

God Emperor 241

Chapter 241: Slave Girl

Just as he thought, Zhang Ruochen could sense the aura of dozens of people hiding in the ship warehouse after a quick search.

The auras of these people were all different. Some of them had strong Spiritual Blood as if they were savage beasts in human form; others had weak Spiritual Blood and were no different from ordinary people.

Only when the remaining evil warriors were all cleansed, would the Red Spider Vessel completely belong to him.

“The Red Spider Vessel is a good treasure. It would probably make a lot of money if I were to sell it.”

Zhang Ruochen was heading to the ship warehouse when he passed by Mu Qing’s skeleton and saw the Golden Line Long Whip. He picked it up before pushing open the door to the warehouse and walking in.

The Golden Line Long Whip was a level seven Genuine Martial Arms and thus, it was also another priceless treasure.

The warehouse of the Red Spider Vessel was very huge. It was divided into three levels and could hold thousands of people without crowding.

The moment Zhang Ruochen entered the warehouse, an evil warrior clad completely in black armor rushed toward Zhang Ruochen with a sword in hands. His cultivation was already at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm and clearly, he was the martial arts master guarding the warehouse.

“SWISH!”

A golden ray of light flashed across the neck of the evil warrior at the moment when Golden Line Long Whip was swung.

The black armor easily tore apart as if he was made of paper under the Golden Whip’s attack.

The warrior covered by black armor froze in terror with his hand and sword raised until Zhang Ruochen had walked some distance away. Then, his head, along with his helmet, landed on the ground with a crash.

At the top level of the Red Spider Vessel, Zhang Ruochen cleared out 12 evil warriors all at once. Their cultivations ranged from the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm to the Initial Stage of the Black Realm.

They were all Mu Qing’s servants and each had their own given task. Among them were weapon refiners who repaired the inscriptions on the Red Spider Vessels, housekeepers who maintained the account books, as well as warriors who guarded the vessel.

Zhang Ruochen walked into the middle section of the Red Spider Vessel and realized the decor here was totally different from others. It was as if he had just walked into a royal palace. The decorations were

extremely extravagant and there were 24 beautiful slave girls congregated at the center of the warehouse. They were staring in horror at Zhang Ruochen who had just barged in.

Having felt the intensely powerful aura emanating from Zhang Ruochen, they all kneeled, trembling, on the ground and did not even dare to lift their heads.

The 24 slave girls were all first-class beauties with good figures and appearances. Almost all of them were ordinary people; only three had activated a Sacred Mark, but their cultivations were very low.

“Mu Qing sure knew how to enjoy life,” Zhang Ruochen gently shook his head and asked, “Are you all part of the Poisonous Spider Club?”

The 24 slave girls all kneeled on the ground in a line and no one dared to reply.

Zhang Ruochen continued, “If none of you speak, I can only assume you were all part of the Poisonous Spider Club and execute everyone.”

There was a girl among them whose cultivation had reached the Advanced Stage of the Yellow Realm. She plucked up her courage and raised her head, and replied as she sobbed, “S ... sir, we were all once citizens of the Yunwu Commandery, but we were caught by soldiers of the Square Commandery when we lost the battle and then sold to the Poisonous Spider Club.”

“The most beautiful girls were singled out and sent to the Red Spider Vessel to serve the important figures of the Poisonous Spider Club.”

“There were 57 of us at first, but now there are only 24 left. Sir, please, rescue us. We don’t want to die here...”

The other slave girls began to cry and beg as well, “Sir, please, rescue us! This is hell on earth, please!”

Zhang Ruochen felt his heart sank as he looked at the 24 young girls who were at the peak of their beauty. They were all once citizens of the Yunwu Commandery. Some were probably aristocratic daughters, but because of the defeat, they became slaves of the evil warriors.

Who was to blame?

Only the Yunwu Commandery was to blame for not being powerful enough to protect them.

Of course, the Yunwu Commandery Prince was not entirely to blame. After all, the Yunwu Commandery was an inferior commandery while the Square Commandery was a medium level commandery, and was ten times more powerful. Once they met in battle, there was little to no chance of victory for the Yunwu Commandery.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen’s eyes lit up and he asked, “You said, you were originally caught by the Square Commandery before sending to the Poisonous Spider Club?”

“Yes.” Said the rather bold slave girl.

“Does that mean there could be a collusion between the imperial court of the Square Commandery and the Poisonous Spider Club?” Zhang Ruochen mused to himself.

If what they said was true, then it was no longer just a small matter.

Regardless of whether it was the Yunwu Commandery or the Square Commandery, they were both commanderies within the First Central Empire. Only because they were remotely located, the First Central Empire was lax in its control and allowed various commanderies to set up their independent imperial courts, take lands, and be titled, Princes.

However, no commandery could violate the basic laws of the First Central Empire.

For example, the First Central Empire was allied with the Martial Market Bank. Empress Chi Yao fully supported the Martial Market Bank, and the official power of each commandery must also align themselves with the Martial Market Bank in suppressing the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

If any commandery was found to be colluding with the black market, not only will they face retribution from the Martial Market Bank, they also would not be tolerated by the Empire.

To put it simply, if the Square Commandery was truly colluding with the black market in secret, they were looking for death. The surrounding large commanderies could join forces to launch an attack and split the territories belonging to the Square Commandery. Even the Martial Market Bank would support them wholeheartedly.

One of the slave girls spoke up cautiously, "Sir, I have something important to tell you."

Zhang Ruochen stared at her and said, "Speak!"

The girl spoke in a low voice with tears in her eyes, "I ... I have a condition!"

"You are negotiating with me?" Zhang Ruochen smiled faintly.

The slave girl froze, thinking she had offended Zhang Ruochen. She immediately kneeled down and kowtowed to him endlessly.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You don't need to be afraid of me. Tell me your condition!"

The slave girl replied, "If you promise to release us, I will tell you an important piece of information."

She did not know Zhang Ruochen's identity, but she knew very clearly that Zhang Ruochen must be a top warrior. Otherwise, how could Mu Qing and the Golden Line Long Whip have fallen into his hands?

They did not want to continue to be Zhang Ruochen's playthings. So, they decided to stand up for themselves and fight for their freedom, even if their power was insignificant when compared to him.

Zhang Ruochen found a chair and sat down. He smiled and said, "You might not know my identity. I am the Ninth Prince of the Yunwu Commandery as well as an internal student of the School of the Martial Market. Even if you hadn't asked it of me, I would still let you go."

All their eyes lit up once they learned about Zhang Ruochen's identity. The previous fear was completely replaced by worship and admiration.

He was a prince of the Yunwu Commandery, what an important person!

Furthermore, he could kill a legendary warrior like Mu Qing. That was heroic beyond words so naturally, they came to worship him.

Being imprisoned as a slave on the Red Spider Vessel, have they not all dreamed of a handsome young prince who would lead the army and rescue them from this hellhole?

Now, their dreams had come true!

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Where will you go after I release you? You are all very beautiful and most of you haven't practiced Martial Arts and so, you can't even protect yourselves. Under these circumstances, you will soon be captured again and enslaved to others."

The slave girls' eyes dimmed as they knew Zhang Ruochen was speaking the truth.

In this world where respect was founded upon martial prowess, weak people could only be slaves. Sometimes not even as good as slaves.

Zhang Ruochen continued, "Rest assured, since I am here, I will ensure you are all settled well. Now can you tell me the information?"

Having received Zhang Ruochen's promise, they felt much relieved. The girl who had practiced Martial Arts said, "Sir, what you were speculating earlier was right. It's true that the Poisonous Spider Club and the Square Commandery are working together, and their relationship goes very deep."

"We have been imprisoned here for a year and at least 10 high ranking officials from the Square Commandery have come to visit Mu Qing. We entertained all the officials and so we have heard some top secrets."

"Rumors say, the Square Commandery's attack on the Yunwu Commandery a year ago was planned by the Poisonous Spider Club. They wanted to take advantage of the war to capture a large number of slaves to sell as goods."

Zhang Ruochen's gaze grew dark and cold, "That's terrible. It's because of them that the Yunwu Commandery has lost so many soldiers. Countless of civilians have been slaughtered and many families were separated."

Zhang Ruochen thought it was best to determine the connection between the Square Commandery imperial court and the Poisonous Spider Club so that he could wipe them all out in one go. Otherwise, there would only be more tragedies if they stirred up troubles again in the future.

"Of the high officials from the Square Commandery you have seen, who had the most important identity?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

One of the slave girls thought for a moment then said, "I met an important figure. He seemed to be a Marquis of the Square Commandery. His status was very high as he was on equal terms with Mu Qing. They discussed a lot of important business together."

Zhang Ruochen's heart skipped a beat. He immediately asked, "What is the name of the Marquis?"

The slave girl shook her head and replied, "I don't know. I only heard Mu Qing refer to him as 'Army-guarding Marquis'."

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head. With the title of "Army-guarding Marquis", it would be easy to find him.

He must make a trip to the Square Commander and verify the information before contacting the Martial Market Bank and the Martial Market School. They must strike like lightning to exterminate the Poisonous Spider Club and punish the Square Commandery.

“You can all get up! I will now take you all to Lin’an County Town and order the soldiers in the town to escort you to Yunwu City. I will give you a handwritten letter. Take this letter and find the Ninth Commandery Princess. She will help you to settle down.” Zhang Ruochen said.

“Many thanks, Ninth Prince.”

The slave girls were all crying with joy. They all stood up and saluted Zhang Ruochen respectfully.

A 15 years old girl stood quietly in the corner and stared at Zhang Ruochen rather timidly. It looked like she had something to say, but was too scared to speak up.

Of course, her actions did not escape Zhang Ruochen’s eyes. He asked, “Do you have something more to say?”

The slave girl replied in a low voice, “I have another piece of information you might be interested in.”

“What is it?” asked Zhang Ruochen.

The slave girl replied, “I always served Mu Qing. One time, he drank a lot and told me some secrets. He said ... he has a Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph, and it was a real one. He found it in the ancient ruins of a Half-Saint, and it was his most prized possession.”

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## **Chapter 242: A Thousand Bones**

“What? A Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph!”

Zhang Ruochen felt his heart leap and he quickly asked, “Did he tell you where he put that Glyph?”

The slave girl shook her head.

She was only a slave girl in Mu Qing’s eyes, how could he have possibly told her the location of the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph?

Suddenly, she spoke again, “Mu Qing’s life was well-ordered. If he wasn’t on the Red Spider Vessel, he would be at his mansion in the black market. The Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph must be in one of these two places.

The Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph was indeed very precious. Not only could it help Zhang Ruochen practice his Spiritual Power, it could also help him perceive the way of the Half-Saint’s Martial Arts.

It must be noted, Zhang Ruochen only reached the Completion of the Heaven Realm in his last life, and he was still very far from the Half-Saint Realm.

Zhang Ruochen had all the slave girls wait in the center section of the ship warehouse.

He headed to the lower level of the warehouse alone to look for the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

There were many secret rooms built in the lower level of the warehouse and each room was equipped with Inscriptions of Array. If a normal warrior were to break into here, it would be a dead end for him.

These Inscriptions of Array could not stop Zhang Ruochen. He only needed to use "Space Crack" to break through the Inscriptions of Array and enter the secret rooms.

In the secret rooms of the lowest level of the ship's warehouse stored enormous fortune. There were more than 80,000 Spiritual Crystals alone. There were also large amounts of Genuine Martial Arms, Pills, martial technique manuals, and other precious goods. The combined total of all the Practice resources definitely amounted to more than 150,000,000 silver coins.

Furthermore, the value of the Red Spider Vessel itself had yet to be included.

This was a huge source of wealth. It might be the entire fortune of the Poisonous Spider Club in the southern border of the Square Commandery.

If the Poisonous Spider Club knew that such wealth had fallen into Zhang Ruochen's hands, they would go crazy with rage.

Zhang Ruochen said, "The news will probably get out very quickly. Once the Poisonous Spider Club knows that the Red Spider Vessel has fallen into my hands, they will certainly dispatch a large number of masters to deal with me."

Having searched the entire Red Spider Vessel, Zhang Ruochen still did not find the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

*Seems like the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph must be located in Mu Qing's mansion in the black market.*

Zhang Ruochen did not touch the Practice resources in the Red Spider Vessel. Stepping out of the lowest level, he then flew the Red Spider Vessel to Lin'an County Town and hovered in the air above. He escorted the 24 slave girls into town in search of the troops.

There were only 3,000 troops stationed in the Lin'an County Town.

When the general guarding the city heard about the arrival of the Ninth Prince, he immediately rushed to welcome him. He did not dare to keep him waiting at all.

