

Chapter 591: Ancient Holy Body of the Ice Phoenix

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen would not remove his mask. "Let's just exchange for one Holy Stone first, since you don't trust us. Tomorrow we will come with enough Spiritual Crystals to exchange for the remaining two Holy Stones."

A gleam of disappointment appeared in Duanmu Ya's eyes.

Duanmu Ya did not intend to force it further. She knew what Zhang Ruochen was capable of, and she did not want to provoke him to anger and make an enemy of him.

Mu Lingxi was not as cautious. She walked up to Zhang Ruochen and said, "When will you stop pretending, Zhang Ruochen? Why are you fearful of showing your true self to me since you are still alive? Don't you trust me?"

"Zhang Ruochen?"

Zhang Ruochen maintained his calmness. The ends of his lips curled up as he said, "Your Highness, I am afraid you have mistaken me for another person."

"Swosh!"

From 50 feet away, Zhang Ruochen stretched out one of his hands, curled his fingers into a claw, and directed one of the Holy Stones from the bronze salver into his sleeve.

He then turned to leave Wuwang Inn.

"Don't go, Zhang Ruochen..."

Mu Lingxi speedily made a move to try to catch up with him.

However, she quickly lost sight of Zhang Ruochen the moment she was out of Wuwang Inn.

When Duanmu Ya caught up with Mu Lingxi, she said anxiously, "Lingxi, from the back, this man does look like Zhang Ruochen. However, it may not be him after all. A man cannot come back to life once he dies. Why don't you just let it go?"

Mu Lingxi bit her lip as she started to tear up. She could feel her heart breaking in two and tears ran down her cheeks as she said with a lovesick tone, "Why, aunt? He was just standing before of me, but why didn't he remove his mask? Why doesn't he trust me?"

Duanmu Ya replied, "You are the Saintess of the Demonic Sect, and there are many important things you have to handle. I can't just sit around and watch you sink deeper into this. I am going to inform the High Priest so he can send someone here to take you home if you refuse to perk up."

Mu Lingxi did not seem to hear Duanmu Ya's words. On the other hand, she seemed even more determined. She said, "Please prepare an altar for me, aunt. I will personally unlock the seal on myself. When I regain my level of cultivation, he won't be able to walk away from me."

“No, it would be too dangerous to unlock the seal using your strength alone. You could be putting your training at risk. I would advise you make a trip back to the Ancient Moon Precipice to allow the High Priest to unlock your seal,” Duanmu Ya said.

Mu Lingxi however, was unrelenting. She said, “Cyan Cloud County and Ancient Moon Precipice are hundreds of thousands of miles apart. I wouldn’t know where he is by the time I returned from unlocking the seal.” “The world is so vast and densely populated. It would be almost impossible to find him if I miss this chance. He must have encountered some difficulties, and he didn’t wish to implicate me. That’s why he’s avoiding me. Please, will you just help me this once, Aunt?”

Duanmu Ya was unmoved by her pleading. She did not wish for her to wallow in her stupidity.

“Don’t push it, Aunt.”

Mu Lingxi took the Holy Moon Token out of her Spatial Ring and placed it on her palm.

The Holy Moon Token flew into the air and transformed into a bright moon above Mu Lingxi. Instantly, her aura became very powerful.

At this moment, she seemed to be a statue of a commanding Saint, standing in front of Duanmu Yu.

In an instant, Mu Lingxi’s temperament turned cold and sharp. “You left me with no other choice. As the Saintess of the Moon Worship Sect, I command you to prepare an altar for me. Tonight, I have to unlock the seal on my body.”

Duanmu Ya had no choice but to kneel. She saluted her, saying, “Yes, Your Highness.”

Mu Lingxi pocketed the Holy Moon Token, went forward, and helped Duanmu Ya up, saying, “Aunt, I hope you understand that I am doing this because I have no other choice.”

“What can I say, now that you have even used the Holy Moon Token on me? Since you have made up your mind, I will give you a hand. I hope I am not doing you harm instead.”

Duanmu Ya gave Mu Lingxi a long thoughtful look, and she finally understood Mu Lingxi’s deep feelings for Zhang Ruochen. It really was a cruel twist of fate.

Following a hundred years of development, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect’s great power and influence in Cyan Cloud County had allowed them to take control of an extensive area of the city.

Duanmu Ya led Mu Lingxi to the northern part of Cyan Cloud County, which was relatively desolated, and they entered a manor that spread over 130 acres.

This manor was Moon Worship Demonic Sect’s secret stronghold, and many of its masters took cover here.

“Swosh!”

A slim figure in black, carrying a sword on her back, came out of the manor, knelt before Duanmu Ya and Mu Lingxi, and saluted them with a bow.

“Greetings to Your Highness the Saintess, and to the Chief.”

She was dressed in a tight-fitting black suit and wearing a black hat. A layer of soft metallic armor covered her torso, wrists, and thighs. She was covered from head to toe, exposing only a pair of bright eyes and fair-skinned hands.

Mu Lingxi took one look at her and seemed to recognize her immediately. "Junior sister apprentice Zi, it's been a long time."

The lady in black nodded but remained silent.

Duanmy Ya said, "Get up first, Zi Qian. Bring us to the altar."

The lady in black was Zi Qian, the lady killer of the Hades Department.

When the Hades Department offended Di Yi in the battle at the Underwater Dragon Palace, they had no choice but to join the Moon Worship Demonic Sect for protection. Naturally, Zi Qian also came under the wings of Moon Worship Demonic Sect and became the chief of one of the branch gangs.

In the center of the manor stood a thirty foot tall altar, made of an enormous heap of huge boulders, each weighing a thousand pounds. The boulders on the edge were carved with strange inscriptions.

Duanmu Ya had given an order to conduct a sacrifice in the manor at midnight.

Therefore, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect disciples started busying themselves with the preparation of the oblation immediately. The disciples of each branch gang had purchased cattle and savage beasts from the city, brought them back to the manor, and placed them on the altar.

Midnight was the time that divided the day in half. At this time, the moon would be right at the center of the sky.

The Moon Worship Demonic Sect worshipped the Moon God. They would carry out the sacrificial ceremony at midnight to communicate with the Moon God and thereby gain the power to unlock the seal.

Midnight was drawing near, and the manor's security team had been fully mobilized.

"The sacrifice begins."

Duanmu Ya issued the command.

The heretic disciples on the altar lifted their butcher's knives and slaughtered a total of two thousand and twenty cattle, as well as three hundred and sixty-seven savage beasts.

"Swoosh!"

The blood of the cattle and savage beasts gushed out and flowed into the groove at the center of the altar. It formed a frothing pool of blood.

The moonlight reflected on the surface of the pool of blood in the center of the altar, making it appear bright red.

As Mu Lingxi ascended the altar step by step, she mobilized Genuine Qi throughout her body to begin unlocking the seal. Her skin became fairer and fairer until it looked like porcelain.

“Crack!”

Suddenly, her entire body was covered in thin crack lines.

Streams of dazzling light emitted from the cracks. The turbulent Genuine Qi in her body seemed to be on the verge of tearing her body up.

At the point of transformation, Mu Lingxi stepped into the blood pool. The blood completely covered her as she sank to the bottom of the blood pool.

The power from the sacrifice drew the moonlight into a white light column that was driven into the blood pool. The fresh blood blended with the moonlight to produce an amazing power that closed in on Mu Lingxi standing in the blood pool.

The heretics around the altar scattered. The only ones left behind were Duanmu Ya and Zi Qian, who were clad in black.

Anxiety rose in Duanmu Ya’s heart as she fixed her eyes on the tall altar.

She was keenly aware of how precarious it was to unlock the seal through sacrifice. Any act of negligence would backfire on the participant. However, Duanmu Ya had faith that Mu Lingxi would be able to succeed, as she had a good control over her power.

At 1 am, the blood in the pool began to swirl around wildly and noisily, forming a vortex.

Suddenly, the shadow of a perfect human figure flew out from the center of the vortex and united itself with the shaft of moonlight.

At this moment, Mu Lingxi was stark naked, and every inch of her skin was perfectly smooth. She appeared to be emitting moonlight.

The surrounding air condensed to form streaks of nimbus which wrapped around her.

When Zi Qian saw Mu Lingxi’s true body, she said in wonder, “Only inherent Holy Jade could transform Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi into nimbus to wrap around her. Could Her Highness, the Saintess, be a Saintly Being?”

A human who was a Saintly Being would be no different from inherent Holy Jade.

Duanmu Ya nodded and said, “Ancient Holy Body of the Ice Phoenix. It had been ages since any tribesman, not to mention tribesman from the Mu Tribe, awoke the Blood Meridian of the Ice Phoenix.”

Duanmu Ya had witnessed Mu Lingxi’s true body before, but she had still been a little girl.

When she unlocked the seal and flew out of the blood pool, even Duanmu Ya gasped in shock.

At this moment, Mu Lingxi looked as beautiful as one of the Nine Goddesses of the Empyrean. Even Duanmu Ya, who was a woman, was struck with awe.

Even Luo Shuihan, Eastern Region’s new generation beauty as appraised by the ‘Eastern Region Report,’ paled in comparison.

As Mu Lingxi stood on the altar, the streams of moonlight fell on her like silver gauze. She looked enchanting with her long, flowing, black hair moving in the wind.

There was a little red Phoenix mark in between her brows. The mark was gently moving up and down as if it were a drop of blood sitting on the surface of her skin.

A close inspection would reveal that the red Phoenix mark was filled with the mysterious power of the Ice Phoenix. It looked to be a living Phoenix that could emerge from in between her brows at any moment.

As Mu Lingxi gradually got used to the power within her, the Phoenix mark sank in to form an Ice Phoenix suspended in her Qi Sea.

Due to the fact that Mu Lingxi was undercover in the School of the Martial Market, her body and cultivation level had both been sealed. For this reason, only she was aware of her true capabilities.

Only at this moment, when the seal had been unlocked, was her cultivation fully revealed.

“Finally I have recovered my true body. Indeed I have reached the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. I shall open the first holy meridian first.”

As Mu Lingxi sat cross-legged at the center of the altar, she began to employ the Vast Universe Gong technique. Immediately, an illusory image of an Ice Phoenix appeared. The illusory image transformed into the shape of a pair of phoenix wings and wrapped around her.

The Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm was not the peak of Mu Lingxi’s capabilities. She continued to break through to the next level.

She could reach the the Fourth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm by opening another holy meridian.

She could reach the Fifth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm by opening yet another holy meridian.

However, Mu Lingxi was not sure how much martial power she had accumulated, or whether she could open one or two holy meridians, or even more. The more martial power she accumulated, the more power would be dissipated when the seal was unlocked.

