers possessed a flirtatious allure.

“Auntie Gu, I’m even more unconvinced when you put it that way!” The girl in pink wheedled and pounced into Auntie Gu’s arms while fondling wildly with both hands.

If any men were to witness this scene, they would definitely lose control instantly.

Auntie Gu smiled tenderly and waved her snow-white arms a few times, pushing the girl in pink back. “You don’t believe me? You ran off previously with someone without even leaving me a message to tell me that you were safe, making me worried for nothing.”

“Oh my, that’s already a couple of years ago. Furthermore, that Su Zimo was rather interesting. It was quite fun teasing him for no reason,” The girl in pink giggled.

“Is that so?”

Auntie Gu laughed. “In that case, this Mo Ling is quite interesting too.”

“Ah?”

Stunned for a moment, the girl in pink could not react in time.

However, she could tell that Auntie Gu was implying something and she could not help but tilt her head slightly in deep thought.

After a moment, the girl in pink clutched her mouth and nearly exclaimed. She asked with widened eyes, “Su Zimo, Mo Ling... they can’t be the same person, right?”

“It’s him.”

Auntie Gu retracted her smile and looked in the direction of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop through the curtains. “To think that I have still underestimated him.”

Of the two women, one of them was the chief steward of Sky Treasure Auction House, Gu Xi. The other was the pure maiden of Pure Maiden Sect, Demoness Ji – the daughter of the emperor, the Great Zhou Dynasty’s youngest princess.

“It’s really him?”

Demoness Ji clapped and laughed. “Auntie Gu, didn’t I say that he was interesting? I really want to know how he did it! Was it only because of that ancient tempering manual?”

“You want to go in and meet him?” Gu Xi could not help but ask after seeing how eager Demoness Ji was.

“That’s right.”

Demoness Ji was about to step out of the carriage when she sat back down after sweeping her gaze.

“What’s wrong?” Gu Xi asked.

Demoness Ji shook her head. “Sister’s over there. I had better not go.”

Chuckling, Gu Xi turned back to look in the direction of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop in deep thought.

...

“Number 975, 1 million!”

“Number 68, 1.01 million!”

“Number 32, 1.02 million...”

In just a short while, the price of the supreme-grade spirit weapon had already surpassed a million superior-grade spirit stones under the immense bidding of the Golden Cores!

Before most of the Golden Cores present could bid, the price had already exceeded their capabilities and they could merely watch the crowd dejectedly.

After crossing the million superior-grade spirit stones mark, the speed of the bids slowed down.

The Golden Cores became extremely prudent with every bid, increasing it by 10,000 each time.

Normally, the price of a supreme-grade spirit weapon would be around a million superior-grade spirit stones at most.

However, supreme-grade spirit items were treasures that had limited supply and were rare to see in the market.

Typically, cultivators who could obtain supreme-grade spirit weapons would use them personally and would not bear to sell it.

Furthermore, this bid was for a customized supreme-grade spirit weapon and was a once in a blue moon opportunity that was even rarer!

In the first row, the Golden Cores from the major sects of Iridescent Clouds Palace, Southern Mountains Sect and Azure Frost Sect had yet to make their bids.

Seeing that the price had already reached 1.11 million, Perfected Being Cang Lang said all of a sudden, "Let's not waste any more time. Number 1, 1.5 million!"

The moment he said that, the crowd fell into an uproar.

The sudden raise of 400,000 superior-grade spirit stones was more than enough to discourage more than half of the cultivators who wanted to continue bidding.

1.5 million superior-grade spirit stones was not something that every Golden Core could produce.

Spirit stones were consumables after all. For cultivators, the most important thing was still to raise their cultivation realms.

If one wanted to raise their cultivation realm, they would have to expend spirit stones to cultivate.

Not to mention the Golden Cores of itinerant cultivators and some minor sects, even Perfected Being Yun Shan and Perfected Being Yi Ning felt their mouths cramp up slightly. Their expressions changed when they heard of the bid of Perfected Being Cang Lang.

After Perfected Being Cang Lang's bid, a couple of breaths passed without anyone continuing to raise the bid.

"Number 3, 1.51 million spirit stones."

Right then, Perfected Being Yi Ning spoke and raised the bid by 10,000.

Perfected Being Cang Lang sneered and turned to Perfected Being Yun Shan, asking, "Fellow Daoist Yun Shan, aren't you bidding? If you wait any longer, you're not going to have the chance soon."

Perfected Being Yun Shan gritted his teeth and said in a low voice, "Number 2, 1.52 million!"

The moment he said that, Perfected Being Cang Lang spoke again with a calm expression, "Number 1, 1.8 million!"

That single statement raised the price by nearly 300,000!

Perfected Being Yun Shan's expression darkened as he glared at Perfected Being Cang Lang viciously.

Perfected Being Yi Ning took a deep breath of air and said slowly, “Number 3, 1.81 million!”

2 million superior-grade spirit stones – that was her limit.

If it exceeds 2 million superior-grade spirit stones, she would have to back down no matter what.

The Golden Cores at the back were already silent as they watched the scene quietly.

The price of the supreme-grade spirit weapon was now so high that it was basically a tussle between Perfected Being Cang Lang and Perfected Being Yi Ning – even Perfected Being Yun Shan no longer dared to speak.

Perfected Being Cang Lang seemed to sense the pressure on Perfected Being Yi Ning. Raising his brows slightly, he spoke, “Number 1, 1.85 million!”

Perfected Being Yi Ning’s heart surged when she caught sight of Perfected Being Cang Lang’s provocative gaze as she declared loudly, “Number 3, 2 million!”

That was her limit. If Perfected Being Cang Lang raised the bid again, she would back off!

This time, Perfected Being Cang Lang finally laughed as he commented leisurely, “Fellow Daoist Yi Ning, that’s your limit, right? Number 1, 2.01 million.”

Perfected Being Yi Ning’s eyes dimmed as she shook her head.

Her final gambit of raising the price to 2 million was to exert immense pressure on Perfected Being Cang Lang, hoping that he could withdraw from the bid. But, it was to no avail.

Five breaths passed and no one raised the bid further.

Perfected Being Cang Lang scanned his surroundings with a sharp gaze. In fact, there was even a vague hint of threat in them.

There was a clear meaning in his gaze – whoever dared to cause trouble now would be making an enemy of him!

#### **Chapter 294: Our Young Master Makes the Decision**

When Perfected Being Cang Lang made the high bid of 2.01 million superior-grade spirit stones, there was no longer any suspense in the auction.

If even Perfected Being Yun Shan and Perfected Being Yi Ning who were similarly from the five major sects had to lower their heads helplessly, cultivators of minor sects or itinerant cultivators stood no chance at all.

As long as ten breaths passed without anyone raising the bid, the opportunity for customizing a supreme-grade spirit weapon this time round would belong to Perfected Being Cang Lang!

“It’s basically settled.”

Outside the crowd, Bai Yuhan said softly.



Ji Yaoxue nodded. "Yes, judging from Perfected Being Cang Lang's attitude and tone, he must have prepared more than 2 million super spirit stones."