"Ah, so the mysterious youth who dueled with Hua Minggong earlier was the Ninth Prince. My god! The Ninth Prince's cultivation has already reached such a high realm."

The general had already visited the stronghold of the Poisonous Spider Club and saw the bodies of Hua Minggong and the Young Lord of the Poisonous Spiders. He had also discovered the identities of the two bodies through the captured evil warriors.

In the eyes of an ordinary soldier, Hua Minggong, who was a warrior of the Heaven Realm, was regarded as a legendary figure.

The general was stunned in shock when he heard that Hua Minggong and the Young Lord had died in Lin'an County Town. He was just about to send someone to report to the imperial court when the news of the Ninth Prince's arrival had reached him, and so he quickly went to welcome him.

Upon learning the purpose of the Ninth Prince's visit, the general immediately arranged 1000 soldiers to escort the 24 slave girls to Yunwu City, carrying along the Ninth Prince's personal letter.

After he done dealing with the slave girls, Zhang Ruochen headed toward the exit of the town.

Arriving at the city gate, Zhang Ruochen saw a small, familiar figure.

It was a little girl around three or four years old. She had disheveled hair with a thin and emaciated face, but these could not conceal her clever demeanor. It was definitely the girl he had met when he first entered Lin'an County Town.

She stood there in the snow. Her face and hands were all red. She blinked, staring at Zhang Ruochen in the distance.

The long coat Zhang Ruochen had given her earlier had disappeared. She was still wearing thin, shabby clothes. Even her feet were bare, with no shoes in sight.

Zhang Ruochen was somewhat curious so he walked over and asked, "How come you are here? Where was the coat I gave you earlier, and the Blood Pill?"

The little girl stared up at him with her clear, rounded eyes while her fingers tugged on the corner of her clothes. She replied in a low voice, "I... I gave them to someone else!"

"Why are you so silly? If you wear the clothes, you can withstand the cold. And if you take the Blood Pill, you won't feel hungry all winter. Why did you give them to someone else?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

The girl's expression remained firm and showed no trace of regret, "I gave them away, and they helped me bury my mother."

Zhang Ruochen suddenly understood and had nothing more to say. He observed the little girl closely and said, "Where is your mother buried? Can you take me to see her?"

The little girl tilted her head to the side and thought for a while before nodding. She walked off in the snow, her bare feet turned red from the cold. It was as if she had no idea what cold was, or her body had long frozen to numb.

For each step she took, she would sink in the snow up to her knees and left a trail of small footprints.

Zhang Ruochen walked behind her. Looking at her thin figure, he felt suspicion rose up in his heart.

In this cruel weather where cold and hunger battled, even a healthy adult would freeze to death if he stayed outside in the snow.

How could a little girl of three or four years old with such thin, shabby clothing and no food not freeze to death? Or starve to death?

"Stop!" Zhang Ruochen said.

The little girl stopped and turned her head. Her clear, big eyes were staring at Zhang Ruochen with confusion.

Walking to the front of her, Zhang Ruochen pressed down on her head with a finger and pinched it inch by inch. Following that, his hands first closed in on her vertebrae and moved downward to pinch her leg and feet joints.

After a moment, Zhang Ruochen drew back his hands and a smile played about his lips, “Unbelievable. There appear to be 1008 bones in the body. No wonder she hasn’t been frozen or starved to death. After all, she has “Thousand-bones Physique.”

A normal person only had 206 bones.

Of course, when they were young, they had a few extra bones and could reach up to 218 bones. That was because their bones were not completely formed at a young age.

Thus, the youth was the best time to practice Martial Arts. Upon reaching maturity, the bones would be shaped. Then, they would not be able to reach their full potential even if they did practice Martial Arts.

For a human to have 1008 bones was truly a miracle in terms of bone structure. She would be a genius at martial arts and only lacked the opportunity to do so. If she had the opportunity she would surely improve quickly and soar above the rest.

This was a physical quality gifted by heaven!

Take Zhang Ruochen for example, his physical quality in this life was very poor, and so he was physically weak and sick since young. Until the age of sixteen, he had not activated a Sacred Mark. Later he had died in his sickbed due to extreme cold.

If Zhang Ruochen’s soul from his previous life had not come to the present from 800 years ago and entered this body, he would not be given the chance to practice Martial Arts.

Zhang Ruochen owed everything he was today to the Practice of the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emyrean, as well as large quantities of Practice resources.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen bought large amounts of pills and practiced the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to strengthen his physical quality, as to make up for what he lacked from birth.

The little girl was different. She was born with her miraculous skeletal structure. Other people only had 206 bones, and yet she had 1008. Even Zhang Tiangui could not compare to her in terms of natural physical quality.

Legend had it that even dragons and phoenixes only had 999 bones, nine less than her.

So the so-called “humans among dragons and phoenixes” referred to the “Thousand-bones Physical Quality”.

If she were to be discovered by a large suzerain or a big family, they would definitely treat her like a priceless treasure.



There had only been one great emperor with Thousand-bone Physical Quality who practiced to the level of the "Nine Miracles Prodigy". No one had been able to surpass him since.

The little girl became nervous as Zhang Ruochen moved his hands around to squeeze her body. She froze and grew more wary of Zhang Ruochen, afraid that he was a bad person.

Zhang Ruochen stared at her and asked, "What is your name?"

"Han Xue." The little girl replied.

Zhang Ruochen asked again, "Why are you named Han Xue?"

The little girl replied, "Because daddy doesn't like winter snow... he says, once it snows there is no food to eat. Not only will we starve, we will also freeze to death."

"So he also doesn't like you?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

"A girl can't join the army. How can I practice Martial Arts if I don't join the army? Also, girls are not as strong as boys, so I can't farm or hunt either. Of course, daddy finds me annoying and useless. He hates me. He thinks I'm just as terrible as the cold wind and the snow in winter."

She went silent for a while then said, "But he still froze to death in the snow. After mother and I buried him, we came to Lin'an County Town. We thought that once we reached the town we wouldn't freeze to death, but in the end..."

Eyes brimming with tears, she began to cry again. After all, she was still a little girl.

Han Xue brought Zhang Ruochen to where her mother was buried. She was buried just outside the city under a small and simple mound.

But she was already satisfied. After all, she would not have been able to bury her mother at all with her own strength.

"SWISH!"

Zhang Ruochen found a three-meter-tall stone and smacked his palms against it. He sent out a hand-knife and split the giant rock cleanly in two.

Han Xue's mouth dropped open and she stared in shock at the sight. She found it difficult to believe.

Zhang Ruochen raised his hand and the giant stone immediately flew up. Then, it landed on the mound under the guidance of his Genuine Qi. Zhang Ruochen extended his index finger, converged his Genuine Qi into it and began to quickly carve words into the stone.

"Mother to Han Xue."

Engraved with eight characters, it became a simple tombstone.

Zhang Ruochen placed his hands on his back while staring at the tombstone in front of him. He asked, "Would you like to practice Martial Arts?"

Han Xue stood next to Zhang Ruochen, not even a meter tall. Her eyes lit up and she replied, "Yes!"

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "Since that is the case, then come with me! You can return once you succeed in your practice and build your mother a grand tomb."

#### Chapter 243: Hugestone City

The Storage Ring shimmered when Zhang Ruochen touched it. A Blood Pill appeared in his hands. He gave it to Han Xue and she swallowed it.

Blood Pills were made from the blood of savage beasts. They contained a great amount of heat and heavy Spiritual Qi.

You could feel its heat just holding it in your hands.

Han Xue felt like she had swallowed a flame. The Blood Pill penetrated into her blood and spread through her body like fire. She no longer felt cold or hungry.

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "Good stuff, right?"

Han Xue was surprised by its magic. She nodded. "Wow, absolutely!"

"Do you regret asking people to help you bury your mother with 10 Blood Pills?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Han Xue shook her head. "No."

"Good!"

Zhang Ruochen patted her head and clasped her petite figure in his arms. He stepped into void space in the direction of the Red Spider Vessel.

They arrived at the ship warehouse.

Under Zhang Ruochen's control, the Red Spider Vessel flew up over the vast river and left Lin'an County Town.

The Red Spider Vessel was so enormous that it could not fit into the Storage Ring. Zhang Ruochen hid it beneath the river and left a mark. Then he took Han Xue to Hugestone City, the biggest city on the Square Commandery's southern border.

The Red Spider Vessel could kill martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm. Zhang Ruochen thought it might be useful in the future.

Hugestone City was only 250 kilometers away from Lin'an County Town. It only took him two hours to get to the great city, without even breaking out his fastest speed.

Compared to Lin'an County Town, Hugestone City was huge. It had towering city walls and a large population. Even in winter, many warriors rode savage beasts and rushed about on the wide streets. There were nobles in gorgeous carriages, followed by crowds of servants and royal guards.

There was a large income gap in this city. Rich people could obtain resources, unlock the Sacred Mark and practice their Martial Arts. Yet, even if the poor had talent, it was not easy for them to develop themselves in comparison to princes, commandery princesses, and nobility descendants.

The rich got richer, while the poor got poorer.

The Poisonous Spider Club enjoyed a powerful influence in Square Commandery. But everyone could see that the Martial Market Bank still controlled half the economy with its banks, stores, and Coliseums spread throughout every city, big and small.

Wearing a metal mask and a plain white coat, Zhang Ruochen held Han Xue's hand. They went straight to the Martial Market Bank.

Zhang Ruochen assumed that the Poisonous Spider Club would know about the deaths of Hua Minggong and Mu Qing soon. He needed to be very cautious.

He had several vital and dangerous tasks to deal with, so he decided to help Han Xue settle down first.

As a medium level commandery, the Square Commandery was 10 times more powerful than the Yunwu Commandery. Even if the other eight commanderies of the Nine Western Prefectures joined forces, they could not defeat Square Commandery.

The national strength of a commandery was decided by the number of superiors living within it.

There were only a dozen Heaven Realm warriors in Yunwu Commandery.

According to the Martial Market Bank statistics, there were 132 warriors at the Heaven Realm in Square Commandery. In terms of national power, an inferior commandery could not compare at all.

The top city in the southern border of Square Commandery, Hugestone City had a population of more than a million. Naturally, there were many martial arts masters living here.

Arriving at the Martial Market Bank, Zhang Ruochen took out his School of the Martial Market internal student token. The royal guards outside the gate immediately knelt to salute him and rushed into the Bank to report to the deacon of the Bank.

The deacon of the Martial Market Bank in Hugestone City was an elder at the Completion of the Earth Realm named Zhao Jing. After examining Zhang Ruochen's token, he invited him into a warm room and ordered the maid to serve them some hot tea.

As a student of the School of the Martial Market, he enjoyed special treatment. An internal student could benefit in any branch of the Martial Market Bank and even extract a certain amount of coins for expenses.

Treatment for internal students was as follows: Free meals and accommodation in the Martial Market Bank restaurants, half-price concessions for purchasing practice resources in the Martial Market Bank stores and VIP seats in the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

Zhao Jing smiled. "I was once an Outer Palace student at the School of the Martial Market. Unfortunately, I was not talented enough to enter the Internal Academy, so I work as a deacon in Hugestone City. It's embarrassing, junior fellow apprentice Zhang."

He hadn't reached the Earth Realm before turning 30. He wasn't qualified to practice in the Internal Academy. It was his life-long regret.

Zhao Jing had attained the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm at the age of 35.

Now, he was 80 years old and with his present cultivation at the Completion of the Earth Realm, breaking into the Heaven Realm was nearly hopeless.

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "Actually, I've come here to ask for your help, elder brother Zhao."

The appellation of junior fellow apprentice and elder brother brought the two of them much closer.

"We work for the Martial Market Bank," Zhao Jing said with a smile. "Don't be so polite. If you need any help, just tell me; I'll do it immediately."

Zhang Ruochen pointed to Han Xue. "Please send someone to escort her to the Devil Martial City and hand her over to a student at the Internal Academy named Duanmu Xingling. Just tell her that the girl is Chen Ruo's disciple. Then, ask Duanmu Xingling to take care of her for a while."

Zhang Ruochen had thought it over carefully. He had decided to ask Duanmu Xingling to look after Han Xue instead of Huang Yanchen.

Han Xue was submerged with anguish from losing both her parents. Duanmu Xingling had an excellent character. Maybe she could help Han Xue to overcome her sorrow and pain and dissolve her dark childhood from her mind.

Besides, Zhang Ruochen was sure that Blackie would be playing with her.

Blackie's background was a mystery, but it was very proficient in many things. Not only could it embattle; it could also refine pills and weapons. He assumed Blackie would discover that Han Xue had a Thousand-bones Physical Quality and teach her some techniques. He hoped Blackie could help build a foundation for her future.