Chapter 592: Evil Masters

After Zhang Ruochen walked out of Wuwang Inn, he immediately left Cyan Cloud County.

As informed by Duanmu Ya, Blood Cloud Sect was looking all over for Zhang Ruochen. Besides, Blood Cloud Sect was a powerful and influential sect in Cyan Cloud County, therefore it would be dangerous for Zhang Ruochen to spend the night in the county.

Although Zhang Ruochen was powerful, he would still have a hard time if Blood Cloud Sect were to send the Defender Array to fight against him.

However, Zhang Ruochen could sense that someone had been following him closely ever since he left Cyan Cloud County.

Zhang Ruochen could have easily shaken them off with speed.

However, he had other plans. He wanted to teach Blood Cloud Sect a lesson.

After all, what really counted within the territories of Eastern Evil Land was true ability. The Blood Cloud Sect would stop only if they were defeated. To run away from or give in to them would only create more trouble.

Zhang Ruochen purposely slowed down his pace and lured them to a deserted open field, and then he stopped in his tracks.

The Evil Warriors of Blood Cloud Sect seemed eager to strike. A hundred and thirty of them were riding on savage beasts and approaching Zhang Ruochen in at high speed. Eventually, they surrounded Zhang Ruochen.

One of them was a cyan-robed old Taoist who was riding an Argali Beast. He said to Zhang Ruochen coldly, "Leave the Holy Stone behind, lad. That way, I may spare your life."

Zhang Ruochen glanced at the cyan-robed old Taoist and said, "Are you from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?"

Duanmu Ya and Mu Lingxi were the only people who knew of the Holy Stone transaction in Wuwang Inn. If these people were here for the Holy Stone, they must be from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

The cyan-robed elder seemed confident that he could take down Zhang Ruochen, therefore he smiled and said without hesitation, "So, I see that you have acquired the Holy Stone from Moon Worship Demonic Sect. That means you are not a good man, after all. It would therefore be reasonable for me to take it away from you."

Zhang Ruochen frowned. The cyan-robed elder's words made him no longer certain that these people were from Blood Cloud Sect. It seemed that they were neither from the Blood Cloud Sect nor the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

Could there be a third strong power apart from the two super powers?

As Zhang Ruochen observed, these people were all clad in robes.

Apart from the elder who spoke to Zhang Ruochen, the rest were a group of good-looking young men.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen came to a realization. "Are you from the Yin and Yang Sect?"

The disciples of Yin and Yang Sect were about the only other people who dared to walk around Eastern Evil Land and Eastern Holy Land without any fear. This was because they neither belonged in the imperial court nor to the demonic sects.

Furthermore, the power of Yin and Yang Sect might not necessarily be weaker than that of the imperial court or the demonic sects. The imperial court and the demonic sects usually avoided offending them.

In terms of family heritage, even the Chens' could not be compared to that of the Yin and Yang Sect.

Among them, a handsome young man in his twenties in a blue robe rode a white dragon horse. With a steady voice, he said, "That's right, we are the disciples of Yin and Yan Sect. How are you, being evil, fit to use the Holy Stone? Hand over the Holy Stone, and I will spare your life."

Zhang Ruochen glanced at the young man and nodded gently. He said, "It's not easy for a man as young as you to have reached the Completion of Heaven Realm."

Standing beside the young man was a younger girl, about the age of sixteen or seventeen. Her egg-shaped face and big, round eyes were very pretty.

However, she looked furiously at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Elder brother Lin Yue is a master whose name is on the 'Heaven Board'. He has excellent abilities and a high level of cultivation. What right have you to judge him?"

Apparently, elder brother Lin Yue was an outstanding youth in the eyes of his juniors.

Hearing Zhao Han'er singing praises about him, Lin Yue became arrogant. He started to look upon Zhang Ruochen with contempt.

Was it not natural for a superior whose name was on the 'Heaven Board', and who had reached the highest level in Martial Arts, to display some air of arrogance?

"Junior sister apprentice, let's keep a low key now that we are in Eastern Evil Land. After all it is not a big deal to be on the 'Heaven Board'. Let's not be conceited," Lin Yue gently rebuked Zhao Han'er in pretense.

Zhao Han'er cast an enamored look at Lin Yue and said with admiration, "Although elder brother apprentice Lin Yue's name is on the 'Heaven Board,' he is still so humble. Who wouldn't be filled with admiration for him?"

The rest of the lady disciples were casting looks of admiration on Lin Yue. They looked ready to throw themselves at him.

The cyan-robed old Taoist let out a dry cough and said, "Lin Yue, your name has been up on the 'Heaven Board' for some time now. Today is a chance for you to fight with that Evil Warrior and gauge his cultivation level. Just be careful not to fall to his evil plot."

"Rest assured, Junior Uncle Master. What harm can a mere Evil Warrior do to me? I am sure I can defeat him in three moves."

Lin Yue drew a long spear out of its sheath and charged his dragon horse towards Zhang Ruochen.

The cyan-robed elder said to the remaining disciples, "Lin Yue's level of cultivation is the highest among all of you, and he also has the most experience fighting battles. Watch and learn from how Lin Yue takes down his opponent."

All the young disciples of Yin and Yang Sect opened their eyes wide, getting ready to observe how their elder brother Lin Yue would kill the Evil Warrior.

"Storm Spear Technique."

Lin Yue thought to impress with his moves, so he twirled his long spear and kicked up a whirlwind.

He thrust his long spear forward in a skillful manner. Instantly, twenty-seven spear shadows appeared in the whirlwind. They were each directed towards one of Zhang Ruochen's twenty-seven vital points.

Lin Yue thought that he should still move elegantly, even in the act of killing.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head gently, lifted his palms to condense a ball of lightning, and quickly pushed it forward.

"Boom!"

The spear shadows shattered and disappeared into thin air.

Lin Yue let out a cry of agony the moment the ball of lightning hit him, and he immediately fell backwards.

Lin Yue landed with a loud thud on patch of grass 100 feet away. He was completely discombobulated. His entire body had been badly scorched. His eyes rolled back, and he fainted.

If Zhang Ruochen had not shown mercy, this 'Heaven Board' master Lin Yue would have been reduced to a wisp of smoke.

All the young disciples of Yin and Yang Sect were petrified and stupefied.

How was it possible for someone as powerful as elder brother Lin Yue to be defeated by an Evil Warrior with just one move?

Zhang Ruochen mocked them by saying, "Yin and Yang Sect is after all the leader of all sects in the Eastern Region. Why have you become bandits who go around robbing? You bring shame upon your ancestors."

Yin and Yang Sect had long maintained a cordial relationship with Saint Ming Central Empire. So much so, that Emperor Ming, as a youth, was once an apprentice to the masters of Yin and Yang Sect.

For this very reason, Zhang Ruochen did not wish to make enemies with Yin and Yang Sect.

The cyan-robed old Taoist said coldly, "We, the Yin and Yang Sect, have always been forthright in our ways. However, we don't need to defend our principles to evil warriors like you."

Zhang Ruochen could only shake his head and sigh. He could not be bothered to continue arguing about who was upstanding and who was a bandit. All he could do was convince himself that it was inevitable to meet some black sheep among the Yin and Yang Sect's numerous disciples.

Zhang Ruochen said, "I wonder, how did you know the Holy Stone was with me?"

"It won't be too late for you to ask me this question again after you defeat me."

The cyan-robed old Taoist turned into a stream of cyan light and charged towards Zhang Ruochen.

"Sun Meridian Ripple."

He mobilized Genuine Qi and condensed its power onto the tip of his left thumb. With that, he wielded a Sword Wave from his thumb and directed it towards Zhang Ruochen's heart.

Apparently, he was able to tell that Zhang Ruochen was a Master of Spiritual Power. For this reason, he resorted to using short-range attack techniques to mitigate the chance for Zhang Ruochen to counterattack.

Sword Ripple of Ten Channels was a martial technique developed by Yin and Yang Sect, so, naturally, the cyan-robed old Taoist was familiar with it.

The cyan-robed old Taoist had reached a high level of cultivation. In fact, he had already attained the Fifth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm, and he was able to transform Genuine Qi into thin Holy Qi. Therefore, he could wield the powerful Sun Meridian Ripple.

His finger tip emanated forceful sword Qi that was like a jet of dragon's fire.

"Wind and Thunder Finger."

Zhang Ruochen mobilized Spiritual Power onto to his finger, which in turn ejaculated a beam of electricity forward. The beam of electricity collided with the Sun Meridian Ripple.

In an instant, the power of the Sun Meridian Ripple was subdued. It turned into sword Qi and dispersed.

"Poof!"

The Wind and Thunder Finger struck the cyan-robed old Taoist's chest and pierced through it, leaving a shotglass-sized bloody hole in his chest.

Lightning shot out and wrapped itself around the cyan-robed elder.

The cyan-robed elder shuddered and his legs gave way. With a thud, he collapsed onto the ground like a heap of burnt coal.

The disciples of the Yin and Yang Sect were stunned to realize that even their Junior Uncle master was no match for Zhang Ruochen.

Zhao Han'er was especially terrified. Her face went as pale as if she had seen a ghost.

Lin Yue, who was lying on the floor, had come to his senses by then. He witnessed how Zhang Ruochen had defeated his Junior Uncle Master with just a finger.

He quickly buried his face in the mud on the ground and pretended to be dead.

Zhang Ruochen walked up to the cyan-robed old Taoist and squatted down beside him. "Now, tell me how you knew that I carry the Holy Stone."

Although the cyan-robed elder was severely injured, he had not lost consciousness.

He snorted coldly and turned his face away from Zhang Ruochen. He did not intend to reply.

Zhang Ruochen laughed and said coldly, "Do you believe I can kill all the Yin and Yang Sect disciples here, right now? Including elder brother Lin Yue, who is pretending to be dead."

“Kill us, and the Yin and Yang Sect will come after your life,” threatened the cyan-robed old Taoist.

“Alright!”

As Zhang Ruochen stood up, he turned to stare at the Yin and Yang Sect disciples, pointed at each of them and said, “You have enraged me now, so all of you have to die. Let’s start from elder brother Lin Yue.”

Lin Yue was so petrified that he quit pretending to be dead and got on his knees in front of Zhang Ruochen, saying, “Don’t kill me, I’ll tell you... I’ll tell you... you could go look for it on Junior Uncle Master... you will find... you will definitely find it.”

Zhang Ruochen sighed silently in his heart. “Seems like the demonic sect people could really strike terror in people’s hearts. It is no wonder that so many people desire to join the demonic sects.”

The ways of the demonic sect were ruthless and brutal. They instilled fear in people’s hearts.