Bai Yuhan smiled. "That determined aura of his alone is enough to suppress the crowd. Even if someone jumped out to raise the bid right now, it would be hard to win against him. Furthermore, they would sow a grudge with him and it wouldn't be worth it."

"That's right."

As the two of them conversed, the ten breaths passed.

Indeed, despite having more than a thousand Golden Cores present, none of them had what it took to raise the price!

The dust had settled.

Perfected Being Cang Lang heaved a sigh of relief.

Even if he came prepared, 2 million superior-grade spirit stones was not a small sum to him.

If someone really jumped in to raise the bid at this moment, he could only grit his teeth and continue bidding.

Thankfully, nothing of the sort happened.

Happiness flashed in Perfected Being Cang Lang's long and narrow eyes as he revealed a smile – he could not conceal the delight on his face.

In a small alley not far away, Gu Xi lowered the curtains and said slowly, "Let's go back. There's nothing much to see anymore."

"Yes, let's go," Demoness Ji nodded as well.

The driver rode the carriage and began to turn it around.

The crowd in front of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop began to disperse as well.

Many Golden Cores were in low spirits as they looked longingly at the doors of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Perfected Being Cang Lang turned to look at Perfected Being Yun Shan and Perfected Being Yi Ning at the side, smiling faintly. "Thank you for giving in."

"Fellow Daoist Cang Lang is so rich. I truly can't beat you, congrats!"

Perfected Being Yun Shan laughed coldly and left with Shi Jian.

Perfected Being Yi Ning harrumphed coldly without saying anything, but she felt indignant.

Perfected Being Cang Lang laughed lightly at the sight of the two of them. Feeling smug, he turned around and raised his chin at Nian Qi. "Hey, young lady. Announce the results."

Si Yutang said in a low voice, "Junior sister, master succeeded in his bid. We might have a chance to meet Mr. Mo later!"

“Yes!”

Shen Mengqi clenched her fists tightly in anticipation and nodded.

Ever since the auction began, Nian Qi had not said a single word. She stood in front of the door looking at the many Golden Cores bidding below with a calm expression.

It was only at this moment that Nian Qi raised her voice and said, “I hereby announce that the fellow Daoist who has obtained the rights to customize a supreme-grade spirit weapon in this auction is... Number 3!”

The crowd was originally starting to disperse.

However, everyone’s footsteps came to a gradual stop not long after Nian Qi spoke. They had puzzled expressions on their faces.

Number 3?

Wasn’t Perfected Being Yi Ning from Azure Frost Sect Number 3?

Did she announce wrongly or were they hearing things?

Everyone turned around subconsciously.

In the small alley, just as the carriage was about to leave, a soft hum suddenly sounded from within.

“Why Number 3?” A gentle voice sounded, filled with confusion.

Outside the crowd, Ji Yaoyue and Bai Yuhan exchanged glances in shock as well.

“This...”

Bai Yuhan was also a little confused as she blinked her eyes. “Normally, it’s the highest bidder that gets it. Why would it be Number 3?”

Perfected Being Cang Lang’s smile froze on his face when he heard Nian Qi’s voice at the entrance.

Perfected Being Yun Shan’s footsteps came to a stop as he turned back and looked in deep thought.

Perfected Being Yi Ning stood rooted on the spot, unable to react for a moment after being struck by the surprise that fell from the skies.

“Young lady, did you announce it wrongly?”

Perfected Being Cang Lang frowned slightly with a displeased expression.

“No?”

Nian Qi replied naturally.

Perfected Being Cang Lang’s expression darkened. Flipping out his number token, he showed in and said in a deep voice, “Look carefully, I’m Number 1! Earlier on, Number 1 was the highest bidder with 2.01 million superior-grade spirit stones!”

“Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.”



Perfected Being Cang Lang felt a dull pain in his heart as he shuddered and nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

Hopping with rage, he was on the verge of breaking down. However, the other party was carefree as ever.

Everyone tried to hold back their laughter when they saw Perfected Being Cang Lang's pale expression.

"My master was the one who bid for 2.01 million superior-grade spirit stones, didn't you hear that?!" Si Yutang, Perfected Being Cang Lang's disciple behind him, could no longer take it as he stood out and shouted.

Nian Qi covered her ears and replied loudly in a coquettish manner, "What are you shouting for? So what if you're rich!"

Her words almost choked Si Yutang to death...

"Pfft!"

Finally, someone burst out laughing, unable to contain themselves any longer.

Perfected Being Cang Lang took a deep breath. The muscles on his face and the corners of his eyes were twitching madly as he said with gritted teeth, "You clearly said that the highest bidder would win. I want to ask, where are the rules of Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop! Where is the fairness!"

"Rules? Fairness?"

Nian Qi looked at Perfected Being Cang Lang with an 'you are so naive' gaze and said, "All the rules and fairness in Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop... are decided by our young master."

### **Chapter 295: Unreasonable**

In other words, it meant that putting aside the fact that the bid was at 2.01 million superior-grade spirit stones, even if the bid was at 10 million, none of it matters if the young master did not want to make that person a spirit weapon...

Perfected Being Cang Lang's face darkened and his mouth twitched.

At that moment, he felt an extreme discomfort as though he had just punched a cotton ball and could not exert any strength at all.

Sensing the mocking gaze of everyone around, Si Yutang and Shen Mengqi felt their cheeks burn in shame.

Si Yutang had experienced Nian Qi's savageness in rebuttals and was still shrouded in the trauma of 'so what if you're rich', so he naturally did not dare to provoke her anymore.

Shen Mengqi was angry and indignant. She could not help but head up and question, "Fellow Daoist, aren't you unreasonable? It was agreed on at the start that the highest bidder would win!"

"Please don't try to reason with me."

Nian Qi waved her hands hurriedly and blinked her big, sparkling eyes as she explained in all seriousness, "That's because, Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop has never been a reasonable place."

"You..."

Shen Mengqi's body swayed and her face turned pale – she felt stifled and lost.

"Hahahaha!"

A series of laughter burst forth from the crowd.

Naturally, this was a pleasant surprise for Perfected Being Yi Ning.

She stepped forward with a smile and cupped her fists. "Thank you, Fellow Daoist Nian Qi."

Nian Qi nodded.

Perfected Being Cang Lang tried his best to calm himself down and suppress his anger. "Young lady, since you said that your young master makes the decision, fine! I want to meet Mr. Mo!"

"You think he's someone you can meet at your behest?" Nian Qi glanced sideways at Perfected Being Cang Lang and scoffed coldly.

"Young lady, I don't understand why the rights of customizing a supreme-grade spirit weapon for this auction went to someone else. But I would like you to inform him that Perfected Being Cang Lang of Iridescent Clouds Palace wishes to meet him!"

Perfected Being Cang Lang reared his head slightly with a proud look in his eyes. "I'm sure Mr. Mo must have heard of my name before!"

"Young lady, I can understand if you're insensible. However, through my experience, I'm advising you not to make a decision for your young master regarding this matter or you might get punished for it!"

Nian Qi frowned slightly and hesitated.

Perfected Being Cang Lang continued, "I believe that no one in the territory of the Great Zhou Dynasty will reject to being friends with me!"

His words were extremely arrogant and firm!

Indeed, Perfected Being Cang Lang was qualified to speak of such words given his status and cultivation.