Zhao Jing shivered when he heard the name Chen Ruo. He fixed his eyes on Zhang Ruochen with honor and agreed hurriedly. "Piece of cake. I'm going to send a batch of Spiritual Crystals to Devil Martial City today. We can bring her along."

"Thanks for your help, elder brother Zhao!" Zhang Ruochen made a bow with his hands folded in front.

Warriors often deposited their silver coins and Spiritual Crystals in various branches of the Martial Market Bank. When it reached a certain amount, the Martial Market Bank would dispatch a master to escort the silver coins and Spiritual Crystals to its headquarters in Devil Martial City.

External and internal students of School of the Martial Market frequently took the escort mission and in reward, they received merits.

After sending Han Xue away, Zhang Ruochen hinted to Zhao Jing with his eyes.

Zhao Jing got it and immediately led Zhang Ruochen into a Secret Room. He dismissed all the royal guards and servants.

With a serious look, Zhao Jing saluted Zhang Ruochen. "Your Excellency, please accept my apology."

Zhang Ruochen nodded. "Don't be so polite, elder brother Zhao."

Zhao Jing shook his head and smiled bitterly. "Please forgive me for not knowing about your status and claiming to be your elder brother. I really feel ashamed of how impolite I've been recently."

It was known to all that Zhang Ruochen was the Secret Disciple of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall Master. Zhao Jing was only a deacon. How dare he offend Master Lei's Secret Disciple?

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "Since you were a student at the School of the Martial Market and also my predecessor, I shall call you elder brother Zhao."

Zhang Ruochen was a pleasant person. He did this to allow Zhao Jing to feel closer to him. Zhao Jing smiled. "You are worthy of being Master Lei's Secret Disciple. I admire you very much. You have some important matters to take care of in Hugestone City, right?"

Zhang Ruochen nodded. "Since you are the deacon of Hugestone City, I think you are very familiar with Square Commandery. Have you ever heard of a man called the Army-guarding Marquis?"

"The Army-guarding Marquis!"

Zhao Jing was surprised. "Huo Yundu is the Army-guarding Marquis. He is one of the members of Square Commandery and the younger brother of the Square Commandery Prince. Huo Yundu is an influential man. His martial cultivation has reached the Heaven Realm and over 300,000 troops on the southern border are also in his command. Did he offend you? Should we report it to the Martial Market Bank and ask the Manager take care of him?"

Huo Yundu was quite arrogant to annoy Master Lei's Secret Disciple. Did he want to die?

Even if he was a martial arts legend of the Heaven Realm, so what?

Master Lei could give an order and have Huo Yundu killed immediately, if he wanted.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head. "Let's not kill Huo Yundu at the moment. I have something to investigate. I have one more thing to ask you. Is there a Black Market in Hugestone City? Where is it? I need to go there."

Zhao Jing counseled, "The Black Market in Hugestone City is powerful, especially the Poisonous Spider Club. Even the Martial Market Bank is under its suppression. The principal of the Poisonous Spider Club in Hugestone City is Mu Qing. He is a strong warrior of the Heaven Realm and controls a Red Spider Vessel. He is referred to as the head of Black Market in Hugestone City. Unless it's necessary, you'd better not venture into the Black Market."

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "If I didn't have important things to deal with, I wouldn't go there. I have a sense of proprietary. Please tell me the location, elder brother Zhao."

Zhao Jing knew that as Master Lei's Secret Disciple, Zhang Rouchen possessed a powerful strength to save his life. As long as he didn't bump into Mu Qing, he wouldn't encounter any danger. He stopped trying to persuade him.

Zhao Jing didn't just disclose the location of the Black Market to Zhang Ruochen, he also sent a warrior from the Martial Market Bank as a guide to take him to the Black Market.

Without guidance, it was very dangerous for a stranger to walk into the Black Market alone.

## Chapter 244: I Want to Buy a City

The guide's name was Hua Buwei, and was about 30 years old. He had a goatee with a sneaky look. He was in the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, which was quite good.

"There are many great masters mixed in the black market of Hugestone City. Most of them are atrocious people, including infamous criminals wanted by the imperial court. Of course, most of these people are just a motley crew, there is no need to fear.

"The strong forces are the really powerful ones. They are extremely cruel and merciless, and they rule over half of the black market. Their words are even more powerful than the order of the Square Commandery Prince. Among them, the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce and the Rosefinch Tower are the most powerful ones.

"Sir, you should keep a low profile after arriving there. In the black market of Hugestone City, it's very common for people to suddenly fight over a very small disagreement," Hua Buwei smiled.

Hua Buwei did not know Zhang Ruochen's true identity. He just received Zhao Jing's order to take an important person to the black market.

He was surprised to find that the important person was only a teenager. So he simply took Zhang Ruochen as a blueblooded young man who wanted to broaden his horizon in the black market.

Hua Buwei had seen too many dandies like him. Most of them went to the black market to buy beautiful sex slaves, or to have fun in the Rosefinch Tower. All in all, they just wanted excitement and entertainment.

What he feared most was that these blueblooded young men would still act on impulse, as if they were at home. It was okay if they only annoyed the ordinary Evil Warriors, but they might get into huge trouble if they annoyed the strong forces.

All of these strong forces had extremely powerful connections. They would not care if the person was an aristocratic young man or a commandery prince. If they were annoyed, they would simply kill him no matter what.

Hua Buwei continued, "The black market is disordered. But if you have enough silver coins, it is a paradise. You can buy anything you want, and even some things you can't imagine here in the black market."

Hua Buwei chattered continuously the whole way, telling Zhang Ruochen stories of the black market.

Yet Zhang Ruochen acted like he did not hear his words at all. He asked quietly, "Do you know where the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce is?"

"Of course I do."

Hua Buwei smiled proudly and replied, "There's nothing I don't know about the black market."

"Take me there," said Zhang Ruochen without any expression on his face at all.

Following Hua Buwei, Zhang Ruochen arrived at the underground black market. After crossing through the crowded black market street, they came to a dark castle.

On the top of the castle was a huge round stone, with a tarantula icon in the middle.

“Hello Mr. Hua. What do you want to buy today?” An Evil Warrior guarding the gate greeted Hua Buwei in a familiar manner, like an acquaintance.

Hua Buwei smiled and replied, “I’m not the patron today, but Master Chen. After you, Master Chen. Get Elder Wei out, Master Chen is a very respected guest.”

“Don’t bother. I’ll take a look around by myself first.”

Coming to the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce, Zhang Ruochen had not intended on buying anything. Rather, he was looking for the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph.

Mu Qing was the principal of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce in Hugestone City. So his mansion must be located in the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce.

Everything would be easier if he could find Mu Qing’s mansion!

Zhang Ruochen could make short work of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce with his power. But there was an array inside. If the array was activated, even Zhang Ruochen might lose the upper hand.

There was also a Defender Array set up in the whole black market. If it got out of hand and the Defender Array was activated, even warriors in the Heaven Realm could get killed.

Mu Qing was the best example. Zhang Ruochen didn’t want to follow in his footsteps.

The power of a man was little compared to the array.

The Tarantula Chamber of Commerce was indeed the biggest Chamber of Commerce in the black market of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. Zhang Ruochen found a lot of amazing goods here.

A map of a city grabbed Zhang Ruochen’s attention, because the price tag said eight million silver coins.

Hua Buwei explained, “Sir, this is not a map he is selling, but a city.”

“I thought cities are ruled by the Square Commandery. Does the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce have the right to sell them?” Zhang Ruochen asked curiously.

Hua Buwei smiled and answered in a low voice, “Yes. It is an important person from the Royal Family of the Square Commandery who is selling the city. But people can hardly afford eight million silver coins in Hugestone City. So the city has not been sold yet.”

Zhang Ruochen suddenly became interested. He asked, “Who is this important person? How can he be so powerful to sell a city?”

“Huo Yundu, the Army-guarding Marquis,” Hua Buwei replied.

Zhang Ruochen was a little shocked by the name. Then he smiled and said, “Oh, it’s him.”

You can wear out iron shoes in fruitless searching, and yet by pure luck you may find the lost thing without even looking for it.

Zhang Ruochen never imagined that he would find evidence of Huo Yundu conspiring with the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce so easily. The only thing he had to do was hand this map with the price tag over to the School of the Martial Market. The School would, of course, deal with Huo Yundu.

Huo Yundu was being very reckless selling a city in the black market in such a flagrant way.

But that was not enough. Since Zhang Ruochen was not in a hurry, he wanted to dig deeper and find more evidence.

The most desirable scenario would be finding all the people involved in the imperial court of the Square Commandery. Only then could the Square Commandery and the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce be brought down completely.

The Evil Warrior still reported Zhang Ruochen's arrival to the senior management staff, apparently taking Zhang Ruochen for a respected guest.

Elder Wei came up hurriedly. Seeing Zhang Ruochen in the distance, he asked the Evil Warrior who reported it, "Is that him?"

The Evil Warrior replied, "Yes. And he is with Hua Buwei. Hua Buwei said he is a respected guest, so he must be a rich financier."

Elder Wei squinted his eyes, sparkling with brightness, and looked at Zhang Ruochen carefully. He said, "He is no ordinary person. I think he has reached the Earth Realm."

"What? The Earth Realm? But he is only a teenager!" exclaimed the Evil Warrior.

Elder Wei twisted his beard and smiled, "Then why do you think he is a respected guest? I'll take a good look at him."

He quickly stepped up behind Zhang Ruochen and Hua Buwei. He smiled and said, "I heard you are interested in this city, Master Chen?"

Zhang Ruochen had already sensed him coming. He even heard the conversation clearly between him and the Evil Warrior.

Zhang Ruochen gently turned around and pretended to be a little surprised. He asked, "Who are you, sir?"

"My last name is Wei, and I'm one of the presbyters of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce," answered Elder Wei.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and gazed at the map again. He asked, "Elder Wei, is this city really for sale?"

"Of course," replied Elder Wei.

Zhang Ruochen deliberately made an embarrassed look and said, "But this is only a city on the border of the Yunwu Commandery and the Square Commandery. The population is less than 200,000, the land is barren, and the wall is short. Isn't the price too high for a city like this?"



Elder Wei's eyes suddenly brightened. He said, "If you are truly interested, the price is negotiable."

Elder Wei was just asking thoughtlessly. He did not expect Zhang Ruochen to really be interested.

Be mindful, it is a city, not a slave, not a Genuine Martial Arm, and not a pill.

He was indeed an important financier!

Even Hua Buwei was shocked. He didn't expect the blueblooded young man to buy a city here. So he pulled Zhang Ruochen's sleeve hard and reminded him, "Master Chen, it costs eight million silver coins. EIGHT MILLION."

Zhang Ruochen simply ignored Hua Buwei. He took out a fist-like Spiritual Crystal in good quality from his sleeve and handed it to Elder Wei. He said, "Elder Wei, this is the down payment. I hope you can arrange a meeting for me and the master of the city so that we can discuss the final price. Regardless of if I buy it or not, the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce doesn't need to return the down payment."

One Spiritual Crystal in good quality equaled 100 ordinary Spiritual Crystals, which were worth over 100,000 silver coins.

He was too lavish!

Putting away the Spiritual Crystal, Elder Wei was wild with joy, and any lingering doubt about Zhang Ruochen was gone for good. He became respectful and said, "Master Chen, please set your mind at rest. I'll inform the master of the city right away and arrange you to meet as soon as possible."

Elder Wei quickly left with the Spiritual Crystal. Before he left, he said to the Evil Warriors, "Master Chen is a respected guest here. Try your best to satisfy him no matter what he asks for."

Elder Wei left the black market and went to the Army-guarding Marquis' mansion immediately.

Hua Buwei stared at Zhang Ruochen with great admiration and said, "Master Chen, how rich are you? You want to buy a city?! Indeed, the great financiers don't usually brag. Well, Master Chen, do you want to go to the Rosefinch Tower to have some fun? With your fortune, it'll be a piece of cake asking Miss Yunzhi to sleep with... Master Chen... Master Chen... Where are you?"

Hua Buwei only blinked once, and Master Chen just disappeared in front of him.

Since Elder Wei had left the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce, Zhang Ruochen would seize the opportunity to get into Mu Qing's mansion and get the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

With his power of controlling the space, Zhang Ruochen could easily twist it. He could walk past Hua Buwei without him even noticing.

Soon, Zhang Ruochen found Mu Qing's mansion. He walked inside with a swagger.

"Waaa!"

Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain, it spread in every direction. The whole mansion, including the sky, earth, and all the structures appeared clearly inside his mind.

In the mansion, there were 14 arrays, 57 servants, and two savage beasts.