It was normal for Lin Yue to be afraid.

However, elder brother Lin Yue had shown himself a coward by bowing down to Zhang Ruochen before he even struck him with a heavy hand.

Chapter 593: Number Four Killer

“Treasure Hunting Compass... seems like a treasure...”

Zhang Ruochen nodded with satisfaction, and let go of Lin Yue.

With the Treasure Hunting Compass, Zhang Ruochen could go ahead and search for the Holy Stone without having to return to Cyan Cloud County to carry out the transaction with Duanmu Ya. On top of that, it would save him from worrying about his true identity being exposed by Mu Lingxi.

The cyan-robed elder gave Lin Yue a cold look. He would never have imagined Lin Yue would give in so easily. Were the evil people really this intimidating?

Zhang Ruochen walked up to the cyan-robed old Taoist and pressed his electric palm on the old Taoist’s head, guarding himself against any sneak attack.

Zhang Ruochen searched the cyan-robed old Taoist with his free hand and found a compass made of black iron.

“This is it!”

Zhang Ruochen took the compass from the elder’s robe. He could subtly feel two distinctive Qis flowing out from it, making part of his palm chillingly cold and part of it burning hot.

“A vessel sculpted and refined from Yin Yan Xuan Stone, it’s fairly impressive.”

Zhang Ruochen held the Treasure Hunting Compass in his palm and was about to ask the cyan-robed old Taoist how to use it.

Suddenly he felt his chest tighten and all the hairs on his body stand up. A cold current ran from the sole of his feet, through his spine, and up to his head.

Simultaneously, the nerves all over Zhang Ruochen's body tensed up and all his joints stiffened. He stayed still, afraid to move an inch.

A murderous feeling.

A terrifying murderous feeling.

Zhang Ruochen was sure that there was a killer around 33 meters or less from him.

"Qi-converging skills so powerful that this person was able to draw this close to me without me realizing it. Who could it be?" Zhang Ruochen thought, feeling alarmed. His back was drenched in sweat.

The Blood Cloud Sect was his only enemy in Eastern Evil Land.

The person waiting in ambush was almost certainly a top killer from Blood Cloud Sect.

The disciples of Yin and Yang Sect, however, were still unaware of the killer hidden nearby. They were surprised to see that Zhang Ruochen had suddenly stopped moving and instead kept very still.

"What happened to him?"

Zhang Ruochen kept still because although he could sense the murderous feeling, he did not know the exact position of the killer. If he were to strike out rashly, his opponent would gain the upper hand and take advantage of the situation. It would be wise to wait for the enemy to strike first.

Once his opponent made a move, Zhang Ruochen would be able to locate his position.

The killer who was waiting in ambush realized that Zhang Ruochen had sensed his presence. He stopped waiting and brandished his sword toward Zhang Ruochen's back.

"Swoosh!"

Concentric rings like ripples of water appeared in the air and moved toward Zhang Ruochen.

A flashing sword with a three-finger-wide blade slashed through the ripples of Genuine Qi and pierced through Zhang Ruochen's robe, almost reaching his body.

Zhang Ruochen transformed into a beam of lightning using the Rolling Thunders Skill and moved three steps sideways, thereby dodging the killer's sword.

With a ripping sound, the sword Qi tore Zhang Ruochen's outer robe along its length. *"That was close!"*

If Zhang Ruochen had been a split second late, there would have been a bloody wound inflicted on his body.

"Wind and Thunder Finger."

Zhang Ruochen immediately retreated and began mobilizing Spiritual Power. His pointed finger struck toward the black-clad killer who had come out of hiding.

The speed at which the killer moved was alarming. Immediately after he missed in his first attack, he leaped up without any hesitation and then disappeared into thin air as if he had leaped into another dimension of space.

Zhang Ruochen's Wind and Thunder Finger, which had transformed into a lightning beam, missed the killer. He escaped unscathed.

His opponent was a top-notch killer who had killed countless people. Besides, his cultivation was formidable. Although Zhang Ruochen was quick to strike out, he still missed by a beat.

"He was so skillful in Qi-converging technique, that even I wasn't able to detect him with my Spiritual Power."

Zhang Ruochen stopped in his tracks once again instead of continuing his attack. He began to condense his Spiritual Power quietly in defense.

A deep-toned voice rang out in the air. "His Excellency's sensitivity to his surroundings is the keenest out of everyone I've met. You are indeed very capable. I guess Fang Jie and Cao Ying's deaths by your hands were not unjustified."

The voice resonated everywhere.

There was no way to pinpoint where it was coming from. It sounded like ten people speaking simultaneously from different locations all around him.

Zhang Ruochen had a look of indifference on his face. "Your level of cultivation is definitely not low. You must be ranked within the top five killers of the Blood Cloud Sect's ten top killers."

"You have guessed correctly, I indeed belong to the Blood Cloud Sect. Listen carefully. The person who is going to kill you is Luo Shi, just so you know when you go to hell."

The deep voice rang out again in the air.

Lin Yue, who was kneeling nearby, gasped. "Luo Shi, the number four killer of Blood Cloud Sect."

The disciples of Yin and Yang Sect were stunned once more as horror rose up in their hearts.

Luo Shi was infamous as far back as ten years ago. He was one of the most skillful killers of the Eastern Region.

The name "Luo Shi" equated to a murdering demon in the hearts of the younger generation of disciples.

Having chanced upon the legendary big devil, the young disciples who stayed with Yin and Yang Sect the whole year round were terrified.

"The masked man is the master who killed Fang Jie and Cao Ying. Aren't we digging our own grave by trying to snatch his Holy Stone?"

"What bad luck! Here we are trying to gain some experience but we ended up bumping into two big devils from the demonic sects."

Even the cyan-robed old Taoist was shocked. He would never have expected to meet the murder maniac. He regretted coveting the Holy Stone.

What use was regret?

Once these two evil people began fighting, the area within a radius of ten miles would become their battleground. Bystanders could be killed by the forces and powers resulting from their battle.

All the disciples of the Yin and Yang Sect went into a panic. Zhang Ruochen, however, did not show any sign of distress. He remained calm and composed.

"Looks like I have to use Space Domain to locate his position."

Zhang Ruochen decided to stop waiting and initiate an attack. He slowly released the Space Domain and began trying to trace and pinpoint Luo Shi's location.

Very soon, Zhang Ruochen noticed a subtle aura fluctuation seven feet to his left.

Once the Space Domain covered the place where Luo Shi was, the contour of a human figure would be exposed. However, there was no way of sensing his presence by the naked eye or Spiritual Power.

"He has proven himself to be a top killer possessing the ability to make himself invisible and undetectable. Even a superior of the Ninth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, if careless, could be killed by him."

Zhang Ruochen acted without hesitation the moment he located Luo Shi.

"Nine-Fold Lightning Knife."

Without warning, Zhang Ruochen turned around and struck his arm in Luo Shi's direction.

"Crash! Crash!"

Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi converged and condensed into lightning knife lines that ran over ten meters long. Knife after knife struck toward Luo Shi.

"How is this possible..."

Luo Shi never thought that Zhang Ruochen would be able to locate him.

With a "swoosh", the lightning knife struck Luo Shi and he was thrown into the air.

Fortunately, he was carrying an amulet treasure that absorbed the impact. Otherwise, he would have been severely wounded by the power of the first strike of the lightning knife.

Despite the fact that the amulet treasure had absorbed the most of the impact, the power of Zhang Ruochen's attack was like that of a monk who had reached the Eighth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. Because Luo Shi was caught off guard, his blood Qi and Genuine Qi in his Meridians turned turbulent and could not be stabilized.

Initially, it was supposed to be him ambushing and killing Zhang Ruochen. He would never have thought it would be him caught by surprise and forced into a corner by Zhang Ruochen.

This was an extremely disgraceful thing for a top killer.

Luo Shi ran exercises hoping to stabilize the Genuine Qi in him, however, Zhang Ruochen did not give him a chance to do that. With a “swish”, two lightning knife lines appeared right before him.

By then, the power within the amulet treasure was exhausted. Luo Shi did not dare use his body to block the lightning knife lines. He tried to move the Genuine Qi toward his arms, which were holding a sword each, condensed the power and then struck forward.

“Boom!”

“Boom!”

...

A series of eight lightning knife lines fell on Luo Shi consecutively. The power got stronger with each strike, forcing him to retreat.

He took the blow from Zhang Ruochen’s Nine-fold Lightning Knife with his arms and they instantly went completely numb and dropped to his sides.

Luo Shi had to swallow the humiliation of being beaten to such a sad state for the first time in ten years of being a killer.

Nine-fold Lightning Knife was deemed a top grade skill among the Level One Magic Arts.

Luo Shi was the first person to withstand all nine lightning knives ever since Zhang Ruochen succeeded in cultivating the magic spell. It showed that he was not merely a killer—his strength was actually quite daunting.

“Luo Shi, having reached cultivation level of the Seventh Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, possesses the capabilities of a monk who has reached the Eighth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. He will be a formidable opponent if I confront him head-on,” Zhang Ruochen said in his heart.

Once a person reached the Fish-Dragon Realm, unless he was a Saintly Being or a monk with exceptional physical qualities, it would be nearly impossible to fight beyond his realm of cultivation.

After all, among those who could reach the Fish-Dragon Realm, who was not a talent?

Luo Shi was considered outstanding among the monks who had reached the Fish-Dragon Realm because he could cross over to the next realm while fighting. Unfortunately for him, Zhang Ruochen had an edge over him because he had been overly complacent at the start.

“Wind and Thunder Finger.”

Zhang Ruochen did not give Luo Shi any chance to catch his breath. He struck with a pointed finger and a thick beam of lightning powerfully shot out from his fingertips.

If “Nine-fold Lightning Knife” was said to be the most powerful move of the top-level thunderbolt series spells, then “Wind and Thunder Finger” would be the move that condensed most power. It could easily break through a monk’s Protective Vigorous Qi.

Chapter 594: Holy Crystal Staff

“Ch-ch!”

The Wind and Thunder Finger condensed into a lightning spindle that struck Luo Shi on his left shoulder and tore off the muscles on his shoulder.

A bloody mess clung to his shoulder, neck, and armpit, and the white of his shoulder bone was exposed.

“So... formidable.”

Enduring the pain, Luo Shi turned to try to run away.

He had grossly underestimated his opponent’s capabilities. Zhang Ruochen’s Spiritual Power had likely reached the 44th level, and he had wounded him by merely employing Level One Magic Arts.

If Zhang Ruochen had used Level Two or Level Three Magic Arts, he would not even have the chance to escape.

Having made a mistake in his strategy, Luo Shi had lost the opportunity to assassinate his opponent on this day. He could only return home to nurse his wounds and make another assassination attempt when he recovered.