No matter what, Nian Qi was not even 20 years old and was still a Foundation Establishment Cultivator. For a moment, she was stunned by Perfected Being Cang Lang's aura and could not make a decision.

Nian Qi's expression was apprehensive.

Prior to this, Su Zimo had only instructed her to ignore any bids from cultivators of Iridescent Clouds Palace.

She did not know the reason why either.

At this moment, the aggressive and confident aura exuded by Perfected Being Cang Lang filled her heart with worry.

Was she being too reckless by making an unilateral decision of her own and establishing a powerful foe as such for her young master?

“Fellow Daoist Nian Qi, since it has already been decided, let’s not...” Perfected Being Yi Ning said hesitantly.

She was a little anxious that things might change if Nian Qi heads in to ask Mr. Mo about things. However, she could not bring herself to say everything openly.

Perfected Being Cang Lang spoke again with great confidence, “I dare to declare that Mr. Mo will definitely change his mind if you inform him about it! Additionally, if the spirit stones are not enough, I can raise it to 2.5 million superior-grade spirit stones!”

Psst!

Everyone gasped when they heard that.

He raised the bid to 2.5 million just like that!

Everyone could feel Perfected Being Cang Lang’s determination in getting his hands on that supreme-grade spirit weapon.

When she heard that, Perfected Being Yi Ning sighed and shook her head as well.

She could retain her confidence if Perfected Being Cang Lang’s bid was a mere 10,000 above hers.

However, Perfected Being Cang Lang’s bid was 2.5 million right now. If she was Mr. Mo, she would choose him as well.

Everything aside, the price alone was an entire 500,000 superior-grade spirit stones higher!

There was no reason for Mr. Mo to reject this offer at all.

Nian Qi pondered for a moment and said, “Wait a moment. I’ll go in and ask my young master.”

Returning to the residence, Nian Qi closed the door shut and sped towards Su Zimo’s cultivation room.

Before long, she arrived in front of his room and knocked on the door gently.

“Come in.”

Su Zimo’s voice sounded.

Nian Qi pushed the door open and went straight to the point. “Sir, something happened at the auction.”

“What’s wrong?” Su Zimo sat on the ground without rising up and asked casually.

“There was indeed a cultivator from Iridescent Clouds Palace that arrived for this auction. I ignored him entirely and gave the rights to customize a supreme-grade spirit weapon to another cultivator. However...”

Nian Qi sorted out her thoughts before continuing, “That Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivator seems rather powerful and says that he wants to meet you. He even said that you must have heard of his name and will definitely change your mind.”

“Oh?” Su Zimo raised his brow.

“Right,”

Nian Qi added, “That Iridescent Clouds Palace cultivator has already raised the bid to 2.5 million superior-grade spirit stones. It’s an entire 500,000 more than the second place bidder!”

“So amazing?”

Smiling, Su Zimo turned and stretched his body while asking in a relaxed manner, “What’s his name?”

“Perfected Being Cang Lang.”

Su Zimo’s actions suddenly paused.

“What’s wrong, sir?” Nian Qi asked curiously.

Su Zimo smiled with a hint of mockery flashing in his eyes. His tone was filled with emotion as he replied softly, “Nothing, he’s an old acquaintance.”

“So, are you meeting him?” Nian Qi could not figure out Su Zimo’s intentions.

“Yes, definitely. But now is not the time.”

Su Zimo replied calmly, “Furthermore, he’s right about one thing. I have indeed changed my mind.”

...

“By the looks of it, Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop must have some special rules?”

Outside the crowd, Ji Yaoxue asked in a puzzled manner.

“I don’t know.”

Bai Yuhan shook her head. “However, there must be some deeper meaning as to why Mr. Mo laid down such a rule.”

Ji Yaoxue frowned and fell into deep thought. Her gaze changed as she murmured softly, “Or could it be that Mr. Mo has some sort of a feud with Iridescent Clouds Palace?”

“I’m not sure about any feuds he has with Iridescent Clouds Palace, but I know he’s definitely at loggerheads with True Fire Sect,” Bai Yuhan replied.

Within the carriage in a small alley not far away.

Demoness Ji suddenly said, “I remember something. Su Zimo seems to have a grudge with Perfected Being Cang Lang!”

“Oh?” Gu Xi was surprised.

Demoness Ji recalled. “Back in the palace of Yan Country, he killed a cultivator of Iridescent Clouds Palace and even had another disciple of Iridescent Clouds Palace relay the message that he would definitely take the life of Perfected Being Cang Lang!”

“If that’s the case, that would explain the strange outcome from the auction just now.”

Gu Xi thought for a moment before shaking her head. "However, Su Zimo is only a Foundation Establishment Cultivator. He is still far from being able to take Perfected Being Cang Lang's life."

"One is at Foundation Establishment while the other is at Golden Core, there's definitely a difference in strength. However, they are definitely comparable in terms of status by now," Demoness Ji replied.

Everything aside, the mere weight of the words 'Mr. Mo' was definitely enough to match Perfected Being Cang Lang!

"Now that that is clear, the outcome of Nian Qi relaying the message will be..."

Demoness Ji grinned from ear to ear. "Hehe, there's going to be a good show to watch!"

### **Chapter 296: Kneel Down!**

Si Yutang said softly, "Master, don't worry. The maidservant is just ignorant and has not heard of your name, that's understandable. Once she reports the matter, Mr. Mo will definitely change his mind."

"Yes."

Perfected Being Cang Lang nodded.

He had the confidence that there was no reason Mr. Mo would reject someone who bid 2.5 million superior-grade spirit stones and select somebody else.

Si Yutang turned to his side and said tenderly to the dejected Shen Mengqi, "Junior sister, you don't have to be upset too. There's no need for us to stoop to the level of a maidservant."

Right then, the door to the residence opened with a creak and a gap opened.

"She's out, she's out!"

A commotion broke out among the crowd.

Perfected Being Cang Lang was not the only one; the surrounding cultivators were also awaiting a final outcome.

Nian Qi walked out with a calm expression as she looked at Perfected Being Cang Lang and nodded. "You are right, Perfected Being Cang Lang. Our young master has indeed heard of your name and as you have expected, he has changed his mind as well."

The dark clouds on Perfected Being Cang Lang's face dissipated and he smiled again, looking to his sides smugly.

Perfected Being Yi Ning's eyes dimmed.

Although she had expected this outcome, she could not help but feel disappointed still.

Si Yutang even sneered unreasonable, "Little maidservant, didn't your young master ask you to apologize to my master?"

Nian Qi smiled without saying anything.

"Time to go, time to go!"



Some cultivators did not linger and turned to leave the moment they saw that there was an outcome.

Nian Qi continued, "Our young master even said that if it's Perfected Being Cang Lang, he's willing to customize a supreme-grade spirit weapon for you for free without accepting any spirit stones!"

Perfected Being Cang Lang was elated upon hearing that.

A huge sense of pride and happiness rose within him over the change from 2.5 million spirit stones to a free customization.

"Is Perfected Being Cang Lang that amazing?"

"He's pretty much. He's only a little over 200 years old and he's already at perfected Golden Core. He has the greatest hope of advancing to be a Nascent Soul Perfected Lord."