After a little while, Zhang Ruochen found a Secret Room 40 meters underground with three layers of Incriptions of Array outside.

If Mu Qing really hid the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph in the mansion, it must be there.

"Swish!"

When Zhang Ruochen was about to enter the Secret Room, he saw a slim black shadow dashing in the distance at an incredible speed. Like a ghost, it rushed from the roof and into one of the buildings. It disappeared in just a second.

"Who is that?" Zhang Ruochen was slightly shocked.

The man was so fast that even Zhang Ruochen did not see his face clearly. The speed must be over 200 meters per second.

Is there another master in the Heaven Realm in the black market?

Chapter 245: The Dark Nature

If a warrior in the Earth Realm wanted to reach a speed of 200 meters per second, he or she had to be a Three-realm Fighting Genius.

But there were only a few Three Uniquenesses Geniuses in all of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. Each one of them was a big deal in the young generation, and it was rare to meet them face to face.

Immediately, Zhang Ruochen held his breath and chased after the mystery genius.

Following the shadow into the building, Zhang Ruochen saw that the door to the Secret Room was open. He was very surprised, and wondered if this person was also looking for the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

It would be a great loss if the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph was taken by someone else!

Zhang Ruochen didn't dare to think too much, so he simply performed the physical technique and entered the underground passage.

The underground passage was very deep, dark, and cold. At the bottom of the passage was a ball of light. It was a Spiritual Crystal of the light nature carved into the stone wall, looked like a lamp and glowed in the void space.

The three layers of Incriptions of Array outside the Secret Room was destroyed by this person, and the half-meter thick stone gate was pushed open, leaving a stone passage which only one person could pass through.

Standing outside the stone passage, Zhang Ruochen looked inside. There, the slim man in black carrying a long sword wrapped in black cloth was looking for something on a wooden table full of elixir bottles. It looked like he was looking for certain pills.

"Who's there?"

The man in black moved his ears slightly. He was so sensitive that he noticed Zhang Ruochen the moment he approached the stone gate.

And she was a WOMAN in black!

The woman turned around immediately and transferred all of her Genuine Qi. It turned into wisps of mist and flowed around her beautiful tiny body.

Zhang Ruochen did not hide himself with space warps. Instead, he walked into the Secret Room directly and asked, "Who are you? You avoided the arrays and broke into the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce, found the underground Secret Room, and destroyed the three layers of Incriptions of Array. You are indeed somebody special."

The woman ignored Zhang Ruochen, turned into a black shadow and dashed toward him.

"Waaa!"

A slender finger pointed right toward Zhang Ruochen's glabella from her black sleeve with the power of the light nature.

Her speed showed her outstanding achievement in sword technique.

Zhang Ruochen realized instantly that she was in the Completion of the Earth Realm rather than the Heaven Realm.

Apparently, she was also a Three-realm Fighting Genius, who was much stronger than Young Lord of Poisonous Spider. He had only been in the Final State of the Earth Realm, and he had not made it into the Completion yet.

A Three-realm Fighting Genius in the Completion of the Earth Realm was much more terrifying than an ordinary myth of martial arts in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Being a Three-realm Fighting Genius, her exercises and martial techniques must be quite outstanding. Besides, she must have an extraordinary background. The fact was that it was impossible for common families and suzerains to cultivate a Three-realm Fighting Genius. Even a Royal Family of a medium level commandery, like the Square Commandery, could not cultivate one.

Because of this, Zhang Ruochen was very careful around this woman, and dared not underestimate her.

In a second, her finger was right in front of Zhang Ruochen, sparkling with black lights. Her Genuine Qi had the power of the light nature.

The light nature was very rare. It could be divided into the dark nature and the bright nature. With different natures, the Genuine Qi carried different characteristics.

Her Genuine Qi was the dark nature, which had the characteristics of devouring, cold, decayed, demonic and weird.

Since her Genuine Qi had the dark nature, she must be an outstanding warrior among the Three Uniquenesses Geniuses. If she practiced the exercises of the ghost level, she might have reached the Half-Saint.

Zhang Ruochen transferred his Genuine Qi to his right arm immediately, and wisps of Spiritual Fire came out of his palm, and covered it completely like a fire cloud.

The power of every muscle, bone and skin burst out with full force. He struck.

“BOOM!”

The woman’s finger hit Zhang Ruochen’s palm. The two forces of Genuine Qi clashed together, forming a circular Genuine Qi ripple.

Suddenly, the whole Secret Room was filled with a clapping sound, and the pill bottles were all broken and fell to the ground.

Even the stone walls cracked.

They both stepped back at the same time.

The woman felt a strong pain in her finger. She was astonished to find such a young master who was a match to her.

“Are you Hua Qingshan, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider?” She stared coldly and sharply at this young man with a metal mask.

She did not realize that Zhang Ruochen was also an intruder. Instead, she thought he was a warrior of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce.

Among the young generation in the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce, only Young Lord of Poisonous Spider would have such a powerful cultivation. So naturally she would mistake Zhang Ruochen for him.

Zhang Ruochen also felt a burning pain in his palm. Fortunately, he had already got the Chakras, and had the two layers of skin growth ring on his skin, which was as strong as two layers of armour. Therefore, he was not hurt.

The woman’s cultivation was indeed very high, and she was not weaker than Zhang Ruochen.

“Is Young Lord of Poisonous Spider the only one who could be here?” Zhang Ruochen asked in reply.

The woman hummed coldly and said, “Oh, then you are a thief, too. You are not superior to me. Since we are men of the same line, we shall not fight anymore. “Besides, with our power, it won’t be easy to determine the winner. If the people of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce notice us, it won’t do us any good.”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “No. The Glyph is mine. You won’t get it.”

“Glyph? What Glyph?” asked the woman.

Zhang Ruochen was suddenly relieved. He laughed and said, “Since we want different things, then we shall not fight. Let’s just each take what we need.”

Zhang Ruochen stared into the woman’s eyes. Although she hid them well, Zhang Ruochen still felt that she was somehow familiar to him.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen remembered where he had seen her finger technique before. He asked, "Han Qiu?"

The woman's body shook slightly, and turned around. She glanced at Zhang Ruochen coldly and asked, "Who are you?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "Oh, yes! You are Han Qiu!"

Actually, Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu had only met twice, so they were not familiar with each other. But Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power was so strong that he had an extraordinary retentive memory.

Although Han Qiu only showed her two eyes and used her dark nature Genuine Qi to hide her eyesight and her voice, Zhang Ruochen could still see her with his strong Spiritual Power.

In the young generation of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge, only two women were on the Earth Board. And Han Qiu was one of them.

The woman measured Zhang Ruochen carefully with her eyes, and she also felt he was a little familiar. She had definitely seen him before.

She did not recognize Zhang Ruochen, and her Spiritual Power was not as strong as Zhang Ruochen's. So she could not recognize him.

"Since you have recognized me, perhaps you should tell me your name. There are not too many masters like you in the young generation," said the woman.

"I'm sorry, but I can't tell you," replied Zhang Ruochen.

He knew that Han Qiu and Zhang Tiangui were very close. Although he did not really know how close they were, one thing was for sure. She was closer to Zhang Tiangui than to Zhang Ruochen, they were fellow apprentices.

Now however, Zhang Tiangui and Zhang Ruochen were completely different. Zhang Ruochen was sure of that when he met Hua Minggong at the Qinghe Castle.

Apparently, Zhang Tiangui wanted to use Hua Minggong to eliminate Zhang Ruochen. Although he had not succeeded, next time he would surely try harder.

"Well, suit yourself. I can find out after I leave the black market."

Han Qiu continued searching in the broken pieces of pill bottles. After a little while, she found a fist-sized, square, gold and purple box. She opened it, and the inside glowed in white, illuminating the whole Secret Room with daylight.

"I found it!"

She was very happy, closed the box at once and put it carefully into her cloak.

Standing not far away from her, Zhang Ruochen smelled a faint sense of the pill's fragrance.

He asked, "How did you know that there is a Saint's Light Pill here?"

Han Qiu was surprised again and asked, "How do you know there is a Saint's Light Pill in the box?"

At the same time, she was nervous. After all, the Saint's Light Pill was very expensive. If he was going to steal it, she had to fight.

She was not worried about losing, but she worried about alerting the people from the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce.

Zhang Ruochen said, "The Saint's Light Pill, five class, values about five million silver coins each. Of course, that's not the key point. Although five million silver coins is a big sum of money, it still is not worth the daughter of the Yuntai Suzerain's Master risking her life to steal it from the black market."

Han Qiu stared at Zhang Ruochen deeply and asked, "Go on. What's the key point, then?"

Zhang Ruochen continued, "The key point is that only five class alchemists can make the Saint's Light Pills. There are only three, five class alchemists in all of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. "But none of them is proficient in making the light series pill inscriptions. That is to say, no one in the Omen Ridge can make a Saint's Light Pill."

"If I guess correctly, you have the dark series Sacred Mark, and your Genuine Qi also contains the dark nature. You are in urgent need of the Saint's Light Pill. So I think maybe you are having trouble practicing, and you must use the Saint's Light Pill to heal yourself. Am I right?"

Chapter 246: Unexpected Windfall

Upon hearing Zhang Ruochen's words, Han Qiu's heart beat a little faster. She hid both hands in her sleeves and knotted her fingers together tightly, saying, "It's no big deal. I'll recover as soon as I get the Saint's Light Pill."

"No big deal?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and continued, "Your Sacred Mark belongs to the dark series, but you don't want others to know. In order to disguise it, you have practiced the top exercise of the Yuntai Suzerain, the Holy Universe Reaching Skills.

The Holy Universe Reaching Skills is one of the exercises in the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level. It is profound, advanced, sacred, and potent, just enough to hide the dark breath in your Genuine Qi.

The Holy Universe Reaching Skills, however, clashes with your physical quality. The impact is not noticeable in the early stage. But with your martial cultivation level getting higher, the clash between the two forces will become more and more intense.

When you break through the Heaven Realm, the clash between the two different types of powers will be so strong that all your meridians will be torn to pieces, and you will become a total wreck from then on. Perhaps you might even explode and die a violent death.

It is true that The Saint's Light Pill can be used to balance the two distinct powers in your body, but it will only last you up to the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. If you want to reach a higher realm, you still have to face the threat of death."

Every single sentence from Zhang Ruochen was accurate and to the point. It seemed that Zhang Ruochen knew her situation better than she did.

His words echoed like thunder in Han Qiu's ears. She bit her lips tightly and asked in surprise, "How do you know everything?"

"Not everything," Zhang Ruochen replied.

Han Qiu was a little surprised by his answer. Then, she became slightly complacent and said, "I thought there is nothing that you don't know. It turns out that you don't know everything. So, tell me, what else is there for you to know?"

Zhang Ruochen replied, "First, how do you know there is a Secret Room here? After all, Mu Qing is the principal of the Poisonous Spider Club, and he is in the Heaven Realm. What's more, his mansion is very well-guarded.

"Second, how do you know that Mu Qing has a Saint's Light Pill?"

Han Qiu answered, "Don't you think it is ridiculous? You can't even figure these things out! In 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, the Yuntai Suzerain could be considered strongest aside from the Martial Market Bank. It's very easy to plant an undercover agent beside Mu Qing."

Zhang Ruochen came to the realization that he had set his standards too high in the past. He thought that only the Martial Market Bank, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, and the Black Market could be regarded as the top forces.

But he had forgotten that the Yuntai Suzerain was actually an important local tyrant in 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge. It was comparable to the Martial Market Bank in terms of power and influence. It even outdid the Martial Market Bank in certain fields.

For example, almost every single Commandery Prince was a disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain. The situation was the same in the Western Nine Prefectures.

That was how influential the Yuntai Suzerain was!

Zhang Ruochen said, "It seems that your agent has a pretty high status in the Poisonous Spider Club. He may even be the closest person to Mu Qing."

"I can say no more!"

Han Qiu's expression turned serious. She asked nervously, "You just mentioned that the Saint's Light Pill can only last up to the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. Is it true?"

"I don't have any reason to lie to you. If you don't believe me, let's just wait and see," Zhang Ruochen replied calmly.

"You..." Han Qiu was greatly enraged.

What did he mean by wait and see?

How could she wait and see if she were to die just after breaking through the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm?

How could she be so hasty when it came to her life?

Han Qiu showed great talent since youth. Later on, she activated the Sacred Mark of the dark series. Naturally, she had high expectations for herself. She wanted more than just to reach the Heaven Realm, rather, she wanted to become a Half-Saint or even a Saint.

Zhang Ruochen stopped paying attention to Han Qiu and searched through the entire Secret Room carefully. But he could not find the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph at all, which disappointed him very much.