How could Zhang Ruochen let Luo Shi off so easily?

Luo Shi was highly skilled in his ability to converge Qi, as well as his ability to make himself invisible. It would have been very difficult for Zhang Ruochen to pinpoint his position if he had not made use of the Space Domain.

If Zhang Ruochen were to let Luo Shi off this time, Luo Shi would be even more cautious the next time he tried to ambush Zhang Ruochen. Then, Zhang Ruochen might not be so lucky.

Therefore, it was necessary for Zhang Ruochen to get rid of him while he was injured, so as to prevent further trouble.

The reason why Luo Shi was a top-notch killer was that he was fast in his movements and attacks. If he intended to flee for his life by wielding these skills, even a master who had reached the Ninth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm might not be able to catch up with him.

Luo Shi could successfully flee from a monk who had reached the Ninth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm.

Zhang Ruochen would not be able to catch up with him using the Rolling Thunder Skill.

However, because Luo Shi had been severely wounded, somehow he was not able to optimize the mysterious skill of camouflage. So, Zhang Ruochen managed to follow closely behind him through his Spiritual Power.

Finally, Zhang Ruochen pursued him all the way until he came to a manor just at the outskirts of Cyan Cloud County. He stopped and took a look at the gate of the manor and decided he should not enter hastily.

He spotted some traces of blood on the floor. He lifted his eyes to see a horizontal board with the inscription, "Red Willow Heights."

The manor emanated a creepy atmosphere all around, and its inside was pitch-dark and exceptionally quiet. Not a shadow could be seen in it.

Large manors always have lots of defenses. He would be putting himself in danger by entering it.

Enter?

Or not to enter?

Two distinct powers, one cold and the other hot, emerged in his chest. They were like a block of ice and a burning flame below his layer of clothes.

"The Treasure Hunting Compass seemsto have detected something. Could the Holy Stone be within this manor?"

Zhang Ruochen took out the Treasure Hunting Compass and placed it on his palm. He saw one white and one black Qi current emerging from the center of the compass to form a Tai Chi print one meter in diameter. It rose above his palm and began to swirl around slowly.

The response of the Treasure Hunting Compass led Zhang Ruochen to believe that the Holy Stone was indeed within the grounds of this manor.

"Since I am already here, I will force my way in to have a look, even if it's dangerous."

Even though Zhang Ruochen knew that there would be ambush, his confidence was boosted by his capabilities, so he decided to barge in.

Mankind has always been naturally curious.

Zhang Ruochen put the Treasure Hunting Compass back into the Spacial Ring and started to ascend the stone steps. He reached the main door on top of the steps and pushed it open.

The door opened slowly, making a creaking sound.

There was not a single soul in the manor, only an eerie silence and stillness.

A mist surrounded the trees, houses, grounds, and pavilion. The whole manor looked as if it had been abandoned for a long time.

Zhang Ruochen abruptly stopped in his tracks, and he said with a smile, "This level of sorcery can deceive my Sky Eye. It's useless."

"A Master of Spiritual Power indeed. This is interesting."

The seductive voice of a woman rang in the air.

The scene Zhang Ruochen had just witnessed was entirely an illusion.

Once the sorcery was removed, the mist in the air dispersed, and the manor returned to its original appearance.

The manor was brightly lit.

Surrounding Zhang Ruochen were numerous Evil Warriors, wearing sinister smiles on their faces and carrying Genuine Martial Arms.

Two hundred men in black stood further away. They were all wearing armor and carrying bows and arrows. In fact, they had all drawn their bows back and pointed their arrows at Zhang Ruochen. If they just relaxed their fingers, they would release numerous arrows.

There were a dozen of the Fish-Dragon Realm monks among them.

The combined power of having so many superiors gathered at one manor was comparable to having the capabilities of an entire level four Suzerain.

However, Zhang Ruochen appeared unflappable. He surveyed his surroundings and fixed his gaze on Luo Shi, who had tried to escape a while ago.

At this moment, Luo Shi was standing on higher ground. His eyes sparkled, and he was holding on to the hilt of his sword for support.

From the sight of it, he was definitely badly wounded from the earlier battle. Furthermore, he had been pursued by Zhang Ruochen and missed the crucial moment to nurse his wounds. As a result, his injuries were made worse.

Another master stood beside Luo Shi.

This man was Ji Gui. He looked to be in his thirties, and he was the disciple of a Half-Saint of the Black Market.

Ji Gui was trying to size Zhang Ruochen up. He smiled coldly and said, "Luo Shi, is this the man who beat you up so badly that you had to flee?"

Luo Shi said coldly, "Don't you underestimate him, Gui Ji. His Spiritual Power has likely reached the forty-fourth level."

"Forty-fourth level in Spiritual Power? How is that possible?"

Ji Gui's expression became serious, and he decided not to underestimate Zhang Ruochen.

If he had reached the forty-fourth level of Spiritual Power and also practised the level four spells, apart from Half-Saints, he would only be a level lower than a Saintly Being who had reached the Ninth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. In that case, who would dare to underestimate him?

Ji Gui did not believe Luo Shi's words. If this masked man standing before him were a Master of Spiritual Power who had reached forty-fourth level, how had it been possible for Luo Shi to successfully flee to Red Willow Heights?

Ji Gui bowed slightly to the Red Wish Emissary, who was sitting on higher ground, and said, "Your Excellency, please allow me to test his abilities."

The Red Wish Emissary, who was sitting at the highest ground, was holding a two-meter long holy crystal staff. A red Holy Stone the size of a fist had been inlaid on the top of the staff.

The red Holy Stone emitted streams of Holy Qi which surrounded the staff, adding to its mystery.

The Red Wish Emissary was a very attractive lady. As she sat there casually, the evil warriors at the scene were seduced by her beauty. They were all ready to lay down their lives for her.

Who would not want to impress such a beauty?

What's more, this beauty was the high and mighty Red Wish Emissary.

Zhang Ruochen was the exception. He fixed his gaze on the red Holy Stone inlaid on the holy crystal staff and thought to himself, "If the red Holy Stone on the holy staff were to be divided, it could be split into three Holy Stones. The aura detected by the Treasure Hunting Compass must have come from it."

Zhang Ruochen could tell from the look of the Red Wish Emissary's staff that it was a remarkable Psychic Staff.

Only a Master of Spiritual Power would be able to operate a Psychic Staff.

A Master of Spiritual Power with an instrument in his hand and one without an instrument in his hand were two totally different concepts.

A Master of Spiritual Power who utilized an instrument could increase the speed at which Spiritual Power was condensed, elevate the power of a spell, and enhance the capabilities of the Master.

In terms of natural talent, the Red Wish Emissary was considered mediocre among the Seven Star Emissaries. However, the Spiritual Power of the other six Star Emissaries combined was nowhere near hers.

She had practiced Martial Arts because a monk needed to attain a Spiritual Power level of forty before he possessed the power to attack. He was only slightly stronger than a layman.

After breaking through the fortieth level, she began to specialize in Spiritual Power and sorcery. Although occasionally she would still practice Martial Arts.

Presently, she had reached the forty-second level of Spiritual Power, and she was just a step away from the forty-third level.

Just recently, Phantom Saint had bestowed her with a Half-Saint grade holy staff. With her current capability, she might be able to stand up to Di Yi in a confrontation.

The Red Wish Emissary gently lifted her slender legs. She said, "Be careful, Ji Gui. He can see through my illusion. If his Spiritual Power has not reached the forty-fourth level, it must be at the peak of the forty-third."

"Be at ease, Emissary. Red Willow Heights is within our jurisdiction. What can he do, even if he is powerful?" Ji Gui said with a laugh.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen was still staring at the holy crystal staff in the Red Wish Emissary's hand, and an amused expression broke out on his face. He wished he could have in his possession something like the Psychic Staff.

Zhang Ruochen thought in his heart, "If the Red Wish Emissary's holy crystal staff were to be auctioned, it would fetch a price of one billion Spiritual Crystals. If I owned a holy crystal staff, it would boost my abilities to a much higher level."

However, it was not Zhang Ruochen's intention to take the Red Wish Emissary's holy crystal staff by force.

It was, after all, extremely valuable. Zhang Ruochen would have alarmed the Red Wish Emissary's protector had he snatched it away.

The Red Wish Emissary had already attained the level of capability to fight for the position of the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall with Di Yi. In this light, her protector was likely someone of the Half-Saint Class.

If it were just some minor conflict, the Half-Saint might not be bothered to intervene, even if dozens of Evil Warriors died.

However, the Half-Saint would definitely appear if Zhang Ruochen snatched the holy crystal staff away.

Although Zhang Ruochen was not afraid of a Half-Saint, he did not wish to offend one over a holy crystal staff.

When Ji Gui saw the spellbound and thrilled expression in his eyes, he thought Zhang Ruochen was enchanted by the Red Wish Emissary's beauty. A feeling of disdain arose in Ji Gui's heart.

A toad lusting after a swan's flesh. How could he covet Her Excellency, the Red Wish Emissary?

Ji Gui descended the stairway to walk up to Zhang Ruochen. He hissed, "How audacious of you to come after the life of our man from the Black Market."

"He wanted to kill me. Why can't I return the favor?"

"It is perfectly justifiable for the Black Market to murder and kill. On the contrary, you better weigh yourself before thinking of killing someone from the Black Market. Take off your mask and let me see who you are, exactly."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "It's not for you to know who I am."

"Hmph! What an arrogant fellow!"

Ji Gui was outraged and he reflexively clenched his fists. He was, after all, the disciple of a Half-Saint, and he had reached the cultivation level of the Seventh Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. Not even people within the Black Market Excellence Hall dared to disrespect him.

Chapter 595: A Heart of Cherishing Genius

“In that case, bring it on and show me what you’ve got. I want to see how strong you are.”

With his right hand, Ji Gui drew a two-foot-long crescent moon-shaped dagger from his waist armor.

With a sword light flashing past, a stream of cold air flew out of the sword blade and pushed toward Zhang Ruochen.

“Swoosh!”

Amidst the cold air, hundreds of streaks of knife energy condensed into a hideous beast, making thunderous roars.

Ji Gui’s broadsword technique was an inferior class technique of the Ghost Level, “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique.”

“Hundred Beasts Knife Technique” consisted of 100 movements.

One movement of broadsword technique required refining the soul of a mighty beast and integrating it into the Martial Soul, before combining it into the broadsword technique in the end.

Even among the inferior class martial techniques of the Ghost Level, there were more superior ones.

Apparently, “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique” was top amongst other techniques inferior class of the Ghost Level. It was somewhat difficult to practice, but the power it sent out was formidable.