"Perfected Being Cang Lang is truly influential. To think that he could get a free customization."

In fact, Perfected Being Cang Lang felt light-headed as he listened to the discussions in the crowd and enjoyed everyone's envious gazes.

This was someone who had lived for more than 200 years after all. Perfected Being Cang Lang contained the ecstasy in his heart and nodded his head with cupped fists in every direction.

Although he seemed like he was indifferent, as if he had already expected this outcome from the start, he could not hide the smugness between his brows.

"Haha!"

While Perfected Being Cang Lang was able to hold back his excitement and pretend to be calm, his disciple, Si Yutang, could not hold it in any longer as he burst into laughter with a glowing expression.

Nian Qi smiled and said, "However, my young master said that he has a request for helping you to customize a free supreme-grade spirit weapon."

"Say it."

Perfected Being Cang Lang was in a good mood as he waved his hand and said proudly, "As long as I can do it, I'll definitely do my best to accommodate."

"Rest assured, Perfected Being, this request is very easy for you."

Suddenly, Nian Qi retracted her smile. Her tone turned cold as she enunciated word for word, "My young master said... He. Wants. You. To. Kneel. Down!"

The crowd fell silent.

There was complete silence and one could hear even a pin drop!

Every cultivator present was stunned and dumbfounded, looking towards Nian Qi and Perfected Being Cang Lang instinctively.

"He. Wants. You. To. Kneel. Down!"

Although the crowd was noisy, everyone heard those six words clearly and there was no mistake about it.

Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan were frozen.

Not far away, within a carriage in a small alley, a sweet voice sounded with laughter. "Ha, I knew it! Su Zimo is very interesting!"

Si Yutang's laughter stopped abruptly.

Perfected Being Cang Lang's expression stiffened. Turning his head slowly, he narrowed his gaze and asked faintly, "Young lady, what did you just say? If you have the guts to say it again, I'll listen."

"You didn't hear it clearly?"

Nian Qi was nonchalant towards Perfected Being Cang Lang's threat as she replied indifferently, "As long as you kneel down, my young master will refine a supreme-grade spirit weapon for you."

"Oh, right! He even said that if you were to kneel down AND kowtow, he can refine an additional supreme-grade spirit weapon for you!"

Humiliation!

Although the cultivators present did not know why Mr. Mo would make such a decision, it was a complete and absolute humiliation to Perfected Being Cang Lang!

No matter how valuable a supreme-grade spirit weapon was, how could Perfected Being Cang Lang kneel in front of everyone?

While kneeling down was easy, he would definitely lose all face in the cultivation world from this day forth.

"Fufufufu..."

Perfected Being Cang Lang suddenly laughed.

"You're a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, a mere maidservant. How dare you insult a Golden Core! Even if this is the capital, I can kill you right now!"

Perfected Being Cang Lang's long and narrow eyes shone with a cold killing intent. His hands that were originally behind his back were now placed on his storage bag and his voice was chilling.

Everyone could sense Perfected Being Cang Lang's killing intent!

In the eyes of everyone, Nian Qi was only a maidservant.

Given Perfected Being Cang Lang's status and position, he might not be severely punished if he were to kill a maidservant forcefully right now.

Nian Qi's expression remained unchanged as she continued, "Our young master has already expected that you would definitely be enraged out of shame upon hearing the request and that you will try to kill me. However, this is the capital. If you dare to strike first, the other cultivators will have enough reason to stop you."

“Hehe!”

Perfected Being Cang Lang smiled. “Who would dare stop me for a mere maidservant like you!”

Nian Qi nodded. “That’s why my young master said that whoever beheads you will get a customized supreme-grade spirit weapon from him!”

Perfected Being Cang Lang’s expression changed.

Those were savage words that had set him on fire!

The other party was not only humiliating him, they were forcing him to endure it with nowhere to vent!

At this moment, as long as Perfected Being Cang Lang dared to attack Nian Qi, the other cultivators would have enough reason to strike and they would definitely join forces to kill him.

After all, his head could be exchanged for a supreme-grade spirit weapon – who wouldn’t be tempted?

Even if some of the cultivators were worried about his status and did not dare to attack, the commanders of the Scarlet Vulture and Azure Falcon guards had already approached not far away.

If he dared to make any movements out of the blue, those two would definitely strike without hesitation!

Perfected Being Cang Lang looked extremely ugly and unpredictable.

No matter what, his pride was completely smashed today.

However, Perfected Being Cang Lang could not understand why Mo Ling hated him so much.

The fact that he was able to get to where he was today meant that his hands had already been tainted by endless fresh blood – he no longer remembered when and where he sowed a grudge with any cultivator with the surname of Mo.

“From the looks of it, Mr. Mo definitely knows me then?”

Perfected Being Cang Lang was a top Golden Core cultivator after all and he adjusted himself quickly. A look of mockery flashed in his eyes as he sneered, “Since we were acquaintances, why is he being mysterious and hiding inside instead of meeting me directly?”

Nian Qi replied, “My young master said that he would definitely meet you, but now is not the time.”

“When will be the time then?”

“The sect competition!”

“Alright!”

Perfected Being Cang Lang nodded and said coldly, “Come that time, I’ll see for myself just who this Mo Ling is!”

**Chapter 297: Invitation From the Young Master**

Now that everything was as such, Perfected Being Cang Lang naturally could not stay any longer. With a darkened expression, he turned to leave with his two disciples.

As Perfected Being Cang Lang left, the many surrounding cultivators began to disperse as well.

In a small alley, a coachman drove a horse carriage into the distance.

Outside the crowd, Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan stood at the side, looking emotional after witnessing the entire auction.

Bai Yuhan said, "Did you see that? Mr. Mo played with Perfected Being Cang Lang in the palms of his hands without even making an appearance such that the latter could only leave in shame."

Ji Yaoxue nodded as a look of appreciation flashed in her eyes. "Mr. Mo is indeed impressive. He expected all of Perfected Being Cang Lang's reactions beforehand and dealt with it."

Pausing for a moment, Ji Yaoxue smiled. "If father had not told me that he's only a young man in his twenties, I would have thought that it was some scheming old man."

"Fufu."

Bai Yuhan looked at Ji Yaoxue slyly and chuckled. "Why? Are you starting to get curious about Mr. Mo?"

Ji Yaoxue shook her head and smiled helplessly.

"Don't worry, when you see Mr. Mo later on, you will forget that Su Zimo cleanly," Bai Yuhan assured her.

Just as the two of them conversed, Perfected Being Yi Ning had already handed Nian Qi a storage bag with 30 sets of materials and 2 million superior-grade spirit stones for the supreme-grade spirit weapon.

Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan headed towards Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Perfected Being Yi Ning seemed to have said something to Nian Qi, causing the latter to shake her head.

That had Perfected Being Yi Ning turning to leave with a disappointed look.

"Greetings, master."

Ji Yaoxue happened to approach and bowed slightly, greeting in a gentle voice.

Although Ji Yaoxue was dressed ordinarily right now and bowed towards Perfected Being Yi Ning, she exuded an air of royalty from head to toe that was extremely noble!

"Ah, Yaoxue. You don't have to bow."

Perfected Being Yi Ning nodded and stretched her hands to help Ji Yaoxue up.