"Maybe Mu Qing took the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph with him and it was destroyed on the Red Spider Vessel?"

It was possible. After all, the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph was such a precious treasure, so Mu Qing had every reason to take it with him.

If that was the case, it meant that Zhang Ruochen had destroyed the great treasure with his own hands!

Zhang Ruochen could feel his heart bleeding. A Half-Saint could only leave one Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph in all his life. Thus, a Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph could be regarded as the inheritance of a Half-Saint.

It was almost impossible to find another one!

"No. I have to keep searching."

Zhang Ruochen quietly released the Space Domain and started to search every corner of the Secret Room. When he searched it for the third time, he finally found some clues.

There was a wave of weak Spiritual Qi under the stone table.

Since there was a wave of Spiritual Qi, there must be something weird going on.

"Bang!"

Zhang Ruochen transferred the Genuine Qi to his palm. With a wave of his hand, he slashed the stone table in half.

"Haha! There's a hidden array under the table!"

A white halo layer appeared on the ground as soon as Zhang Ruochen hit it, as if it was trying to block Zhang Ruochen's attack.

Zhang Ruochen transferred the force from his palm to his fingers. He pointed his finger out and hit the light. With a clear snapping sound, the array was broken at once.

The Inscriptions of Array immediately turned into sparkles of light.

A secret chamber emerged after the array had disappeared.

Zhang Ruochen immediately opened the secret chamber and found an account book in it.

He took the account book out and flipped through the pages. He smiled faintly and said, "Even the Square Commandery Prince colluded with the Poisonous Spider Club. How interesting! I'll bring their good days to an end with this account book!"



“What are you talking about? The Square Commandery Prince colluded with the Poisonous Spider Club? That’s impossible! The Square Commandery Prince is a disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain. And I should call him uncle apprentice. How could he possibly have any relationship with the Black Market?” Han Qiu said coldly.

“Believe it or not, but that’s the truth! You guys think that the Yuntai Suzerain has taken control of the Square Commandery and seized all their resources. But little did you know that the Poisonous Spider Club is secretly getting far more benefits than you guys.”

Zhang Ruochen took the chance to keep the account book in his Spatial Ring in Han Qiu’s blind spot.

In the secret chamber, there was also a three-foot-long cylindrical metal box.

Zhang Ruochen opened the metal box and found a Glyph inside it.

Zhang Ruochen did not unroll the Glyph because Han Qiu was there. He suppressed his ecstasy and put the Glyph back inside the metal box.

Seeing a Glyph inside the metal box, Han Qiu was very surprised and said, “There really is a Glyph!”

The Glyph was so well-hidden. Mu Qing must have considered it far more valuable than a Saint’s Light Pill.

Zhang Ruochen shot a glance at Han Qiu and said, “What? Do you want to snatch it from me? With your strength, I’m afraid it won’t be an easy task for you to snatch anything from me.”

“It’s nothing but a Glyph, right? Unless it’s a Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph... Wait! Don’t tell me it really is a Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph!” Han Qiu’s eyes widened and every one of her eyelashes stood straight up.

“I can say no more.” replied Zhang Ruochen.

“Do you think that I will believe? It just can’t be. Even we from the Yuntai Suzerain has only one Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph. How could it be possible for Mu Qing to own one?”

Han Qiu gave Zhang Ruochen a contemptuous glance. Carrying the Saint’s Light Pill with her, she performed a physical technique, dashed out of the stone gate, and left the Secret Room.

After getting the Glyph, Zhang Ruochen decided to leave as well, in case he was sabotaged by Han Qiu.

After all, he was not familiar with Han Qiu at all. Besides, there were agents from the Yuntai Suzerain mixed among the Poisonous Spider Club, so she could easily draw some Evil Warriors from the Poisonous Spider Club who would besiege him. At that time, if he wanted to leave, he would have to fight his way out.

Only when Zhang Ruochen left Mu Qing’s mansion did he allow himself to relax.

Hua Buwei was looking for Zhang Ruochen everywhere when he suddenly turned around and found Zhang Ruochen standing behind him. He was so shocked that he even staggered a few steps backward.

Hua Buwei rubbed his chest and said, “You made me jump! Master Chen, where have you been? There are traps and arrays all over the place. Please don’t wander around. Once you blunder into some forbidden areas, we’ll all be in great trouble.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "Is Elder Wei back yet?"

"Not yet..." Hua Buwei replied.

Just then, hurried footsteps resounded outside. Elder Wei stepped in quickly with a happy expression on his face. He shouted from afar, "Thank you for waiting, Master Chen!"

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Well?"

Elder Wei nodded and replied in a low voice, "The important person is very concerned about this, so he came to the black market in person. But he has quite a special status, so the Poisonous Spider Club isn't really a good place for him to go. He asks you, therefore, to meet him at the Rosefinch Tower. The carriage is ready. We can head for the Rosefinch Tower right away."

Zhang Ruochen nodded, followed Elder Wei, and walked towards the outside of the Poisonous Spider Club.

Actually, the meeting with the Army-guarding Marquis was no longer important after he had gotten the account book. The evidence was already all here anyway.

But the Army-guarding Marquis had colluded with the black market for his own benefit and waged wars time after time. Countless citizens of the Yunwu Commandery died in the wars or became slaves, facing inhuman treatment because of him.

Since he was here now, there was every reason for Zhang Ruochen to have him repay the debt with interest.

It would be even better if he could take this opportunity to kill him.

Han Qiu, dressed in a black outfit, was standing in the distance. She watched Zhang Ruochen, Elder Wei, and Hua Buwei leave, her eyes shining with strange light. "He is being received by Wei Xianshu! So he must be somebody. I'll see what he came for in the black market."

Since Zhang Ruochen could see through the problems that she encountered in practice, he must not be an ordinary person.

Whether it was out of her curiosity or because of her problems in practice, she had to follow up and figure out who he was.

Han Qiu tightened her grip on the golden purple box with the Saint's Light Pill and her expression became serious. She said, "A master like him wouldn't talk for nothing. If he knows my symptom clearly, he might also know how to cure it."

A gust of Black Genuine Qi poured out and wrapped her body up, turning it into a ball of black light.

"SWISH!"

The black light split into six wisps and flew away.

Han Qiu also disappeared into thin air.

Chapter 247: The Rosefinch Tower

In the Western Nine Prefectures, more than seventy percent of the brothels were open by a unified organization, “the Rosefinch Tower”.

Though what the Rosefinch Tower conducted were obscene businesses, there were many masters of Martial Arts among the prostitutes. Their organization was so huge that they even had an independent institution specially designed for talent cultivating.

On top of that, as countless lords and masters in Martial Arts were willing to spend money on them, they were not short of money at all. Since they were rich enough, they could afford to buy a lot of practice resources any time when they needed.

The wealth of the Rosefinch Tower was even more than that of some five-class suzerains.

Being able to gain a foothold in the black market and could even expand their businesses to the entire Western Nine Prefectures just proved how powerful they were.

Elder Wei led Zhang Ruochen to the Rosefinch Tower in the Black Market of the Hugestone City.

The Rosefinch Tower in the Hugestone City was only a branch of the organization. However, it was built in an extremely luxurious way. Occupying a large space, it was decorated as splendid and magnificent as a palace.

Elder Wei was quite a celebrity in the black market of the Hugestone City. When he came to the Rosefinch Tower, he was warmly welcomed. Lots of prostitutes came to greet him the moment he arrived.

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen who walked in front of Elder Wei, too, was assumed as an exalted guest. Thus he was surrounded by many prostitutes as well.

The warriors in the Rosefinch Tower all looked at Zhang Ruochen who wore a metal mask.

“Who is he? Even the Owner of Rosefinch Tower goes to welcome him?”

“Even Elder Wei of the Poisonous Spider Club followed him closely behind. This young man must have a profound background.”

“It is said that the most popular prostitute of the Rosefinch Tower, Miss Yunzhi, has been requested. It must be him who did so.”

“A night with Miss Yunzhi costs at least fifty thousand silver coins.”

...

Everyone was talking about Zhang Ruochen.

Despite being surrounded by the inviting prostitutes, Zhang Ruochen never spare them a glance. Instead, he kept calm and tranquil throughout.

“Mr. Chen, Elder Wei, the honorable guest has been waiting for you for a long time. He is in the Elegance Hall named Cloud. This way, please!” The Owner of Rosefinch Tower said with a smile.

The Owner of Rosefinch Tower was a young lady in her thirties. She was elegant and delicate. Her figure was well-shaped. Her skin was fair and she emitted an attractive aroma.

From a quick glance, Zhang Ruochen knew that she had reached the Completion in the Earth Realm. She seemed to be far more powerful than Elder Wei.

It was definitely not simple to become an evil overlord in the Black Market.

The Owner of Rosefinch Tower seemed to show great interests in Zhang Ruochen. She approached Zhang Ruochen deliberately, with her ample breasts touching Zhang Ruochen's arms from time to time. Her flirtatious eyes were glowing with enchantment, making it clear that she was making unbridled advances to Zhang Ruochen.

One had to admit that the Owner of Rosefinch Tower was quite a feminine stunner. If it were others that were provoked by her, he would have been in strong lust already.

Unfortunately, Zhang Ruochen had seen too many top beauties, for instance, Duanmu Xingling, Huang Yanchen, Chen Xier and Han Qiu, all of whom were exceptional in both temperament and appearance. The Owner of Rosefinch Tower was far too behind them. Was it even possible for her to seduce Zhang Ruochen?

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was not moved at all, the Owner of Rosefinch Tower could not help but feel discouraged. She whined bitterly, "How time flies. I am too old for this, else Mr. Chen would not thoroughly ignore me."

Hua Buwei fixed his eyes on the firm shapely hips of the Owner of Rosefinch Tower, drooling over her and said, "You are incredibly beautiful and striking. I will fight whoever dares to say you are old."

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and walked into the Elegance Hall named Cloud.

A Beard Elder who wore a golden silk robe was already sitting down on the left side of the room and had been waiting with a potful of tea. He was relishing the tea at that time.

On seeing Zhang Ruochen, he stood up at once and smiled at him, "Mr. Chen, I've been waiting for you for a long time! Come this way, please!"

Zhang Ruochen stared at the Beard Elder and asked Elder Wei who was standing beside him, "He is the master of the city?"

"Yes!" replied Elder Wei.

Zhang Ruochen had been told by Hua Buwei that the master of the city was the Army-guarding Marquis, a master in the Heaven Realm.

However, the Beard Elder in front of him definitely could not be the Army-guarding Marquis, as his martial cultivation did not reach the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen pulled Hua Buwei aside, condensed his voice into a sound wave and whispered into his ears, "Are you sure the master of the city is Army-guarding Marquis?"

Hua Buwei condensed his voice into a sound wave as well and answered, "I'm sure. Many people in the black market know about this. And several of my friends in the Poisonous Spider Club have all seen the Army-guarding Marquis showed up there."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Since you know the cooperation between the Army-guarding Marquis and the Poisonous Spider Club, why didn't you report it to the Martial Market Bank?"

Hua Buwei put on a long face and said, "The Army-guarding Marquis is a martial arts legend of the Heaven Realm. He is second to none in the Hugestone City. How dare I report it to the Bank without any exact evidence? On the one hand, the seniors in the Bank will not take my news seriously. On the other hand, what if the Army-guarding Marquis knows that it was me who informed against him? It's just so easy for him to put me to death. Do you think I dare to rashly report the news?"

"Mr. Chen, you should know better than me. The internal of the Martial Market Bank is not as united as we imagine. There are so many spies from other parties in it."

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head and accepted Hua Buwei's worries.

Hua Buwei was quite a shrewd man.

Hua Buwei took a glance at Beard Elder and said, "Actually, the Beard Elder is the counselor of the Army-guarding Marquis. His name is Yun Zhonghai, who is also a powerful person."

Zhang Ruochen patted Hua Buwei on the shoulder and laughed, "You indeed know so much!"

"In other places, I may be flattered. But here in the Hugestone City, there are very few things that I don't know." Hua Buwei puffed out his chest and appeared to be self-satisfied.

In fact, it struck Zhang Ruochen that the Army-guarding Marquis must be someone astute. He would not show up before confirming Zhang Ruochen's identity. Dispatching his counselor here to negotiate with Zhang Ruochen showed that he was quite serious about this.

Eight million silver coins were by no means a small amount of money even for a warrior in the Heaven Realm.

Moreover, the warriors in the Heaven Realm had already had a considerable expenditure. There were so many things needed to pay the silver coins for. For every realm they were going to break through, they would have to purchase a large number of the practice resources.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen and Hua Buwei were discussing among themselves at a corner in low tones, Elder Wei was afraid that this business opportunity would be blown. Thus he asked in haste, "Mr. Chen, do you have any questions?"