Only by using “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique,” Ji Gui was qualified to challenge a Monk with a cultivation of Eighth Change in the Fish-dragon realm.

What Ji Gui had employed just now was the swiftest move in “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique” called “Flying Leopard Predator.”

When a Master of Spiritual Power and a warrior are at the same realm, although the former was stronger in terms of overall strength, the warrior would gain the upper hand if he is no more than 100 feet away from the Master of Spiritual Power.

Right now, Ji Gui was no more than 100 feet away from Zhang Ruochen.

The hideous beast head in the turbulent knife energy howled before rushing toward Zhang Ruochen, leaving thick trails of axe marks behind it.

In a quick response, Zhang Ruochen used “Rolling Thunder Skill” to quickly avoid it.

“Boom!”

The surging knife energy shot toward the sky and then veered onto an array of light screen. All the knife energy immediately dispersed into wisps of cold mist.

“Excellent broadsword technique and fairly quick movement, the only thing you need to improve on is strength,” Zhang Ruochen said.

“You are just a Master of Spiritual Power. How could you possibly get the hang of “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique? Believe it or not, I can cut off your head in less than ten moves.”

“No way.”

“Dancing Dragon and Serpent.”

Ji Gui sneered back and then used a more powerful “Hundred Beasts Knife Technique” movement. The crescent moon-shaped sword in his hand glowed in an arc, ushering in a whirring wind.

Ji Gui was flanked by illusory images of a 100-foot-long dragon and a serpent surrounded by knife energy. As Ji Gui charged at Zhang Ruochen, the illusory images of dragon and serpent followed suit, making an incredible spectacle of dragon and serpent dancing together.

““Hundred Beasts Knife Technique” really deserves its reputation.”

“I did not expect Ji Gui’s cultivation to be so profound.”

“Ji Gui has refined 100 beast souls into his body and has also been feeding on the blood of savage beasts ever since he was a child. He eats the flesh and bones of a savage beast each day. I guess he might be able to fight by skipping realms.”

“It’s impossible. The Eighth Change is a far jump from the Seventh Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. How could that be possible?”

All the Evil Warriors turned nasty and quickly retreated.

Had it not been for the array in the Red Willow Heights being put in complete use, the knife energy brought by “Dancing Dragon and Serpent” should have been powerful enough to match the Red Willow Heights.

“This man is much stronger than Luo Shi.”

As a matter of fact, Luo Shi was strong too. If he had not been overconfident about his skills of hiding himself, Zhang Ruozhen would not have been able to hurt him by only using Spiritual Power.

Since Ji Gui is stronger than Luo Shi, he could put even more pressure on Zhang Ruochen to force him back. The situation was a little to his disadvantage.

Zhang Ruochen launched four consecutive Level One Magic Arts moves before he could finally break Ji Gui’s broadsword technique.

The Red Wish Emissary was sitting on top and was watching with disbelief in her beautiful eyes.

“Considering that his Spiritual Power has reached 44th level, why is he only using Level One Magic Arts? If he used second-level and third-level magic arts, he could’ve defeated Ji Gui.

Luo Shi had his eyes glued to Zhang Ruochen’s legs, realizing that his footwork was rather agile, he said, “This man must have practiced the Martial Arts, and his martial cultivation must have been very extensive.”

The Red Wish Emissary stroked her chin and beamed a charming smile while saying, “Interesting! Has your injury been repressed?”

“After taking the healing pills granted by Your Excellency, I now have no serious problems with the injury. I am here at Your Excellency’s service.” Luo Shi said.

The Red Wish Emissary replied, "In that case, go lend a hand to Ji Gui. I hope that you, with your strong power, can help him fight back with all his force. I wonder how much power might a Master of Spiritual Power bring about when using the second-level magic arts?"

"Yes, Your Excellency!"

Shortly after taking the order, Luo Shi started flying in the air and joined in the battle.

Luo Shi drew a Blood Tattoo Sword and attacked Zhang Ruochen from the side.

The Red Wish Emissary stared at Zhang Ruochen without blinking, finding him very familiar as if she had seen him somewhere before.

"If he is cornered to exert all his force, I might see some clues from his spells."

"There are very few Young Masters of Spiritual Power in the entire Eastern Region. Young people who can hone their Spiritual Power to the 44th level are even fewer. Who on earth are you?"

The Red Wish Emissary's snow-white chin rested on her delicate fingers, and her eyes squinted into an enchanting line.

Luo Shi was astoundingly quick in his attacks. His sword swung out as if it was a bolt of lightning in the sky.

"Swoosh!"

In a flash, the fierce winds sent sands flying about and pebbles hurling through the air in the Red Willow Heights, with the boundary between sword Qi and knife energy obscured. The trees were ground into pieces, the pavilion was ruined, and the pool was freezing into an ice cave.

Zhang Ruochen was alone. Battling with two masters at the same time was becoming strenuous for him. He had no choice but to defend himself.

"It is a pity that I haven't had time to practice spells of superior level. Otherwise, the situation would have been much better right now. If this doesn't work, I have to use the power of Martial Arts." Zhang Ruochen thought to himself.

Zhang Ruochen was better at Martial Arts than at Spiritual Power.

Those who reached the Fish-dragon Realm were all geniuses who were hand-picked from tens of thousands. Generally, in the Fish-dragon Realm, even a Saintly Being could only challenge his rival to a fight by skipping three realms.

Zhang Ruochen has cultivated his body into Treasured Body of Three Spirits that is comparable to a Saintly Being.

Moreover, he was able to get into the Ultimate Realm four times, making him four realms higher than the ordinary people.

Therefore, in theory, Zhang Ruochen was eligible for confronting his rivals by skipping seven realms.

By "in theory," it meant that he could only skip seven realms at his strongest state.

Zhang Ruochen's cultivation reached the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm not long ago. Even if his martial technique and Tao of the sword were used at their full capacity, he could only skip six realms at best.

If his cultivation reached the peak of the Third Change in the Fish-dragon realm and completed the practice of Sword One, then he might have the chance to skip seven realms.

Even though he could only skip six realms, Zhang Ruochen, with the cultivation of the Third Change in the Fish-dragon realm, was capable of competing with ordinary Monks who had the cultivation of the Ninth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

If Zhang Ruochen used Martial Arts, it wouldn't be a difficult task for him to defeat Luo Shi and Ji Gui.

However, if Zhang Ruochen uses his martial arts, news will spread, and he would arouse suspicion from people with ulterior motives over his true identity.

If his true identity was made public, it would put Sword Saint Xuanji in danger.

As a result, Zhang Ruochen had to refrain himself from using Martial Arts, thinking that he should not expose his power of Martial Arts unless he was cornered.

Luo Shi and Ji Gui were both top masters of Evil. Although they brought Zhang Ruochen on a losing ground, they could not defeat him easily.

The escalating battle between the three masters made on-lookers more agitated.

"For Zhang Ruochen to be able to fend off the attacks from master Luo Shi and Ji Gui at the same time, makes him notorious in the Eastern Evil Land."

"Rising to fame while offending the Black Market? I'm afraid that the battle might be his last."

The Evil Masters standing by all could see that the mysterious masked man was already at the end of his rope and could be killed anytime.

"Being in this situation right now, the man still does not show his spells of superior level. Has he ever practiced any spells of the superior level at all?"

A shadow of a doubt was cast on the heart of the Red Wish Emissary.

In this case, he could be a rogue cultivator who is strong in his Spiritual Power but weak at his spells of superior level.

As big powers monopolized spells of the superior level, such spells were inaccessible without influential background.

The corners of her mouth twitching, the Red Wish Emissary nursed the idea of coaching him while thinking. *"Di Yi has Cyan-robed Emissary, Blue Emissary, Purple Wind Emissary and other top masters on his side. But on my part, nobody can really stand up to the three emissaries mentioned above. Ji Gui and Luo Shi are nothing but mediocrities, and I can't rely on them."*

"If I can take him in, he is bound to be one of my strongest warriors. He can ward off at least one emissary in my fight with Di Yi for the position of young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall someday."

The Red Wish Emissary took a while to think through the idea but finally made up her mind.

However, instead of making any immediate move, she chose to wait a little longer. After all, it was not too late to win him over when Zhang Ruochen was cornered.

Another 15 minutes passed, and Zhang Ruochen was about to be killed under the successive attacks of the two evil masters.

The Red Wish emissary stood up and said in a bewitching voice, "If Your Excellency is willing to serve me, your feud with the Blood Cloud Sect can be written off altogether. I can also instruct you in the spells of superior level. Are you interested in my offer or not?"

He could only defend himself by using Level One Magic Arts even when he was in great danger. The Red Wish Emissary made sure that the man had not practiced any spells of superior level and he was only a mere rogue cultivator.

As long as she taught him the spells of superior level, how could he not be grateful for her? In this way, he was bound to follow her orders submissively and become her capable sidekick.

Before this moment, Zhang Ruochen had set his mind on using Martial Arts, but now, her words changed his mind.

Now that the battle could be ended without wasting his energy, why would he run the risks?

"The siren is very ambitious, and she has always had designs on Di Yi's position as the young master. If I can take advantage of this, it will save me a lot of trouble to defeat Di Yi."

At this point, Zhang Ruochen thought of a new plan.

Chapter 596: A Greedy Man

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his spiritual power and hastily retreated. Then he looked at the Red Wish Emissary and asked, "Are you serious?"

The Red Wish Emissary was happy to see that the man was considering her offer. "Of course, I mean it."

Luo Shi and Ji Gui pursued Zhang Ruochen, showing no signs of stopping the attack.

Red Wish Emissary's eyes flickered with chilly light as she shouted. "Luo Shi and Ji Gui, you two stop."

Luo Shi and Ji Gui finally stopped and held back their assault.

Luo Shi kept his guard up and said in a cold voice, "Your Excellency, this man killed Fang Jie and Cao Ying. Therefore, he is the sworn enemy of the Blood Cloud Sect. We cannot let him go like this. I can have him beheaded if you would give me a few more seconds."

Ji Gui knew that the Red Wish Emissary appreciated the man for his talents. Fearing that the man would steal his thunder in front of the Red Wish Emissary, Ji Gui added, "The man's background is not clear and he is close to the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. We'd better dispose of him now."

The Red Wish Emissary retorted. "Do I need you two to tell me what I should do?"

Luo Shi and Ji Gui instantly kept their mouths shut, not daring to speak anymore.

The Red Wish Emissary looked back at Zhang Ruochen and smiled charmingly. "Have you decided to submit yourself to me?"

"Can you really teach me superior level spells?"

Zhang Ruochen pretended to be keenly interested in the superior level spells.