While the disciples of Azure Frost Sect did not know of Ji Yaoxue's identity, she knew.

Ji Yaoxue was only at Azure Frost Sect to cultivate for ten years. Thereafter, she would return to the capital of Great Zhou for the sect competition and she would never return to Azure Frost Sect ever again.

In fact, now that Ji Yaoxue had returned to the capital, her status as a princess was already reverted.

“Congratulations, master.”

Ji Yaoxue smiled and said.

“Fufu.”

Perfected Being Yi Ning could not hide the joy in her eyes as she chuckled. “It’s a freak accident and totally by fate. Who would have thought that Mr. Mo would have chosen me in the end.”

Bai Yuhan asked, “What did you say to Nian Qi earlier on, Fellow Daoist Yi Ning?”

“I wanted to meet Mr. Mo to thank him in person, but he didn’t agree and rejected me right away,” Perfected Being Yi Ning smiled bitterly.

Ji Yaoxue consoled her, “From what Fellow Daoist Nian Qi said, Mr. Mo will appear for the sect competition. You’ll definitely see him then.”

“Yes, I hope so.”

The three of them chatted for a while before Perfected Being Yi Ning left.

Ji Yaoxue turned around and smiled. “See, the number one Weapon Refinement Master of the Great Zhou Dynasty is not someone you can meet at any moment. Even my master was given the cold shoulder.”

“We’ll just give it a try. Who knows, we might succeed?”

Bai Yuhan joked, “At the very most, we’ll just announce your title as the third princess and we might be able to change the situation!”

“Sister Bai, you’re teasing me again,” Ji Yaoxue shook her head and laughed.

The two of them walked up and Bai Yuhan knocked on the door.

Before long, the door opened to the knock and Nian Qi poked her head out. She looked at Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan curiously with her big, sparkling eyes.

“The auction has already ended. Fellow Daoists, you are late.”

Ji Yaoxue smiled gently. “Fellow Daoist, we’re not here for the auction. The emperor customized a supreme-grade spirit weapon through Mr. Mo previously and I’m here to collect it.”

“Oh.”

Nian Qi came to a sudden realization as she looked at Bai Yuhan.

She recalled that this was the commander of the White Hawk guards. Since this yellow-robed lady was with Bai Yuhan, there should be no mistake.

“Please wait a moment. The supreme-grade spirit weapon is with our young master. I’ll retrieve it right away.”

Nian Qi said and was about to close the door.

“Hey! Hey!”

Bai Yuhan held Nian Qi back when she saw that Ji Yaoxue was looking indifferent and did not mention anything about wanting to meet Mo Ling. Coughing softly, she said, “Fellow Daoist Nian Qi, can we enter with you and visit Mr. Mo? After all, we’ve been admiring him for a long time.”

“Nopes!”

Nian Qi shook her head without thinking.

Pausing for a moment, she looked at Bai Yuhan and asked confusedly, “Commander Bai, haven’t you met my young master before?”

“I did, but she hasn’t,” Bai Yuhan pointed at Ji Yaoxue who was beside her.

“Nopes still!”

Nian Qi still shook her head and closed the door.

“Right, she’s the third princess of the Great Zhou Dynasty! Hey...” Bai Yuhan hurriedly called out, not knowing if Nian Qi heard her.

Ji Yaoxue could not help but laugh. “Sister Bai, stop shouting. Don’t you find it embarrassing when they’re ignoring you? I do.”

Bai Yuhan pouted. “If he doesn’t want to meet us, so be it! What’s so great about him!”

After a while, the door opened once more and Nian Qi appeared in a flash, looking at Ji Yaoxue with a curious expression.

“Where’s the supreme-grade spirit weapon? We’ll leave after taking it.”

Bai Yuhan felt indignant after being rejected twice in a row by Nian Qi.

Nian Qi said, “The spirit weapon is with our young master.”

Frowning, Bai Yuhan asked, “Then what were you doing just now?”

Nian Qi bowed slightly and made an inviting gesture as she smiled gently. “Our young master invites you in.”

Both Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan were stunned.

The two of them originally thought that they would never be able to meet Mr. Mo. But now, things had taken a sudden spin.

Mr. Mo’s thoughts were truly unfathomable.

Ji Yaoxue was rather calm and composed.

To her, it did not matter whether or not she met him.

However, Bai Yuhan smiled delightedly as she pulled Ji Yaoxue's wrist while urging, "Let's go! This is a rare opportunity!"

Under Nian Qi's lead, the two of them entered the residence hailed as the most mysterious in the capital of Great Zhou.

The houses in the courtyard were neat and tidy and the courtyard itself was clean with the lawn neatly arranged. Not far away, there was a stone table and a couple of stone stools. Apart from those, there was nothing else.

On the shore beside Jishui River, a large black dog that was covered in scales sprawled down, seemingly resting with its eyes closed.

"Please have a seat."

Nian Qi led the two of them to the stone table where there was already a pot of tea. It was emitting steam and a fragrant aroma.

Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan sat down where they were served a cup of tea each by Nian Qi.

Bai Yuhan felt uneasy seeing Nian Qi like this.

While Nian Qi seemed like she was a maidservant on the surface, there were not many cultivators in the capital of Great Zhou that could have her pouring tea for them.

"Sister Yaoxue, it's really you!"

Suddenly, an exclamation sounded nearby.

Ji Yaoxue turned around and saw Su Xiaoning sprinting towards her with a delighted expression.

"Xiaoning, why are you here..."

Ji Yaoxue was stunned.

Right then, another voice rang out, gentle as jade.

"Miss Ji, how have you been?"

### **Chapter 298: You Are Mr. Mo?**

Ji Yaoxue's petite body shuddered slightly as she turned around.

Not far away, a delicate and scholarly cultivator strode over. He wore green robes that fluttered gently in the wind and he had clear eyes with a faint smile on his face.

Ji Yaoxue was stunned, stuck in a trance for a long time.

For some reason, she felt a lump in her throat as tears welled up in her eyes.

That figure had appeared in her mind countless times.

Yet, now that she actually saw it, everything felt surreal.

It was as though everything else was silent as the only thing reverberating in her ears was that sentence, "Miss Ji, how have you been?"

"You're good! So, you knew Mr. Mo long ago but you've kept it so well-hidden from me!" Bai Yuhan leaned in and whispered to Ji Yaoxue.

When she heard that, Ji Yaoxue gradually returned to her senses. By then, the green-robed man was already close to her.

"Greetings, Mr. Mo."

Bai Yuhan stood up immediately and cupped her fists.

The green-robed man merely nodded. He shifted his gaze and looked at Ji Yaoxue's beautiful face again with a smile in his eyes.

Bai Yuhan looked at Ji Yaoxue, then back at the green-robed man.

She was confused.

If they knew each other, why were they not saying anything?

If they did not know each other, what did Mr. Mo mean by that question earlier?

"You are Mr. Mo?"

After a while, Ji Yaoxue finally spoke.

"I think so?" The green-robed man nodded.

"Should I call you Young Master Su, Mr. Mo or... Zimo?"

"As you wish."

As soon as he said that, the two of them looked at one another and smiled as though telepathically, just like before.

"Have a seat."