Zhang Ruochen laughed, "No, actually. The price is also acceptable. But I want to negotiate with the true master of the city."

A hint of craftiness flashed across Beard Elder's eyes. He said with a smile, "You are smart, Mr. Chen. It's true that the master of the city is not me, but someone else. However, you don't have to worry. I have every right to make the decision on this business."

"Do you?"

Zhang Ruochen sat down and pondered the matter for a while, "It is not as simple as you think. Maybe I will buy another one or two cities further. Can you really make the decision?"

"Another one or two?" The Beard Elder was a little taken aback by his answer.

Not only the Beard Elder but Elder Wei and the Owner of Rosefinch Tower were also surprised by Zhang Ruochen's words. It was unexpected that he would buy more cities since it was already a big business to buy one.

Just who on earth was this person?

The Beard Elder said, "Actually, you can meet with my master. But he worries about your identity. Mr. Chen, if you are willing to reveal your identity, he will definitely come to negotiate with you on his own."

It appeared that the Arm-guarding Marquis was really cautious about his business so as not to leave any evidence to be caught by the Martial Market Bank.

"In that case, in order to show my sincerity, I'll reveal my identity first."

Zhang Ruochen said, "I'm not from the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, but from the superior-class commandery, 'Qianshui Commandery'. I'm the disciple of the Left Prime Minister. My real name is Liu Xin."

The Left Prime Minister was the top minister among the Ten Powerful Ministers in Qianshui Commandery and was extremely powerful. He was second only to the Qianshui Commandery Prince. He had an overwhelming influence and could command almost everything he wanted.

Compared with the Qianshui Commandery, the Square Commandery was only a medium-level commandery. Even with the power of all the Royal Family added up together, they were still far behind that of the Left Prime Minister.

The reason why Zhang Ruochen pretended to be the student of the Left Prime Minister was that the title of him could repress everyone on spot. Besides, on the Sword Technique Conference of Qianshui Commandery, he had fought with Liu Xin, the student of the Left Prime Minister, by which he learned about the existence of Liu Xin.

As a matter of fact, Elder Wei and the Beard Elder had long suspected that the so-called "Chen Ruo" was not from the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge and thus they were already expecting it. However, they were still very taken aback when "Chen Ruo" revealed it to them.

Could it be that Left Prime Minister wanted to extend his power to the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge? Or else why did he want to buy so many cities?

The Beard Elder was really vigilant. He then asked, "I've heard a lot about the Left Prime Minister. However, this business is not something trivial. Do you have any evidence to prove that you are the student of the Left Prime Minister?"

Zhang Ruochen snorted coldly, and an intense Martial Arts' aura erupted out from his body in a peremptory manner. In an instant, his Genuine Qi filled the entire Elegance Hall. It seemed that there was a hurricane surging in the room.

“How dare you doubt the student of the Left Prime Minister! Even the Commandery Prince of the Square Commandery who offends the Left Prime Minister will have to bear his consequences, let alone you!” Zhang Ruochen raised his voice.

Elder Wei replied, “Mr. Chen... No... Mr. Liu, the business is indeed a serious matter. Military Counsellor Yun has always been cautious, which is actually for the good of all. I hope you don’t mind.”

Elder Wei shot a knowing glance toward the Beard Elder.

The Beard Elder immediately bowed to Zhang Ruochen and explained, “Mr. Liu, it’s not that I don’t believe in you. But our business is under-the-table. Thus we cannot take any risk. I believe the Left Prime Minister, too, doesn’t want the news to be leaked, right?”

In order to propitiate Zhang Ruochen, the Owner of Rosefinch Tower immediately called Miss Yunzhi to the Hall. Miss Yunzhi sat carefully beside Zhang Ruochen, lest “the student of the Left Prime Minister” would be mad again.

Miss Yunzhi was indeed a peerless beauty. Zhang Ruochen’s anger gradually subsided as he was being attended upon by her. He said, “Alright! Let’s get back to the topic, our business is more important. I will let this go. It’s no problem for me to show the Left Prime Minister’s token, but you don’t deserve it. Only the Army-guarding Marquis, Huo Yundu, has the right to negotiate with me. Don’t lie to me. I know that he is the real master of the city.”

Chapter 248: The Darkness Confusion

Who else but the students of the Prime Minister would dare to call on the Army-guarding Marquis?

“I will go ask the Arm-guarding Marquis!”

The Beard Elder promptly saluted Zhang Ruochen. Shortly after, he left the Elegance Hall and dispatched a trusted soldier to ask the Army-guarding Marquis to come.

Though he had not yet confirmed the identity of this mysterious teenager, the Left Prime Minister was by no means someone he could offend. Even the slimmest chance this was his true identity warranted the invitation of the Army-guarding Marquis.

Even if this mysterious teenager was suspicious, the Army-guarding Marquis, a martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm, was too powerful for a teenager like Liu Xin to threaten.

For this reason, asking the Army-guarding Marquis to come was still a wise decision.

When the Beard Elder dispatched his follower to ask for the Army-guarding Marquis, Zhang Ruochen whispered something to Hua Buwei. Upon hearing his words, Hua Buwei’s heart pounded heavily. He stared at Zhang Ruochen with astonishment.

Zhang Ruochen nodded. “You may leave now!” He said to Huang Buwei.

Hua Buwei clenched his fists and left the Rosefinch Tower at once.

Zhang Ruochen planned to kill the Army-guarding Marquis as quickly as he could the moment he arrived at the Rosefinch Tower. Then he would escape from the Black Market before the array was set off.

Since Zhang Ruochen was going to kill the Marquis, Hua Buwei naturally had to leave first, lest he be left behind to die after Zhang Ruochen's departure.

In the event his plan failed, Zhang Ruochen also commanded Hua Buwei to destroy the Defender Array powering the Martial Market Bank in the Black Market at any cost.

Once the Defender Array was destroyed, no one could stop Zhang Ruochen from leaving the Black Market.

The central reason for this plan lied in the fact that Zhang Ruochen was unsure about the real strength of the Army-guarding Marquis. He only knew that the martial cultivation of the Army-guarding Marquis had reached the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. However, there remained a huge gap among those who had cultivated to different stages of the Heaven Realm; who knew how far the Marquis had progressed in that Realm?

"With my present strength, if I can get within 33 meters and launch a hidden attack towards the Army-guarding Marquis, I have a good chance of killing him in a single stroke. However, if I fail to kill him in one move, I'll be trapped in a protracted battle with him. If the Black Market Defender Array is switched on then, the odds will not be in my favor."

"The odds that I can fight and kill this martial arts legend from the Heaven Realm are 80 percent; it's a chance worth taking."

"Moreover, if the Defender Array can be destroyed, I'll have an even greater chance of killing the Army-guarding Marquis."

"Why did you ask Hua Buwei to leave?" Elder Wei asked Liu Xin out of curiosity.

Zhang Ruochen mulled over Elder Wei's question, then smiled and answered in an unhurried manner: "Buying out the city would cost a large amount of silver coins, too many coins for me to carry everywhere on my person. For that reason I asked Hua Buwei to fetch me the advance payment. Take it easy, Elder Wei; the money needed to buy out ten cities is only a drop in the ocean for the Left Prime Minister's wealth."

Elder Wei ignored the sudden, persistent feeling that something was off about this situation. They had negotiated with each other in the Black Market, and the Army-guarding Marquis had cultivated himself into a martial arts legend of the Heaven Realm; how, then, would Liu Xin dare to break his word?

As he left through the main gates, Hua Buwei turned and gave the Rosefinch Tower an emotional look. He exhaled a deep breath. "Liu Xin is a really big figure," he thought. "The whole Black Market must be in an uproar. I need to hurry and fulfill my task."

"SWOOSH!"

The piercing sound of a sword whistled past his ears. Before he could turn his head around, he felt the sting of bitter cold on his neck—a cold sword was being held at his throat.

The icing air emanating from the sword tip very nearly froze his blood.



Han Qiu stood before Hua Buwei, a sharp gleam in her eyes. Glittering jade sword in hand, Han Qiu spoke with a cold voice: "Do not speak. You'd better follow me if you don't want to be killed."

Hua Buwei was frightened by her cool attitude. He straightened his posture and nodded eagerly.

Han Qiu was dressed in tidy black. A band bound her raven hair into a courtly bun atop her head.

She was a fair-featured maiden, with rosy lips and pearly-white teeth. Her choice of clothes made her resemble a graceful young man.

Han Qiu brought Hua Buwei to an alley not far from the Rosefinch Tower. She moved her arm slightly, leaving a scratch on Hua Buwei's neck.

With a yelp, Hua Buwei went down on his knees and frantically searched through his sleeves. After a moment, he pulled out an enormous amount of silver coins that he handed to Han Qiu. "These silver coins are all that I have," he blubbered. Please let me go! Please!"

Han Qiu frowned at him disdainfully. "Who told you I want your silver coins?" she said. "I just want you to answer my question— who is the teenager in the metal mask? If you can answer me, I'll let you go."

"I have no idea." Hua Buwei honestly replied.

He truly knew nothing about Zhang Ruochen, save that he must be a big figure from the Martial Market Bank. This wasn't information he could tell others by any means.

"You have no idea?"

Han Qiu kicked Hua Buwei down to the ground and pointed her sword at his face. In a threatening tone, she spoke: "Do you have any doubt that I could cripple your martial cultivation right this instant?"

"No...I don't doubt it...I'll talk, I'll talk...!"

Hua Buwei thought quickly as he sat up from the ground: "Actually, he is...the student of the Left Prime Minister from Qianshui Commandery. His name is Liu Xin."

Hua Buwei knew all about the fake identity of Liu Xin, so he told Han Qiu without hesitation.

"The student of the Left Prime Minister? If what Hua Buwei said is true, why does this teenager feel so familiar to me?" Suspicious of Hua Buwei's words, Han Qiu was lost in thought.

Seeing Han Qiu lost in thought, Hua Buwei suddenly sprang to his feet from the ground and rushed out of the alley.

He needed to arrange for the Defender Array to be destroyed; for that reason, he had no time to hang around this place.

Although it was almost impossible for him to destroy the array, he had to give it his all anyway.

Han Qiu snorted at him. "How dare you try to escape with such a low cultivation?" she said. "Freeze!"

"SWISH—"

She stretched out her arm and thrust her palm out at the air. Black Genuine Qi poured from her hand, wrapping itself around Hua Buwei, who had already run ten meters away.

Hua Buwei, seemingly trapped in a cold mire, began to run slower and slower. In the end, he could not even move; all he could do was stare at Han Qiu with a dumbfounded look. "Has she become a martial arts legend?" Han Qiu thought.

"Darkness Confusion!"

Han Qiu walked in front of Hua Buwei and stared into his eyes, using a martial technique that could disturb the mind and spirit of a warrior.

Only warriors who had activated the Sacred Mark of the Dark Series could successfully practice this uncanny technique.

"Now you will answer my questions," Han Qiu said to Hua Buwei.

The black Genuine Qi began to invade Hua Buwei's glabella. Hua Buwei's thoughts grew muddled and dull. All he could do was nod his head like a puppet.

"Who on earth is the teenager in the metal mask?" Han Qiu asked.

"I don't know." Hua Buwei replied, shaking his head.

Han Qiu frowned in disappointment. "How do you know him?" she went on to ask.

"Deacon Zhao from the Martial Market Bank asked me to bring him here," Hua Buwei replied. "He said the teenager was a respected guest."

"The Martial Market Bank!"

Han Qiu was cheered by the clue she received from Hua Buwei. "No wonder that he felt so familiar," she thought, eyes flashing. "He may be a talented internal student from the Martial Market Bank."

She continued to stare at Hua Buwei. "Why did you leave the Rosefinch Tower?" she asked. "Where are you going?"

"He is going to kill the Army-guarding Marquis. He ordered me to dispatch all the power of the Martial Market Bank in the Black Market in order to destroy the Defender Array at any cost." Hua Buwei replied.

"He intends to kill the Army-guarding Marquis in the Black Market? How daring!" Han Qiu smiled coldly, a serious look falling across her face.

If he was an internal student of the Martial Market Bank, why did he seek to kill the Army-guarding Marquis?

She was reminded of the words uttered by the mysterious teenager who had gotten an account book in the underground Secret Room. He claimed that the Square Commandery had been colluding with the Poisonous Spider Club.

Initially, Han Qiu couldn't bring herself to believe these words. However, now that she knew he was going to kill the Army-guarding Marquis in the Black Market, uncertainty filled her heart: perhaps his words were true.

Had the Square Commandery been colluding with the Poisonous Spider Club?