The Red Wish Emissary smiled inwardly. "My Master is a Phantom Saint. Spells of a superior level are just a matter of asking."

Zhang Ruochen pondered for a while before replying. "All right! In that case, I can work for you for the time being. But I have conditions."

Ji Gui snorted in contempt. "How dare you bargain with Her Excellency? I can tear you apart right away."

The Red Wish Emissary glared at Ji Gui in anger and then looked mildly at Zhang Ruochen. She asked, "What are your conditions?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "First of all, I will work for you, but I am not your servant."

"That goes without saying. With your cultivation, you should be treated as you like. From now on, you don't have to kneel down in salute to me." Red Wish Emissary replied.

Zhang Ruochen continued speaking. "Second, you should provide me with all the resources I need for my cultivation, including Psychic Staff and superior level spells."

"You are such a greedy man! I like it. All right, conditions accepted." The Red Wish Emissary laughed.

The Red Wish Emissary preferred that Zhang Ruochen be greedy rather than the other way around.

If he was greedy enough, it would be easier to rein him in.

Zhang Ruochen said, "My name is Zhang Shengming. That's all you need to know, and I hope you would not ask me anything else. I will tell you things when I find the time is ripe. If you can accept the above-mentioned three points, I will be your subordinate from now on, ready to do your bidding."

Ji Gui and Luo Shi took a step forward, wanting to dissuade the Red Wish Emissary.

However, she had already set her mind on it and there was nothing they could do.

The Red Wish Emissary agreed. "All right, I accept your conditions. Beginning today, you are one of us. Any previous discord is written off. Whoever fans the flames will be given an unforgettable lesson."

The Red Wish Emissary pointedly looked at Ji Gui and Luo Shi.

“Since the night is closing in, we should adjourn. Yaoyao, you lead Mr. Zhang to his chamber for some rest.”

A pretty maid in white came up from behind Red Wish Emissary and went to his side. She gave Zhang Ruochen a composed salute and then said in a gentle voice, “Mr.Zhang, please follow me.”

Nodding his head, Zhang Ruochen followed the maid called Yaoyao. She led him out of the array toward his chamber.

As soon as Zhang Ruochen was out of sight, Ji Gui stepped forward with a chill in his eyes. “Your Excellency, we do not know where he came from, therefore we should not think highly of him.”

The Red Wish Emissary gave him a hard look and said, “Of course, I will not think highly of him now. I need to observe him for some time. In this period you are in charge of checking out his details.”

Ji Gui smiled grimly and said, “Your Excellency, I assure you that it will not take a long time to delve into his identity with the help of the intelligence network of our Black Market. If he is an operative of the Earth Temple, there will be no need for us to treat him with courtesy. With the backing of the Red Willow Heights, we are in a position to tear him to pieces.”

The Red Wish Emissary nodded her approval and said, “Go ahead and do your job.”

After Ji Gui took his leave, the Red Wish Emissary looked at Luo Shi and said, “Luo Shi, send Master Xu a message saying that I will keep Zhang Shengming alive for the time being. As for the death of Fang Jie and Cao Ying, I will make amends with the Blood Cloud Sect with something else.”

“Since Her Excellency has everything at her fingertips, I shall say no more.”

Luo Shi retreated and went to send the message to the Blood Cloud Sect.

...

When they arrived at the chamber, the maid Yaoyao gave Zhang Ruochen a provocative smile.

“Mr.Zhang, do you need me to serve you in bed?”

Yaoyao knew that by sending her over here, the Red Wish Emissary was actually asking her to seduce Zhang Ruochen with her beauty and then take the opportunity to strip off his mask.

The maid was endowed with a beautiful face and a sexy figure. Though much less attractive than the Red Wish Emissary, she may also be considered a rarity.

At first glance, Yaoyao appeared to have a low status, being a servant girl of the Red Wish Emissary. In reality, she was the disciple of a Half-Saint in the Black Market. Not only was she good at flirting with men but her cultivation had also reached the Sixth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

The fact that she was sent by the Red Wish Emissary to seduce Zhang Ruochen emphasized the man’s importance.

“Serve me on bed?”

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Yaoyao and shook his head. “No, you go back and tell Her Excellency not to use a honey trap on me. It will not serve its purpose unless she does it herself.”

He then entered the room, slamming the door shut.

It was the first time that Yaoyao had been rejected by a man. Gritting her teeth, she snorted coldly and turned away.

Beneath the Red Willow Heights, there stood a black altar. Hanging on the walls around the altar was a picture of Saint Intention.

The Red Wish Emissary sat cross-legged on the altar. She was looking at the picture of Saint Intention while practicing her spiritual power. Seeing Yaoyao come in, she withdrew her spiritual power and put off practicing it.

“Your Excellency, Junior Uncle Master.” Yaoyao bowed to the Red Wish Emissary.

The Red Wish Emissary stared at Yaoyao in surprise and then smiled. “You’ve come back so quickly? I guess you failed to seduce him. How is that possible?”

Yaoyao angrily said, “He barely even looked at me. I’ve begun to doubt whether he is a man or not. And he has a message for Your Excellency.”

“What?”

“He said that if you want to seduce him with beauty, you have to do it yourself. Otherwise, it won’t work.”

The message gave the Red Wish Emissary a slight jolt. She smiled and said, “This man is more than greedy. You may take your leave.”

After Yaoyao left, the Red Wish Emissary shook her head with a smile on her face before continuing to practice her spiritual power. She wanted to reach the 43rd level as soon as possible.

...

...

Inside the chamber, Zhang Ruochen summoned the Greedy Rabbit from the Scroll World and told it, “If someone comes for me, remember to tell me immediately. If someone breaks into the room, kill them all.”

The Greedy Rabbit nodded and replied, “Master Chen, as long as I am here, I will swallow anyone who dares to barge into the room.”

As it spoke, its mouth opened as wide as a washbasin and then closed again.

“Well then...”

After everything was set in order, Zhang Ruochen opened the gate to Space and entered the Scroll World.

The Greedy Rabbit was left to keep guard over the “Yin Yang Wooden Graph”. It shrank into a small white rabbit the size of a palm, radiating a hazy white sheen all over its body. Curled on the table, the small rabbit sometimes looked up, sometimes looked around on full alert.

After all, it was the sphere of influence of the Black Market and Zhang Ruochen had to be cautious. It would not be easy for ordinary people to burst into Zhang Ruochen's room when it was guarded by the Greedy Rabbit with its current strength.

"Test the power of the refining warrior first."

Once inside the Scroll World, Zhang Ruochen took out a black iron ball, put it on his palm and started to inject his genuine Qi into it.

The upper half and the lower half of the iron ball began to rotate in opposite directions. A chink appeared in the middle of it. With a "crack", an iron bracket stuck out from the chink.

In a moment, the black iron ball turned into three-meter-tall refining warrior.

Zhang Ruochen put a top Spiritual Crystal into the groove on its chest. The Spiritual Crystal began to spin around quickly, giving off puffs of Spiritual Qi that activated the inscriptions inside the refining warrior's body.

"Swoosh!"

The refining warrior immediately came to life, a cyan fire burning in its eyes. It went down on one knee and said, "My Master."

Zhang Ruochen, who was thinking about how to manipulate the refining warrior just now, was taken aback by its sudden action. He asked it, "Why do you call me Master?"

The refining warrior answered, "The War Saint has already imprinted your information in my Soul Sea."

"The War Saint he's referring to must be my elder brother, Qing Xiao."

"But, what is the Soul Sea?"

Zhang Ruochen released his spiritual power to look carefully into the refining warrior. He found a ball of holy light on top of its head.

"The Soul Sea is a result of the chemistry between Saint Light and Inscription. What an excellent way to refine weapons!"

Zhang Ruochen drew back his spiritual power and said, "Stand up. Give me a punch and show me how strong you are."

The refining warrior rose up and said, "Master, you might not be able to bear the blow of my punch with your current cultivation."

Zhang Ruochen felt disgruntled. After all, he was already able to challenge some weaker Monks with the cultivation of the Ninth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm as long as he put all his power into full use.

"How could I not take a blow from a refining warrior?"

"In that case, how about you deploy ten percent of your power to give me a punch? I want to know how strong you are." Zhang Ruochen ordered.

Obedying the order, the refining warrior clenched its fist that was as large as a human head.

With a sudden lunge, the fist shot out.

Startled by the speed and power of the warrior's fist. Zhang Ruochen began to doubt if it had really used only ten percent of its power.

Chapter 597: Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm

"Divine Dragon's Robbery."

Zhang Ruochen's center of gravity dropped. He summoned his Genuine Qi and golden sparks flew from his fingers. With a fierce clap, he executed the Sixth Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

In a split second, a clapping noise came from his palm, and the shadow of a dragon flew out.

"Boom!"

The refining warrior stood unmoving, while Zhang Ruochen was sent flying back. He landed over 100 feet away, and then he took another 10 steps back before he managed to stabilize himself.

Zhang Ruochen felt a great pain in his right arm. If he had not already reached the "Bone Refining to Jade" realm, giving him boundless strength and very hard bones, his right arm may have been destroyed already.

"What strong power. It is even more powerful than the strength of a normal monk in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm."

Zhang Ruochen demonstrated Space Moving. In a flash, he jumped through space and appeared once again in front of the refining warrior.

With his hands behind his back, he sized up the giant steel humanoid in front of him with surprise.

It was just one refining warrior, yet it was already so terrifying. If one could create an army of refining warriors, how terrifying would that be?

However, the materials required to make a refining warrior were very special, and the inscriptions carved inside were also quite complex. It would not be an easy matter to create them.

Creating a single one would probably use up a huge amount of resources.

The refining warrior said, "Just then, I only used 10% of my power. If I demonstrated all of my power, even a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm would only be able to last three to five movements."

Zhang Ruochen was slightly surprised, and he said, "A refining warrior can block a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm?"

A Saintly Being in Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm was the most powerful warrior below a Half-Saint.

Just one of them could defeat dozens of monks in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm.

Without a Half-Saint, no one could defeat them.

The internal conflict between the Red Wish Emissary and Di Yi was a good example of this. No matter how many people they brought to their side, the leaders of the Black Market could turn a blink eye.

The only thing they could not tolerate was a Half-Saint getting involved.

Not only in the Black Market, but also in Kunlun's Field, none of the battles of succession in the different factions allowed Half-Saints to interfere.

Thus, in a battle for succession, a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm, and Masters of Spiritual Power in the peak of the 44th level functioned like nuclear weapons. They could even determine victory or defeat in a battle for succession.

Why did the Red Wish Emissary do her best to curry favor from Zhang Ruochen?