Su Zimo pointed to the stone stool beside him and sat down with Ji Yaoxue.

Bai Yuhan stood rooted to the ground, still in a daze.

"What Young Master Su? What Zimo?"

Bai Yuhan turned around and hurried to Ji Yaoxue's side, asking in confusion, "Yaoxue, what did you mean by Young Master Su and Zimo earlier on? This... this is Mo Ling! Mr. Mo!"

Ji Yaoxue smiled without saying anything and turned to look at Su Zimo.

Glancing at Bai Yuhan, Su Zimo said frankly, "Let's get to know each other again. I am Su Zimo."

"Which Su Zimo?"

Bai Yuhan was a little confused and asked subconsciously.



“Su Zimo of Yan Country.”

“Ah!”

Bai Yuhan exclaimed and her face was filled with disbelief. “You’re that useless Su Zimo who has no spirit root and is unable to cultivate?”

At the mention of the word ‘useless’, Ji Yaoxue frowned. She glanced sideways and said softly, “Sister Bai!”

Nian Qi was displeased and could not help but blurt, “Commander Bai, how can you say something like that? If my young master is useless, who isn’t useless in this world?”

“H-How is this possible?”

For a moment, Bai Yuhan was unable to accept the truth as her eyes darted between Su Zimo, Ji Yaoxue, Nian Qi and Su Xiaoning – none of them seemed like they were joking.

In Bai Yuhan’s memories, Su Zimo from Yan Country and Mr. Mo who was before her were from completely different worlds!

One was high up in the heavens. As the number one Weapon Refinement Master of the Great Zhou Dynasty, he was renowned and almost all Golden Cores wanted to befriend him.

The other was far down on the ground. Born from a small vassal state far away, he had no spirit root and was unable to cultivate – a most common mortal.

How did the two people become one?

Su Zimo smiled and replied indifferently, “That’s right, there are many impossible things in this world.”

Ji Yaoxue changed the topic and asked curiously, “Why are you called Mo Ling?”

Su Zimo pointed to the plaque above the door. “Mo Ling is merely the name of the weapon workshop. However, others instinctively thought that it was my name. Because I’m too lazy to explain anything, that was how it spread.”

“To think that you’ve changed so much after not seeing you for a couple of years. You are now Mr. Mo who is renowned throughout the capital and it’s difficult to even meet you,” Ji Yaoxue teased.

Su Zimo laughed as well. “You’ve already reported your title as the third princess of the Great Zhou Dynasty, how would I dare to not meet you?”

“Pfft!”

Ji Yaoxue covered her mouth and chuckled while rolling her eyes at Bai Yuhan. “It’s all Sister Bai’s fault.”

In Bai Yuhan’s eyes, Ji Yaoxue seemed to have changed into another person ever since she met Su Zimo – the gloominess in her eyes were gone and they were now beautiful like clear waters. She smiled enchantingly with every word and action of hers and was extremely beautiful.

Pondering for a moment, Ji Yaoxue continued, “Right, father has high regards for you as well.”

“Of Mo Ling, you mean,” Su Zimo’s tone was calm.

“It’s all the same. You’re both the same person,” Ji Yaoxue replied.

Su Zimo smiled but did not say anything.

He knew clearly well that if the Emperor of Great Zhou knew that he was Mo Ling, it would be hard to tell the kind of attitude the latter would have towards that fact.

The emperor’s heart was unfathomable.

If he was enraged, he would be able to find sufficient reason to kill Su Zimo!

“The supreme-grade spirit weapon that Your Majesty customized was a gift for you, right?” Su Zimo asked.

“Yes.”

Ji Yaoxue nodded and extended her palms with a smile. “Hand it over. I want to see the quality of a flying sword customized by Mr. Mo and whether it catches my eye.”

Su Zimo grinned and took out a flying sword from his storage bag.

The sword was three feet long and about two feet wide. it was engraved with mysterious mystical patterns and was breathtaking – it could be described as a work of the gods!

Su Zimo injected spirit energy to it.

Whoosh!

The sword lit up with four spirit patterns in a bedazzling manner!

A four-patterned supreme-grade spirit weapon!

Bai Yuhan’s eyes flashed with envy as she looked at the flying sword.

Even though she was the commander of the White Hawk guards, she did not possess a supreme-grade spirit weapon.

Ji Yaoxue received the flying sword with both hands and wiped her fingers across the sword. She could sense the coldness of the sword but a current of warmth seeped into her heart.

Buzz!

Brushing her finger against the tip of the sword, Ji Yaoxue flicked it gently and the sword trembled, reverberating with a clear ringing sound!

The sound of the sword alone was enough to tell that even amongst supreme-grade spirit weapons, this was definitely a top-notch flying sword and was infinitely close to being a perfect spirit weapon!

Su Zimo took out another long pale yellow dress from his storage bag and passed it to Ji Yaoxue. “This dress is for you too.”

Ji Yaoxue took it.

The pale yellow dress was extremely thin and light with a hint of coldness to it.

Ji Yaoxue's heart stirred and she injected spirit energy into the dress.

Whoosh!

Four rays of light burst from the dress, shining brightly!

"Ah!"

Both Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan exclaimed at almost the same time.

It was another supreme-grade spirit weapon!

And, it was an extremely rare defensive supreme-grade spirit weapon at that!

The cutting of the dress seemed as though it was custom-made for Ji Yaoxue entirely.

At that moment, Bai Yuhan was no longer filled with envy – it was jealousy!

This was way too extravagant!

Who would give away supreme-grade spirit weapons as gifts just like that?!

Ji Yaoxue lowered her head and pretended to check out the dress in her hands. However, her cheeks were slightly red and her heart was racing.

Su Zimo frowned slightly when he noticed Ji Yaoxue's expression.

He had only given her the dress because he saw Ji Yaoxue as a good friend. Furthermore, she was his and the Su family's benefactor.

Su Zimo did not wish to cause Ji Yaoxue's misunderstanding.

After pondering for a moment, he said in a seemingly casual manner, "I just bought some thousand year old Sky Silk recently and made them into three dresses. Apart from you, Xiaoning and Nian Qi each have one too."

When she heard that, Ji Yaoxue's eyes dimmed.

However, she recovered very quickly and was smiling by the time she raised her head. "Thank you very much then."

### **Chapter 299: Hongmen Banquet**

Xiaoning blinked and could tell that there was something wrong between the two of them. Thus, she held Ji Yaoxue's hand and smiled. "Sister Yaoxue, why have you only just returned? I've missed you."

Ji Yaoxue rubbed Xiaoning's forehead and asked tenderly, "How are you doing in Azure Frost Elixir Workshop? Did anyone bully you?"

Su Xiaoning froze momentarily and averted her gaze while smiling. "No, all the seniors are taking good care of me."

"Hmm?"

Ji Yaoxue hummed softly.

While Xiaoning had hidden herself well, Ji Yaoxue still found some contradictions.

She turned to look at Su Zimo and asked with a frown, "Zimo, what happened?"

"Nothing much, Sister Yaoxue! Stop asking," Su Xiaoning added hurriedly.

Ji Yaoxue smiled faintly. "Even if you and your brother refuse to tell me, is there anything that can be hidden from me within the Great Zhou Dynasty if I want to know about it?"