Han Qiu kept asking question: "Why is the Army-guarding Marquis coming to the Black Market?"

"He is prepared to sell off a city to the Poisonous Spider Club. Mr. Chen wants to search for proof that he has been colluding with the Poisonous Spider Club. That's why he's pretending to be a student of the Left Prime Minister who will meet up with the Army-guarding Marquis in preparation to buy out the city."

Han Qiu was a bit distracted by Hua Buwei's words. She stopped using her "Darkness Confusion" martial technique and clenched her fists, her eyes growing horribly cold: "Damn! How dare the Army-guarding Marquis collude with the Poisonous Spider Club? He even has the audacity to sell the city off."

The Square Commandery had been under the control of the Yuntai Suzerain this whole time.

However, the Square Commandery was now colluding with the Black Market without the permission of Yuntai Suzerain. Once the Martial Market Bank obtained the requisite evidence, it would present it to the East Region Saint Mansions.

Would the East Region Saint Mansions think that the Yuntai Suzerain was colluding with the Black Market?

This situation was by no means a trivial matter. Now that the mysterious teenager had obtained the evidence, it was just a matter of time before he sent the account book back to Devil Martial City.

How could she salvage this situation now?

Han Qiu had two options: First, she could ally with the Army-guarding Marquis to kill the mysterious teenager and seize back the account book. This way, she could simplify this complex situation before reporting it to the high-level members of the Yuntai Suzerain, who would handle everything else.

Second, she could help the mysterious teenager kill the Army-guarding Marquis, after which she could go with him to Devil Martial City and explain the whole affair to the high-level members of the Martial Market Bank— that it was not the Yuntai Suzerain but the Square Commandery that had been colluding with the Poisonous Spider Club.

If she chose the first option, she would be forced to collude with the Black Market, even if the Yuntai Suzerain had no relations with them.

She was currently with the Black Market. If she allied with the Army-guarding Marquis to kill Zhang Ruochen, the Marquis and the Black Market masters would possibly kill her in order to stop her from revealing their secret collusions.

Weighing up all the advantages and disadvantages, Han Qiu chose the second option; she would help Zhang Ruochen kill the Army-guarding Marquis.

"Destroying the Defender Array takes top priority!" She decided in her mind.

Upon stirring awake, Hua Buwei looked at Han Qiu with astonishment. "What...what...what did I say just now?" he stuttered.

"Nothing!"

A twinkle in her eyes, Han Qiu flashed him a charming smile and walked towards the Array in the direction of the Black Market towers without any hesitation.

Chapter 249: Murderous Look

"Mr. Liu, this is the Bluemist Wine that is made from the dew of Bluemist Flower, containing the power of Spiritual Crystal. After drinking, your cultivation will be improved."

Miss Yunzhi sat next to Zhang Ruochen, wearing a thin, pale green dress. With two fingers as white as snow, she held the white-jade wine cup and delivered it to Zhang Ruochen's lips.

Needless to say, Miss Yunzhi was really beautiful. She definitely deserved the title of being the top beauty of Rosefinch Tower. Although she was still no match for Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling, her beauty was already on par with Lin Ningshan.

Her plump white breasts were full and soft, revealing a deep cleavage under the thin lace. An enticing smell exhaled from her body. Her eyes moist and shining, as if water would drip anytime, were gazing adoringly at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen took the cup, but he did not drink the wine.

In the black market, it would be better to be safe than sorry.

Miss Yunzhi was a little disappointed. She gave Zhang Ruochen a rueful glance, thinking that he lacked a sense of romance.

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps echoed from outside.

"BANG! BANG!"

Army-guarding Marquis who was clad in golden armor, with a two-meter-long sword hanging by his waist made his entrance into the room.

He had a stalwart figure with a two-and-a-half meter height. His arms were as thick as buckets and his waist was broad. His heavily-built chest and back looked just as strong as a tiger. He was emanating an intense spirit pressure of Martial Arts.

Elder Wei, Military Counsellor Yun, and the Owner of Rosefinch Tower all carefully retreated a few steps before him. They felt as though their minds and bodies were being oppressed. The air in the whole Elegance Hall seemed to be frozen, they could hardly breathe.

Army-guarding Marquis burst out laughing. He walked toward Zhang Ruochen and asked, "Is this the student of the Left Prime Minister, Mr. Liu Xin?"

"Greetings, Army-guarding Marquis."

Zhang Ruochen stood up, clasping hands in greeting.

His calm expression presented a striking contrast to Elder Wei and others. Seeing this, Army-guarding Marquis squinted his eyes and exclaimed, saying, "You're indeed the student of Left Prime Minister. Ordinary warriors cannot be compared to you."

While Army-guarding Marquis was staring at him, Zhang Ruochen was also staring back at Army-guarding Marquis. They sized each other up at once.

Army-guarding Marquis was definitely a gifted warrior with strong physical quality and large bone structure. He looked just as robust as a dragon and as fierce as a tiger. It seemed like he was born with extraordinary power.

Such a person, of course, would be considered as top-notch even in the same realm.

Both of their martial cultivation were in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, but Zhang Ruochen felt incredible pressure accompanying his presence. It was possible that this person might be stronger than Mu Qing.

As for Hua Minggong, whose cultivation was lower, was certainly not his opponent.

On top of that, behind Army-guarding Marquis stood six guards that were completely wrapped in black armor. They were no ordinary guards but men of sacrifice with the sole purpose of serving and protecting their master.

Each and every one of them emanated an icy cold aura and stayed close to Army-guarding Marquis. So it would be easy to assume that anyone must first get past them before getting close to Army-guarding Marquis.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Army-guarding Marquis is indeed the military commander in the south of Square Commandery. You have many men of talents, these six guards are all superior. How I envy you!"

Army-guarding Marquis laughed and said, "Mr. Liu, you've got a good eye for this. I foster a total of ten guards and they have all reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. In the military, they are known as "Ten Generals of Death", whose status is just below me. Today I only brought six of them here, but if they work together to give a Combined Attack, they can temporarily contend with the martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm."

"That's amazing!" Zhang Ruochen replied.

With these six General of Death guarding Army-guarding Marquis closely made the task of killing him more difficult than usual.

Army-guarding Marquis laughed, "They're just ten guards in the Earth Realm. They can't even compare to Left Prime Minister's as the gap is too large. Mr. Liu, since I'm here, shouldn't you take out the Left Prime Minister's token and let me appraise it? Once your identity is confirmed, then we can continue to negotiate bigger deals."

"Of course!"

Zhang Ruochen's right hand reached into one of his sleeves to grab the said token and handed it over to Army-guarding Marquis.

Army-guarding Marquis looked at the token, and suddenly, his eyes widened, "This is the token of The School of the Martial Market... Oh no... He is from The School of the Martial Market..."

Snorting coldly, Zhang Ruochen infused Genuine Qi into the token and sent it flying toward one of the guards standing on the left side of Army-guarding Marquis.

The token was wrapped in Genuine Qi like a fireball. Its impact was so powerful that it sent the guard who was in the Final State of the Earth Realm flying off to the side.

BANG!

That guard smashed through the wall and flew out of the Elegance Hall, leaving a human-shaped hole behind.

Before Army-guarding Marquis could respond, a sharp broken sword appeared in Zhang Ruochen's hand. He built up all his Genuine Qi and then swung his sword towards Army-guarding Marquis' neck.

CRACK!

The Abyss Ancient Sword was completely wrapped up in Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi, causing a raging one-meter-long of fire to spring up around it.

It was as though Zhang Ruochen held a fire dragon in his hands. Even if there were a huge river before him, he probably could still cut it into two parts, let alone a person.

Army-guarding Marquis was frightened, his expression changed drastically. However, it was too late to escape, so he had no choice but to extend his arms to fend off Zhang Ruochen' attack.

The Abyss Ancient Sword ripped his Genuine Qi apart and came slashing down at his neck.

"BOOM!" The floor beneath Army-guarding Marquis's feet cracked and he fell to the ground floor, leaving a big hole in the ground. The whole pavilion shook violently and teetered as if it could collapse at any moment.

Zhang Ruochen could sense that the sword only slashed open Army-guarding Marquis' armor but definitely did not kill him.

As he was planning to get to the ground floor, Elder Wei, Military Counsellor Yun, and Owner of Rosefinch Tower joined forces to attack him simultaneously.

"Brat, who are you?"

"How dare you assassinate Army-guarding Marquis! Now die!"

"Since he has the Martial Market Bank's token, he should be a young master from there. We should work together to take him down," Owner of Rosefinch Tower said.

The three of them were in The Completion of the Earth Realm. They spread out, encircled Zhang Ruochen in the middle and unleashed their most powerful martial techniques.

“Tianyin Palm Technique.”

The Meridians in Elder Wei’s body all turned green as if they were tattoos. Then, a thick layer of icing cold gathered on his hands. His palm shot towards Zhang Ruochen’s left side, unleashing an icing air palm strike.

“Blood Ribbon!”

Two blood-red ribbons flew out from the sleeves of Owner of Rosefinch Tower, extending over ten-feet-long and moved toward Zhang Ruochen’s hands to twine around them.

“SHUNK!”

Zhang Ruochen flashed into motion, appearing directly in front Elder Wei in no time. Suddenly, a sword flashed through the air and blood sprayed everywhere.

Elder Wei’s head had been cut off even before his palm strike could reach Zhang Ruochen.

“SWISH!”

Zhang Ruochen unleashed a series of counterattacks toward the Owner of Rosefinch Tower. He sent out thirteen sword strikes which then became thirteen Sword Breath, chopping off the two ribbons and cut them into pieces.

“What?”

Owner of Rosefinch Tower’s face went pale, she had clearly underestimated her opponent’s strength. So she quickly retreated, planning to escape through the window.

A shadow flashed across and Zhang Ruochen was seen standing right in front of the window before her.

“Sacred Guiding Sword! ”

Zhang Ruochen swung his sword and hurled a ten-meter-long line of Sword Breath.

The Sword Breath stretched from his feet to the front of Owner of Rosefinch Tower, leaving a long ditch on the ground.

Owner of Rosefinch Tower crossed her arms over her chest to block the attack.

“AH!”

Letting out a piercing cry, she was sent flying out by Sword Breath. Blood spattered all over the floor. No one knew if she would still be alive.

That single strike unleashed by Zhang Ruochen just now had unintentionally split the entire pavilion in half. The floors had also crumbled into rubble, leaving the lowest floor open.

Zhang Ruochen did not confirm the death of Owner of Rosefinch Tower as she was just a nobody. She would not be a threat to him even if she was still alive.

His real concern was to get rid of Army-guarding Marquis.

Zhang Ruochen then jumped to the lowest floor. He saw a three-meter diameter hole and some fresh blood spattered around but Army-guarding Marquis was nowhere to be seen.

As if sensing something ahead, Zhang Ruochen suddenly looked up and saw six Martial Arts masters standing above him.

Each of them held a jade stone in hand while infusing Genuine Qi into it. They were activating the Incription of Array in the jade stones, in order to prepare for the Combined Attack.

There were five of them who were clad in thick iron armors. They were the five Generals of Death who was with Army-guarding Marquis just now.

Another person was Military Counsellor Yun, Yun Zhonghai.

They were all regarded as top-notch masters in Martial World.

“SWISH—”

Once the Combined Attack was ready, the six jades each released a light beam. Their beams connected with each other and formed a spherical cage array, trapping Zhang Ruochen at the center of array.

Army-guarding Marquis walked out, his eyes as fierce as tiger, glaring coldly at Zhang Ruochen who was in the array and said, “Brat, tell me, who on earth are you?”

Zhang Ruochen’s previous sword attack had damaged his armor and left a deep wound on his neck.

He was seriously injured, even his collarbone was broken. The condition of his injury was pacified solely by his profound martial cultivation.

Looking at the poor state Army-guarding Marquis was in, Zhang Ruochen smiled fearlessly and said, “You are gonna die soon, so there’s no use in telling you the truth, isn’t?”

“I’m gonna die? Haha!”

Army-guarding Marquis threw back his head and roared with laughter, “It seems like you haven’t clearly understood the current situation. I’ve already sent people to activate the Defender Array in the black market. Even if you managed to escape the Combined Attack, there’s still no way for you to live.”

His words made Zhang Ruochen think twice. The Combined Attack would pose some threats to him, but it was not really troublesome.

However, once the Defender Array was activated, it would be impossible for him to kill Army-guarding Marquis.

“Yun Zhonghai and Five Generals of Death, listen, take this guy down but don’t kill him. I want him alive.” Army-guarding Marquis said angrily.

“BOOM!”

The Combined Attack began to spin quickly under the activation of those six masters.