It was because Zhang Ruochen was a Master of Spiritual Power at the 44th level. With just a bit of time, he could reach the peak of existence below that of a Half-Saint. Even if he could not stand against a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm, he could at least shake up an Emissary in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm.

The refining warrior said, "The imperial court once did an experiment. Four refining warriors each held a Hundred-Inscription Weapon. They set a trap to kill a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm."

"Four refining warriors? Don't even think about it! Refining warriors are prohibited by the imperial court. For my elder brother to give me on is already against the law of the military. If he gave me four, even if my elder brother was a War Saint, he would probably still be punished," Zhang Ruochen said and laughed.

Although the refining warrior could not stand against a Saintly Being in the Ninth Change of the Fish-Dragon Realm, it was the most powerful war weapon below a Saintly Being.

Suddenly, the flames in the eyes of the refining warrior suddenly went out, and it stopped moving completely.

"What happened?"

Zhang Ruochen looked closely, and he found that the Spiritual Crystal in the dent of the refining warrior's chest had been used up.

"It used only 10% of its strength in a strike, yet it has burned through a first-rate Spiritual Crystal. It burns through resources too quickly. It seems like a Holy Stone is required to support a refining warrior through a fight."

Zhang Ruochen only had one piece of Holy Stone, and he did not wish to use it.

Since he already had a rough gauge of the refining warrior's strength, he did not need to use the Holy Stone to continue testing it.

Zhang Ruochen put the refining warrior away and said to himself, "The refining warrior only needs to use 10% of its power to leave me with light injuries. I will need to develop the Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to be able to go head to head with it using 10% of its power."

Zhang Ruochen had already analyzed it, and the reason he lost to the refining warrior was not because his cultivation was not powerful enough. Rather, it was because his martial technique was not strong enough.

Right now, his Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm had only reached the sixth stage. This first-rate palm technique was only of the Superior Spiritual Stage.

If he could successfully achieve the Seventh Palm, he would be able to raise the class of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to the Inferior Ghost Level. The power of the entire palm technique would also rise.

The Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm was the foremost palm martial technique of the Thousand Buddhas Sect. Its power was incredible.

However, among the geniuses who practice Thousand Buddhas Sect, it was very rare for someone to be able to reach beyond the Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

One of the reasons was that to reach the Seventh Palm, a warrior's masculinity had to increase to ten times that of a normal person.

To reach the Eighth Palm, it needed to increase another tenfold.

And so, very few people since ancient times were able to develop the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to the Tenth Palm.

600 years ago, a genius from the Thousand Buddhas Sect managed to achieve the 11th Palm.

Just as he reached the next level, he could no longer suppress the masculinity in his body. He spontaneously ignited, and he almost died. Who knows what kind of evil magic he had to practice to suppress his masculinity and save his life.

After this, he became a traitor to the Thousand Buddhas Sect. He entered the dark side and titled himself the "Evil Monk of Death."

For these reasons, even though the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm was said to be the Thousand Buddhas Sect's foremost palm technique, very few people practiced it. The difficulty of the practice was no deterrent, but the slightest carelessness could cause death.

"The Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm is called "Dragon and Elephant Furnace." It is the dividing line in the entire set of palm techniques. Countless people have practiced for their whole lives and have not succeeded in learning the Seventh Palm. But, once it has been learned successfully, the masculinity in one's body will increase tenfold and the power of the palm technique will reach a new height."

Even with the lesson of the Evil Monk of Death before him, Zhang Ruochen did not feel a trace of fear. He began to practice the Seventh Palm without a second thought.

Just because the Evil Monk of Death could not do it, did not mean that Zhang Ruochen would not be able to do it.

To practice the Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, a warrior had to either go to a masculine place or a burning place. With the aid of the external environment, he could master the technique successfully.

The Scroll World did not have a masculine place, but it did have a burning place—the inside of the body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu.

Even though the Cyan Fire Xuanwu had been dead for countless years, its body was still enveloped by flames like an eternal furnace.

Zhang Ruochen entered the abdomen of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu and sat down cross-legged. Closing his eyes, he began to recall the spell for the Seventh Palm. He chanted, “With the body as a furnace and Yang Qi as the fire. The outside trains the shell, and the inside trains heaven and earth...”

To practice the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm was to gather masculinity in the body. When the palm technique was executed, the masculinity burned like a flame. In an instant, it burst out with incredible power.

Of course, it was dangerous to hold over 10 times the normal amount of masculinity in the body. If anything went wrong, the body may spontaneously ignite or even combust.

Following the spell, Zhang Ruochen performed the palm technique while he absorbed the surrounding fire.

Each time he struck, a part of the flame was turned into masculinity and stored within his body. Some was stored in his blood, some in his bones, and some in his organs.

After three entire days, the masculinity in Zhang Ruochen’s body finally reached a level 10 times that of a normal person.

Zhang Ruochen’s body had turned completely red, like a hot, human-shaped piece of metal. He radiated horrifying heat. Close observation suggested that his blood and flesh were burning.

Fortunately, Zhang Ruochen had practiced the Treasured Body of Three Spirits. The physical quality of his body was better than that of a Saintly Being, and he was able to endure the tenfold masculinity.

“Dragon and Elephant Furnace.”

Zhang Ruochen struck out ferociously toward a mountain in front of him.

An ear-piercing dragon and elephant roar rang out. At the same time, a giant hand flew through the air and crashed against the mountain.

“Boom!”

The mountain shook.

Immediately after, there was a loud crash. Part of the mountain had broken off in a landslide, leaving behind a giant handprint.

The rock around the handprint showed signs of melting. Some lava even dripped down.

“One strike was able to cause so much destruction over 1000 feet away. No wonder it is the Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at his palm. The smile on his face gradually disappeared, and instead he shook his head gently.

He had spent three days to condense 10 times extra masculinity into his body, but it had been used up in one strike.

The masculinity in his body returned to its usual level.

This showed that his palm technique practice had failed.

Zhang Ruochen was not disappointed at all. After all, even a failed palm technique had such great power. If he truly achieved the Seventh Palm, how powerful would the strike be?

Zhang Ruochen reentered the abdomen of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu and continued practicing.

The second time, Zhang Ruochen was able to condense masculinity much quicker. In only two days, he had already accumulated the necessary amount of masculinity.

However, just like last time, after one strike, his masculinity was like a deflated football.

It was another failure.

Failure.

Failure.

...

After failing five times in a row, Zhang Ruochen stopped to analyze and consider the reason for failure.

“When the Dragon and Elephant Furnace is successful, the masculinity within the body should be endless, and it shouldn’t be used up all at once. Perhaps I should form a cycle of masculinity within my body.”

Zhang Ruochen’s eyes brightened. He had finally found the key to the problem. He had the wrong idea the first five times. He had been oversimplifying the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

Thus, he eagerly began his sixth practice. After two days, he had finally gathered the masculinity he needed.

Chapter 598: An Emissary Meets An Emissary

This time, Zhang Ruochen did not immediately perform the palm technique. Rather, he withdrew the masculinity and guided it into his 36 Meridians.

When the masculinity entered, Zhang Ruochen’s 36 Meridians became 36 fire dragons, spreading throughout his body.

The masculinity seemed to meld with his Genuine Qi, but its movement was also completely different from Genuine Qi.

Zhang Ruochen spent an entire 10 days before he made the masculinity complete a large circle of vital energy through his body. Afterward, part of the masculinity continued to flow through his Meridians, while part of it dissipated into his flesh and bones.

Just when Zhang Ruochen thought that he had succeeded, suddenly, the masculinity in his Meridians gathered beneath his belly button and formed a Yang Qi vortex.

He felt that there was a burning ball of fire in his lower abdomen.

Furthermore, the Yang Qi vortex beneath his belly button stabilized and connected all the Meridians in his body, creating a miraculous cycle.

Even Zhang Ruochen felt that it was miraculous, and he said to himself, "Unbelievable! I have accidentally formed the shape of a mysterious embryo."

The mysterious embryo was a second Qi Sea.

According to the records in the "Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean," only when the fifth level of the "Devil-Taming Mysterious Fetus Heaven" was practiced to the highest realm could a mysterious embryo be formed.

Zhang Ruochen had not expected that practicing the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm would create a mysterious embryo.

"Perhaps there is some connection between the 'Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean' and the Thousand Buddhas Sect?"

He refused to believe that it was a coincidence. The "Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean" had to have some connection with the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

He suspected that because he practiced the "Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean," he was able to easily succeed in learning the Seventh Palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

Of course, presently, Zhang Ruochen had only practiced the Seventh Palm to a small success. If he wanted to really succeed, he still needed to spend a lot of time training the palm technique.

Only when he had reached a certain level of familiarity would the palm technique succeed.

...

Below the Red Willow Heights, the Red Wish Emissary sat cross-legged in space. Wind blades flew all around her tender body. They spun endlessly and created a giant vortex.

At the same time, drops of water vapor condensed in the air and turned into raindrops before falling down.

In the space below the ground, with the Red Wish Emissary at the center, it had completely become a scene of crisscrossing wind and rain. Suddenly, with a boom, all of the wind blades and raindrops charged toward the center and entered the Red Wish Emissary's body.

“My Spiritual Power has finally reached the forty-third level. At my current power, I only need to think to be able to call down wind and rain.”

The Red Wish Emissary flew down from the air and landed by the altar. A pleased smile appeared on her face.

Reaching the forty-third level in Spiritual Power at her age almost surpassed her teacher, the Phantom Saint, in his youth. If he knew about this, he would probably be very happy.

The Red Wish Emissary put away the Saint Intention Map then said, “Those waiting outside may come in now.”

With a boom, the stone gate opened.

Ji Gui and Yaoyao walked in. Standing below the altar, they bowed toward the Red Wish Emissary and said in unison, “Greetings, Your Excellency.”

Ji Gui spoke first. “Your Excellency, we have investigated Zhang Shengming’s background. This person first appeared in Liyuan City below the Fallen-Gods Mountain Range. After entering the city, he contacted the heresy’s branch in Liyuang City. It was also at that time that he killed Fang Jie and Cao Ying.”

The Red Wish Emissary asked, “Why did he go to a branch of the heresy?”

Ji Gui hesitated but did not dare to hide anything. “To buy a Holy Stone.”

The Red Wish Emissary nodded and said, “Continue.”

“He left Liyuan City, and it was another three days before he appeared in Cyan Cloud County. He bought an old savage beast carriage. Then, he went to a heresy stronghold in the county town.”

The Red Wish Emissary smiled and said, “He had probably gone to the heresy to exchange the Holy Stone. Thus, it seems that he does not belong to the heresy. Furthermore, he also does not belong to any major faction.”

Ji Gui hurriedly asked, “Your Excellency, why do you say so?”