"It's nothing much. There's just a cultivator in Azure Frost Elixir Workshop called Yang Yu who has a feud with you I guess," Su Zimo spoke but did not elaborate.

Back in Azure Frost Elixir Workshop, he had already told Yang Yu that someone would deal with her.

"It's her?"

There was a cold glint in Ji Yaoxue's eyes as her aura changed immediately.

"I've already warned that Yang Yu not to provoke me anymore!"

It was only at this moment that a unique sense of royalty dignity and ferociousness was exuded from Ji Yaoxue.

Her body carried the bloodline of the emperor after all – that was someone who could smite a million corpses in a fit of anger!

Right then, a red dot flew over from the void not far away. It was extremely fast and was headed towards Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop.

Bai Yuhan frowned. "It's the Scarlet Vulture guards. What are they coming over for?"

Su Zimo's heart skipped a beat as he vaguely guessed something.

Not long after, several dozen Scarlet Vulture guards descended outside Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop and the leader of the group was a bald man with no eyebrows – he was none other than the commander of the Scarlet Vulture guards, Bald Vulture.

Bald Vulture rode on a Scarlet Vulture expressionlessly and cupped his fists. "Your Majesty has given orders for the third princess to return to the palace. Also, Your Majesty is holding a banquet at the Rain Admiration Pavilion and Mr. Mo is invited to it!"

Ji Yaoxue frowned.

She could tell that something was amiss through Bald Vulture's eyes.

"Commander Bald Vulture, did father mention why he is setting up a banquet for Mr. Mo?" Ji Yaoxue's eyes sparkled as she stared into Bald Vulture's eyes and asked with a raised voice.

Bald Vulture bowed slightly and averted Ji Yaoxue's gaze. "I don't know."

Ji Yaoxue's heart sank.

She had grown up in the palace since she was a child and knew everything about it. She could sense a faint killing intent emanating from Bald Vulture!

That killing intent was definitely not directed at her.

It went without saying who it was directed to!

“Don’t go.”

Ji Yaoxue turned around and shook her head at Su Zimo with a grave expression.

Su Zimo smiled calmly.

In truth, he had expected this day to arrive.

When he acknowledged Su Xiaoning in the capital more than a month ago, he had already expected that given the emperor’s intellect, it was only a matter of time before the latter discovered his true identity.

Furthermore, there was no way he could hide his identity at the sect competition.

Su Zimo had not intended to hide it either.

Now that the emperor had set up a banquet and the Scarlet Vulture guards had appeared, it was basically confirmation that his identity had already been exposed.

This was clearly a Hongmen Banquet[1].

However, Su Zimo had to attend it.

This was the capital of Great Zhou – he had no other choice.

“I’ll accompany you.”

Ji Yaoxue had also realized that even if Su Zimo were to reject the invitation, the Scarlet Vulture guards were going to bring him along forcefully.

By then, things might get worse.

“You guys stay here and await my return. Don’t worry.”

Su Zimo turned around and reminded Nian Qi and Xiaoning before glancing at Night Spirit who was sprawled in a corner.

“Let’s go.”

Su Zimo, Ji Yaoxue and Bai Yuhan each got onto a Scarlet Vulture and sped towards the palace under Bald Vulture’s lead.

After a while, everyone arrived at the palace.

Flying was forbidden within the palace and everyone got down from the Scarlet Vultures.

Bald Vulture bowed. “Third princess, please head back. I’ll lead Mr. Mo to the banquet right now.”

“I’m coming along as well,” Even though Ji Yaoxue’s tone was calm, it was unquestionable.

Bald Vulture frowned darkly and said in a low voice, "Third princess, please don't make things difficult for me. I'm only following orders."

"Oh?"

Ji Yaoxue asked indifferently, "You have objections towards me making things difficult for you?"

Instantly, Bald Vulture's heart skipped a beat as he replied hurriedly, "I wouldn't dare."

Turning around, Ji Yaoxue's gaze was sharp and intimidating as she questioned, "Your orders are to bring Mr. Mo with you. How am I conflicting with your orders by following along?"

"I..." Bald Vulture was speechless.

Within the palace of Great Zhou, Ji Yaoxue seemed to have transformed into a different person as she revealed her prowess and displayed a unique sense of dominance and royal dignity!

Ji Yaoxue asked again, "I've just returned from Azure Frost Sect and haven't had dinner with father for a long time. Now that he's hosting a banquet today and I want to join him for a meal, you're trying to stop me?"

"I wouldn't dare."

Bald Vulture found himself breaking out in cold sweat against Ji Yaoxue's three consecutive questions.

Ji Yaoxue waved her hands. "Lead the way."

"Yes."

After a moment of hesitation, Bald Vulture glared at Su Zimo gloomily before nodding his head reluctantly.

Everyone headed towards the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

Before long, they arrived at the entrance of the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

On the small path in the middle of the pool, cold-looking Imperial Army soldiers guarded both sides. They wielded long sabers and axes while exuding a faint scent of bloodlust!

These were truly Imperial Army soldiers who had experienced battle and undergone a baptism of blood!

The cultivation of these Imperial Army soldiers were at perfected Foundation Establishment – they were above Su Zimo.

As for how many meridians they had unlocked, the Spirit Peering Art could not reveal that.

The remaining Scarlet Vulture guards remained outside while Su Zimo, Ji Yaoxue, Bald Vulture and Bai Yuhan passed the emperor's Imperial Army and entered the Rain Admiration Pavilion.

The moment they entered, Su Zimo felt a murderous aura!

A ring of cultivators surrounded the Rain Admiration Pavilion, all of them at Golden Core realm. They glared at Su Zimo with cold, expressionless eyes.

Within the Rain Admiration Pavilion, a table was set in the middle with exquisite dishes that were still emitting steam displayed.

A noble middle-aged man dressed in the emperor's robes sat in the seat opposite the entrance. His forehead was wide and he had a gaze deep as water where his emotions were impossible to read.

The Emperor of Great Zhou!

The emperor's gaze was fixed on Su Zimo's face, lingering for the longest time as though he was scrutinizing to determine carefully just who this green-robed scholar was.

Coupled with the fact that he had ascended the throne for a long time, the emperor's razor-sharp gaze naturally carried an authority that looked down on the masses such that even cultivators would not dare to meet it head on.

However, Su Zimo's expression was calm and he met the emperor's gaze without any intention of avoiding it at all!

Perhaps Su Zimo might have felt a little guilty if this was in the past.

However, he had ascended to fame and gathered influence in the past three years under the name of Mo Ling.

In addition, Su Zimo was someone with an innate sharpness to begin with – even the emperor's authority was not enough to suppress someone like him!

[1] This refers to an event in history and typically represents an ambush or trap.

### **Chapter 300: Unsolvable Trap**

The emperor retracted his gaze from Su Zimo and instantly, the suppressive feeling earlier on disappeared as though everything was just a hallucination.

"Come here, Xue'er."

Turning his head slightly, the emperor looked at Ji Yaoxue and smiled while beckoning with his hand.

Ji Yaoxue frowned slightly and did not budge.

The emperor asked with a smile, "What's wrong? You don't wish to have a meal with your father?"