A series of Incription of Array gushed out from jade stones, turning into lightning streaks. They tangled together in the midair and formed six thick lightning, shooting toward Zhang Ruochen all at once.



“Break!”

Zhang Ruochen waved his arm, causing a three-foot-long Space Crack to appear out of thin air. It then flew in the direction of Yun Zhonghai.

“Space... cracked...”

Yun Zhonghai was terrified. Just as he wanted to escape, a grisly suction force from the Space Crack pulled him in.

By the time Space Crack closed, Yun Zhonghai had already vanished.

Without Yun Zhonghai, the Combined Attack naturally collapsed on its own.

“What... what just happened?” Army-guarding Marquis’s eyes were glued to the place where Yun Zhonghai just disappeared.

He could not believe space suddenly cracked open and swallowed a Martial Arts master who was already in The Completion of the Earth Realm into it.

Army-guarding Marquis was completely and utterly shocked. He knew that if he was hit by the Space Crack, his fate would not be much better than Yun Zhonghai.

“Why the Defender Array hasn’t started?”

“This guy was so unpredictable. Let’s leave before it’s too late.” Army-guarding Marquis dared not to stay any longer as fear rose up in his heart. On top of that, he was also seriously injured.

He immediately fled from the Rosefinch Tower.

“Run? Where to?”

Zhang Ruochen quickly leaped out of the building. Just when he was going to chase after Army-guarding Marquis, the five Generals of Death dashed out with five battle swords, attacking Zhang Ruochen all at once.

“SWISH!”

Zhang Ruochen performed a series of footsteps, turning his body into nine phantoms where each of them was a clone of his own. He then unleashed nine sword techniques simultaneously.

In the next minute, Zhang Ruochen had already made his way through the five Generals of Death and became a shadow, chasing after Army-guarding Marquis.

Just as Zhang Ruochen left, those five General of Death all fell to the ground at the same time. They were found dead with a faint blood stain on each one’s necks.

Seeing that the five powerful Earth Realm masters were killed in a flash, those prostitutes in the Rosefinch Tower were all scared out of their minds after witnessing the sword technique performed by Zhang Ruochen.

Chapter 250: Shock

The Army-guarding Marquis sped toward the black market's city gate at a speed of 240 meters per second even as he had been severely injured, leaving Zhang Ruochen lagging behind.

One of the greatest advantages of Heaven Realm warriors was their speed.

If it was not because of Zhang Ruochen's Space Crack, the Army-guarding Marquis would not be so frightened that he lost his ability to fight, let alone run for his life like a scared rabbit.

As a martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm, he was defeated and chased by a young warrior. How humiliating it was!

"When I go back to my barracks, I will dispatch my army, and I will crash you, bastard!" The Army-guarding Marquis cursed under his breath. He still held onto the hope that he would regain control once he returned to the military camp.

Han Qiu stood tall and straight on top of the black market's city wall, with an Ancient White Jade Sword in her hands. She stared at the Marquis, who was running with his tail between his legs, and spoke in a caustic tone, "Army-guarding Marquis, where do you think you're going?"

The Army-guarding Marquis suddenly stopped in place, raised his head and looked at the girl. "Damn!" he murmured. Then he asked, "Who are you?"

"It's not your business! How dare you collude with the Poisonous Spider Club! You know exactly how many secret deals you have done in the dark. Today, I'm going to cut your head off and bring it back to the Yuntai Suzerain," Han Qiu said.

"You are from the Yuntai Suzerain?"

He felt his heart sank to his stomach. "When did the Yuntai Suzerain get involved in this?"

"Anyway, I should finish her off first." He made up his mind.

With a murderous gleam in his eyes, he kicked his feet and crushed the slab stones underneath. Then he flew up tens of feet into the air and sent his palm flying toward Han Qiu.

"She's just a young warrior. There's no way she could contend with me!"

He did not believe that he would be so unlucky, meeting two top young masters, one after another.

Han Qiu's lips curled into a scorn and whammed her sword forward with lightning speed, leaving a dazzling arc of light as if ten thousand swords were released at once.

The Army-guarding Marquis was startled when he saw the flying sword coming at him. His pupils dilated and his heart began to pound, knowing that he had underestimated her.

He immediately withdrew his hand and drew a great sword from his waist to slash out at Han Qiu.

His attack was just a hasty move, but Han Qiu's was fully prepared.

Two swords crashed together, causing countless of sparks to fly out between the two.

Han Qiu waved her arm. The Ancient White Jade Sword suddenly turned into a string of phantoms, with a total of 36 shadow rays, streaking through the air with an unstoppable force toward Army-guarding Marquis.

Han Qiu had high attainments in sword techniques, who had reached the Peak Realm of Sword Following the Mind. How could the severely-injured Army-guarding Marquis be her opponent? He had no chance to defeat her.

“BANG! BANG!”

Sword slashed down on the body of the Marquis like raindrops.

“PUFF!”

Coughing out a mouthful of blood, the Army-guarding Marquis fell down to the ground out of midair in sore straits.

His armor was tattered, as a result of being slashed and sliced open by Han Qiu’s sword.

Zhang Ruochen finally caught up with them. He stood behind the Army-guarding Marquis and stared at Han Qiu who was standing atop the city wall with a perplexed expression.

Han Qiu said with a smile, “Friend, his head belongs to me. Don’t fight with me.”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “Who’s your friend?”

Han Qiu laughed and said, “If I hadn’t destroyed the Defender Array in the black market, do you think you could walk safely out of the Rosefinch Tower? I did a great favor for you, but you still refuse to treat me as a friend?”

“It was you! No wonder the Defender Array has not been activated yet.” Zhang Ruochen realized.

He agreed. “All right. You can take his head. If you fail, I’ll go!”

“Thanks!” Han Qiu clasped her hands and bowed to Zhang Ruochen.

Army-guarding Marquis was already simmering with rage as he stood between the two young warriors and listened to their conversations. “I am the commander of 300,000 military men! And I am a Heaven-Realm martial arts legend! Yet today I’m pressed into such a difficult position by two kids!”

The Marquis spoke between clenched teeth, “You two detestable kids! You really think you can easily kill a Heaven-Realm martial arts legend, do you?”

Han Qiu said, “It may be not easy to kill you when you are in your heyday. Considering your current state, however, I can do that with little effort.”

“What a high-flown statement!” The Marquis was irritated and asked, “Who on earth are you?”

Zhang Ruochen laughed and answered, “Army-guarding Marquis, you don’t recognize her? She’s the daughter of the Yuntai Suzerain’s Master. Actually, she should call you ‘master’s fellow apprentice’.”

Army-guarding Marquis used to be a student of the Yuntai Suzerain.

Zhang Ruochen's words left him dumbfounded. He finally woke up to this new reality.

"WHEW!"

Han Qiu flew down from the city wall. Wisps of black Genuine Qi, dark as ink, began to pour out from her body, suffused over a hundred feet wide across the area.

"BANG! BANG!"

The sound of swords clashing echoed out from the dark space.

Stepping back, Zhang Ruochen looked at the rolling black mists at a hundred feet away and muttered to himself. "It should be the Dark Domain!"

The Dark Domain, to some degree, was also a vision of heaven and earth.

Han Qiu's cultivation was not strong enough, so she only managed to form a Dark Domain within a hundred feet around.

If her martial cultivation reached the Half-Saint Realm, she would even be able to transform heaven and earth, blot out the sky and the sun, turning day into night in the blink of an eye.

After a short while, the black Genuine Qi dissipated and went into Han Qiu's body again.

Zhang Ruochen looked around and found a headless corpse on the ground.

The head of the Army-guarding Marquis had been cut off and stuffed into a box by Han Qiu.

She put the box into her baggage and carried it on her shoulders. Eyes shining brightly, she looked at Zhang Ruochen and smiled broadly, "Friend, let's go! We should set off!"

Zhang Ruochen asked, "You know where I am going?"

"You are going to the Devil Martial City, aren't you?" Han Qiu replied confidently.

"Excuse me. I'm not going that way." Zhang Ruochen then performed the succeeded Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, stepping on the void space and rode off with the wind. Just a step forward, he had leaped onto the city wall of the black market.

The second step forward, he flew off.

"What a nuisance! You can't fool me!" Han Qiu said angrily.

She made so many efforts just to get on his good side and proved that the Yuntai Suzerain had nothing to do with the collusion between the Square Commandery and the Poisonous Spider Club.

But she had not expected that he was not a bit grateful for everything she had done.

Han Qiu surely would not let Zhang Ruochen off. She performed the martial technique of Stepping on the Clouds and Chasing the Moon, chasing after him without hesitation.

Soon after they left, the events happened in the black market became a series of shocking news and had shaken the Martial World of the Hugestone City.

“It is said that two martial arts legends fought their way into the black market and carried out a massacre. Even Elder Wei from the Poisonous Spider Club and Owner of Rosefinch Tower were killed!”

“Elder Wei and Owner of Rosefinch Tower are nobody! Haven’t you heard about how Army-guarding Marquis was killed and even had his head chopped off?”

“Who on earth are those people? It’s so terrifying!”

Another piece of news reached the City after a short while.

“In Lin’an County Town, Hua Minggong, Mu Qing, and its Young Lord of Poisonous Spider from Poisonous Spider Club were killed by the Ninth Prince of the Yunwu Commandery!”

The news caused a stir in the City once again.

After all, Hua and Mu were both martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm. And the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was a young master who was about to enter the Earth Board. No one could imagine that all three of them would be murdered on the same day.

Those shocking news continued to spread from the Hugestone City to the palace of the Square Commandery and the headquarter of the Poisonous Spider Club.

Hearing the news, the Square Commandery Prince’s face suddenly turned very pale, beads of cold sweat popped out on his forehead. He could not believe what he had heard, “Are you sure it’s a student of the School of the Martial Market that murdered the Army-guarding Marquis?”

A warrior clad in a black robe who was kneeling at the center of the grand hall presented a token of the School of the Martial Market.

He said, “This is the token left by the mysterious teenager.”

The Prince took the token and observed it closely. One side was engraved with five golden words — “School of the Martial Market”; another side was written with— “Zhang Ruochen”.

“BANG!”

The Prince threw the token out, and said in a ferocious tone, “Zhang Ruochen again! No... no... It can’t be. His cultivation has just reached the Black Realm a year ago. How could he kill the Army-guarding Marquis?”

The warrior in black cautiously replied, “It is reported that another master from the Yuntai Suzerain beheaded the Army-guarding Marquis. But before that, he was already badly injured by Zhang Ruochen.”

“What? Even the Yuntai Suzerain gets involved!” The Prince’s vision went black, nearly passed out as soon as he heard the news.

Thanks to his solid cultivation, the Prince managed to bestir himself. He sat up straight again and tried to keep his composure.

“Report!”

Another warrior in a black robe walked into the hall and presented a piece of information.

After reading the letter, the Prince furiously ripped it up. He roared, "Zhang Ruocheng! Zhang Ruocheng! Why it's always this Zhang Ruochen! I should have killed him myself! I should have done it a year ago!"

Beside the Square Commandery Prince stood an elder man in a purple hat.

He asked respectfully, his expression serious, "Your Majesty, what happened?"

The Prince said, "Hua Minggong, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, and Mu Qing were murdered by Zhang Ruochen in the Lin'an County Town. That town is only a few hundred miles from the Hugestone City. He must have found something, or he won't go there... Oh no! Mu Qing kept an account book, noting every transaction between the Royal Family and the Poisonous Spider Club! He must have had the book by now!"

"If the book was sent to the Devil Martial City, the Square Commandery would be punished! Besides, the Yuntai Suzerain wouldn't forgive us!"

The elder man's expression also changed drastically, "We must take back the book at all costs! Otherwise, both the Square Commandery and the Poisonous Spider Club will suffer the consequences!"

The Prince took a deep breath, eyes flickering. He became worried, "It might be too late to catch him now! There's only one way — immediately tell Huo Jingcheng to intercept Zhang Ruochen and the Yuntai Suzerain's master en route!"

The elder man nodded and said, "Huo Jingcheng is one of the top masters in the Royal Family, and a presbyter of the Yuntai Suzerain. He is the best man to do the job. I will be leaving for the Devil Martial City as well, in case they run away."

The Prince felt relieved. "With your presence in the City, even if Zhang Ruochen and the Yuntai Suzerain's master have extraordinary abilities, they can't escape alive. I just hope it's not too late."

The elder man said, "Your Majesty, please rest assured! Besides, the Poisonous Spider Club must have sent a large batch of masters to intercept them as well. As long as the book is still outside of the Devil Martial City, I will bring it back."

Then the elder man left. He rode a Fourth-level Savage Beast and flew towards the Omen Ridge.