At that moment, the emperor had a kind and benevolent expression as he looked at Ji Yaoxue endearingly – he looked completely like a slightly aged father.

While Su Zimo could not sense any killing intent or enmity from the emperor, his spirit perception told him that this person was extremely dangerous!

Furthermore, he was at the edge of life and death.

Ji Yaoxue hesitated for a moment before she walked over slowly and sat down beside the emperor as per his intentions.

"Father, Mr. Mo..."

“Let’s eat.”

He interrupted her before she could continue. Although his tone was calm, it was impossible to rebut him.

With that said, the emperor started eating the dishes on the table as if no one else was around. He ate elegantly and chewed slowly without letting out any sound.

At that moment, even Ji Yaoxue could not figure out the emperor’s thoughts.

She glanced at Su Zimo, feeling perturbed. While she looked like she was eating as well, everything tasted like wax to her.

In the Rain Admiration Pavilion, Su Zimo seemed to have become an extra person.

The emperor seemed to have forgotten about him as he was left standing on the spot.

Su Zimo smiled calmly and was not vexed. With one hand behind his back, he strolled to the side and looked at the pleasant scenery outside in a leisurely manner.

Time passed bit by bit. The Rain Admiration Pavilion was silent and Su Zimo seemed to be completely immersed in the beautiful scenery, forgetting everything around him.

At that moment, Bai Yuhan nodded her head with admiration.

Not everyone could remain this calm before the Emperor of Great Zhou.

After a long while, the emperor wiped his mouth and a chilling glint flashed across his eyes.

Ji Yaoxue put down her utensils and coughed lightly. “Take it away.”

In part, Ji Yaoxue was summoning the maidservant to take the dishes away. At the same time, it was a reminder for Su Zimo.

He gradually came back to his senses and returned to stand not far away from the emperor.

“Should I call you Mr. Mo, or... Su Zimo?”

The emperor spoke suddenly and asked directly without beating around the bush!

Su Zimo replied, “Both works. It depends on which one Your Majesty prefers.”

Bang!

The emperor’s palm struck the table heavily all of a sudden, giving off a loud bang.

Ji Yaoxue was shocked.

“Su Zimo, are you aware of your crimes?!”

The emperor slapped the table and stood up. Instantly, his aura changed completely, as though he was an angry lion that was gushing forth with an immensely intimidating pressure!

Those words were deafening like the sound of a huge bell.



Su Zimo's body swayed.

Against the pressure of the emperor, he felt like he was suffocating – his security was at stake now and his head could fall at any moment!

"Father..." Ji Yaoxue's expression changed as she stood up hurriedly.

"Don't interfere in this matter!"

The emperor did not even look at her as he waved his sleeves gently, sending Ji Yaoxue to the side.

Ji Yaoxue did not know what spell he used but she could not move her body at all. While she was agitated and her eyes revealed endless worry, she could not speak at all.

Su Zimo closed his eyes and took a deep breath. When he opened them again, they were brimming with a dazzling light of life!

"What are my crimes?" Su Zimo asked instead.

The emperor's gaze was dark as he said slowly, "You hid your identity in front of me. That's deceiving the emperor and you should be executed!"

Everyone in the Rain Admiration Pavilion could sense the emperor's killing intent!

However, Su Zimo's expression was unchanged as he replied calmly, "Your Majesty, you have never asked me about it. How does that equate to me hiding things from you?"

"Bullshit!"

The emperor shouted, "Back in Mo Spirit Weapon Workshop, I asked you personally what sect you were from and who your master was. How dare you try to deny now that things have come to this!"

Su Zimo replied indifferently, "That day, Your Majesty paid a visit in secret. How was I to know of your identity, Your Majesty?"

The emperor frowned slightly.

Su Zimo's meaning was simple – the source of this matter was not him, but the emperor.

Right from the start, the emperor had not inquired about Su Zimo's background using his identity as the emperor. As such, there was naturally no way the latter was deceiving the emperor.

No matter what, Su Zimo had saved Ji Yaoxue's life before.

Furthermore, his alter ego was Mr. Mo who was renowned throughout the capital.

In terms of both logic and sentimentality, the emperor should not kill Su Zimo.

However, the moment the emperor found out about the truth, he felt a sense of shame as though he was played and cheated by someone.

He would feel indignant if he were to let Su Zimo leave just like this!

He wanted to kill but he did not want to kill at the same time!

The conflict within the emperor's heart had reached an extreme!

That was why he had to look for a reason that he could convince himself with if he wanted to kill Su Zimo.

Right from the beginning, when Su Zimo entered the Rain Admiration Pavilion, his spirit perception had already sensed the immense reason – that was because the emperor wanted to kill him but lacked a reason.

That was also the reason why the emperor left Su Zimo hanging on the spot.

As long as Su Zimo did anything unusual, the emperor would strike immediately and kill him on the spot!

Normally, someone of Su Zimo's age would be the most brash. Coupled with his title as the number one Weapon Refinement Master of the Great Zhou Dynasty, he would definitely be enraged for being ignored as such.

He would then either rush up and reason about it or turn to leave.

No matter which choice it was, Su Zimo would have definitely died.

However, of all things, he was neither angry nor vexed and walked to the side to admire the scenery.

Helpless, the emperor could only strike again and accuse him of deceiving the emperor while using that as an excuse to kill him.

However, Su Zimo managed to resolve the contradiction within a couple of sentences, leaving the emperor without any reason to refute.

Although everything seemed like it was a simple exchange of words, there were swords and sabers lying beneath – a single mistake and Su Zimo's blood would fill the Rain Admiration Pavilion!

Ji Yaoxue, who had seen through everything, heaved a sigh of relief and her expression eased slightly.

“Very good.”

The emperor nodded expressionlessly and his tone was cold – no one could tell if he was giving a compliment or being sarcastic.

“Let's leave the matter of deceiving the emperor aside first.”

The emperor's gaze was cold as he asked in a frosty voice, “Do you admit that you killed the Imperial Army soldier, Dai Xu?”

As long as that matter was thoroughly investigated, Su Zimo would definitely be implicated.

Back then, Dai Xu had tailed Su Zimo after catching sight of him outside the Rain Admiration Pavilion. The fact that he died that very night made it obvious who the murderer was.

Su Zimo pondered for a moment before nodding. “I killed him.”

“Alright!”

A cold glint flashed in the emperor's eyes. "Since you admit it, there's nothing to say anymore! A life for a life!"

Raising his head, Su Zimo looked at the emperor and asked, "Why can't I kill Dai Xu since he wanted to kill me?"

"As long as someone wishes to kill you, you have to kill them in return?" The emperor raised his brows.

"Yes!" Su Zimo replied without hesitation.

Suddenly, the emperor's eyes narrowed as he slowly asked, "Then, I want to kill you now. What do you want?"

Ji Yaoxue shuddered when she heard that question.

This was an unsolvable question!

No matter how Su Zimo replied, he would be in the wrong!

If he displayed weakness and did not dare to rebut, he would be contradicting his previous statement and the emperor could go along with that flow and kill him.

If Su Zimo's stance was overly tough and replied that he would kill the emperor, that would be regicide and he would definitely be killed!

It was an unsolvable trap.