The Red Wish Emissary said, “If he truly had a powerful background, why would he have to go repeatedly to the heresy to make a trade?”

Ji Gui had feelings of enmity toward Zhang Ruochen. He said, “But before he went to Liyuan City, we couldn’t find anything about him. This person is a man without a past.”

“Without a past? Truly, a very interesting person.”

The Red Wish Emissary’s two slender fingers gently stroked her chin. Turning her gaze to Yaoyao, she asked, “Where has he gone these last few days?”

Yaoyao shook her head and said, “He has not stepped out of his home. He has not even left his own room.”

The Red Wish Emissary was slightly confused. After thinking for a moment, she said, "Since it is so, I will go personally to meet him. I want to see if he is truly a self-trained genius in Spiritual Power, or if he is purposely hiding his identity."

Walking out of the underground space, the Red Wish Emissary first went to bathe. Afterward, she changed into a long crimson dress. She draped a snow-white fox fur over the top of her body and tied a moon-white belt around her waist, with a purple sachet hanging from it.

The bottom half of the long dress left a long train, but it was very thin. Two pin-straight and slender legs could faintly be seen through the long dress, full of a hazy allure.

Arriving outside Zhang Ruochen's guest room, the Red Wish Emissary did not charge in at once. Rather, she sent Yaoyao to knock.

A moment later, Zhang Ruochen opened the door and walked out, still wearing the metal mask.

He stood on the steps and looked at the Red Wish Emissary in the distance. He could not help but feel surprised.

She was quite the siren. She was indeed very beautiful, and furthermore, she knew how to make herself more beautiful and attractive.

Whether she was evil or cunning, at least looking at her was a delight. Her looks did not repel or disgust.

What Zhang Ruochen did not know was that when the Red Wish Emissary saw him, she was also slightly surprised.

She could clearly feel the powerful masculinity in Zhang Ruochen's body. It was like a ball of fire, and it attracted her greatly.

It affected not only the Red Wish Emissary. Yaoyao, standing beside Zhang Ruochen, felt it even more clearly. It made her feel like a moth drawn to a flame, wanting to leap toward Zhang Ruochen without regard for anything else.

Masculinity has always been very alluring to women.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Congratulations, Your Excellency."

The Red Wish Emissary walked toward Zhang Ruochen, drawing closer with each step. She smiled and asked, "Congratulations for what?"

"Congratulations, Emissary, on breaking into the forty-third level in your Spiritual Powers," Zhang Ruochen said.

The Red Wish Emissary nodded and asked probingly, "Have you been practicing some kind of Martial Arts exercises?"

Zhang Ruochen knew that it had to be the masculinity in his body. He had not yet reached a realm where he could draw it back and release it at will, thus she had sensed it.

Zhang Ruochen did not panic and said, "I am only practicing some basic Martial Arts, nothing amazing. Us monks of Spiritual Power mostly train our Spiritual Power. Practicing Martial Arts is only to strengthen our body, nothing more."

The Red Wish Emissary did not suspect anything, because she did not believe that anyone could be like her, practicing both Martial Arts and Spiritual Power to a very high realm.

Even with her talent, she was unable to do both at the same time. She could only choose to mostly cultivate Spiritual Power and put Martial Arts second.

The Red Wish Emissary took out a book woven from gold threads and smiled. "Take it and have a look."

Zhang Ruochen looked confused. He accepted the book. Flipping through it, he was immediately drawn by the contents of the book.

A moment later, Zhang Ruochen raised his head and glanced at the Red Wish Emissary. "Second-level magic arts?"

The Red Wish Emissary laughed. "Correct. If I am not wrong, you can control the power of thunder. So, I helped you find two second-level magic arts books on thunder. How about it? I keep my word, right?"

Zhang Ruochen had once read through the Sacred Central Empire's "Codex of Spiritual Power," and he had memorized many Advanced Stage spells. Two second-level magic arts books were not interesting to him at all.

However, his identity was not the same right now. Of course, he had to pretend to be startled by this show of favor, and he quickly bowed toward the Red Wish Emissary. "Many thanks for your gift."

"No need for such niceties."

The Red Wish Emissary laughed secretly in her heart. "If only two second-level magic arts have made you so happy, would you listen to me obediently in the future if I had given you a third-level spell?"

Zhang Ruochen looked eager and said, "If Your Excellency has no other orders, then I would like to seclude myself to practice the second-level magic arts."

"Go on!"

The Red Wish Emissary watched as Zhang Ruochen went back into the guest room, the smile gradually disappearing from her face.

Walking out of the courtyard, Yaoyao immediately asked, "Junior Aunt Master, why are you giving him superior level spells right now. Aren't you afraid that after he has received the spells, he will turn against you?"

The Red Wish Emissary laughed, "It is only two second-level magic arts, it is nothing. If one wishes to buy another person's heart, one has to give him a taste of sweetness."

At this moment, an Evil Warrior enveloped in a long black robe walked over quickly. Taking a knee in front of the Red Wish Emissary, he said, "Reporting, Red Wish Emissary. The Serene Blue Emissary has arrived at Red Willow Heights."

The smile on the Red Wish Emissary's face disappeared completely, and it was replaced with an icy aura. Darkly, she said, "What is he doing in Red Willow Heights?"

The Serene Blue Emissary was Di Yi's man, so nothing good could come from his arrival in Cyan Cloud County. Of course the Red Wish Emissary was not happy.

A cold voice came from a distance. "What? Does the Red Wish Emissary not welcome me?"

The Serene Blue Emissary carried a huge deep blue sword on his back, and he had his hands behind his back. Strolling leisurely, he walked in from outside. On his face was a maniacal expression, and even when he looked toward the Red Wish Emissary, he wore a disdainful look.

If the Seven Star Emissaries were ranked by age, the Serene Blue Emissary would be second while the Red Wish Emissary would be last.

In front of the Red Wish Emissary, the Serene Blue Emissary naturally had an air of condescension.

The Serene Blue Emissary's mood made the Red Wish Emissary very unhappy. In a cold voice, she said, "Who allowed you to charge into the Red Willow Heights without my orders?"

The Serene Blue Emissary's gaze was very disdainful. Glancing at the Evil Warriors around him, he said cynically, "These random people you have accepted are no more than a mob. Do you think they could stop me?"

Anger appeared on the faces of Ji Gui, Luo Shi, Yaoyao... and other the other Evil Warriors present, but no one dared to act.

What a joke. Regardless of the Serene Blue Emissary's fighting strength, his status made him someone that these people could not offend. Even the Red Wish Emissary was subdued by him.

Chapter 599: Overbearing

Serene Blue Emissary stared contemptuously at Red Wish Emissary as if she was a little girl. He said, "From now on, I will take over all matters concerning God Failing Mansion. You may return to Evil Emperor City!"

"Why?" Red Wish Emissary asked coldly.

Serene Blue Emissary took two steps forward and a powerful wave of Martial Arts exploded from his body and pressed ahead, pushing back all the Evil Warriors who were present.

He kept walking until he reached Red Wish Emissary. Only then did he stop and say, "This is the order of the young master. Perhaps, you no longer obey the young master's orders?"

It was Di Yi's order.

An inauspicious feeling grew in Red Wish Emissary's heart. Could Di Yi have sensed her ambition and was preparing to deal with her?

The battle in the East Region Saint City had caused a series of massive events.

The most direct impact was that the branch of the Black Market that was once hidden in the Eastern Holy Land had become targeted by both the imperial court and the Martial Market Bank. This caused it to retreat to the Eastern Evil Land immediately.

The upper echelons of the Black Market had decided that the warriors from the Black Market in the Eastern Evil Land would all be settled in the 18 counties of the God Failing Mansion.

Cyan Cloud County, which was closest to the Fallen-gods Mountain Range by the edge of the God Failing Mansion, was the most important of them all.

This meant that whoever controlled Cyan Cloud County also controlled the warriors of the Black Market who had returned to the Eastern Evil Land.

Red Wish Emissary had jostled for this opportunity with difficulty. She had been the first to reach Cyan Cloud County to handle the planning and organization, how could she offer up such a succulent piece of meat to Serene Blue Emissary just because of one word from Di Yi?

However, her wings were not yet fully grown, and she could not afford to clash head-on with Di Yi.

If she did not respect Di Yi's order and continued to stay in Cyan Cloud County, Di Yi would certainly deal with her swiftly to prevent problems in the future.

What could she do?

Red Wish Emissary had to appease Serene Blue Emissary and then do her best to stall for time. Only then could she start thinking about her next move.

When night fell, Red Wish Emissary gathered her most powerful confidants to come up with a solution.

However, how could these Evil Warriors dare to offend Di Yi?

All of them suggested that Red Wish Emissary not clash with Di Yi so as not to anger him. In the end, it boiled down to the advice that she should act cautiously. First she had to endure, then endure, and in the end, still endure.

When the Evil Warriors left, Red Wish Emissary angrily threw a wine jug. Her eyes glittered with a cold light and she said, "Usually, each of them is more unreasonable than the last, and each one more arrogant than the other, but once they hear Di Yi's name, they all turn into cowards. Not one of them is useful."

Yaoyao was apprehensive as she hesitantly said, "Everyone knows Di Yi's methods. Furthermore, Di Yi has a multitude of masters and talented people by his side. Even though he has lost Green-robed Emissary, Yellow God Emissary, and Orange Star Emissary, he still has three Emissaries. Any of the Emissaries could kill us all. Who would not be afraid?"

Red Wish Emissary glared at Yaoyao and an icy light shone in her eyes. "Even you think that I should go back to the Evil Emperor City with my tail between my legs? Obey all of Di Yi's orders in the future without resistance?"

"Bang!"

Yaoyao's heart jumped and her face became deathly white. She immediately fell to her knees.

She dared not say a single word.

It was obvious that she felt that Red Wish Emissary's wisest course of action would be to return to Evil Emperor City. If she fought Di Yi right now, it would be like trying to crack a stone with an egg.

Red Wish Emissary looked at Yaoyao's expression and was even more disappointed.

Her heart was very dissatisfied.

Coming to God Failing Mansion, planning and moving the Black Market's power from the Eastern Holy Land—this was a chance for Red Wish Emissary to make allies and increase her influence.

If she lost this opportunity, how could she stand against Di Yi in the future?

Red Wish Emissary walked out of the main hall. Her emotions were very complicated. As she walked forward, she thought of ways to deal with this. Subconsciously, she walked toward Zhang Ruochen's courtyard.

She stopped, glanced inside, and saw that the candle in the room was still lit.

Thus, she pushed open the courtyard door and walked in.

"Your Excellency, is there a reason for this late night visit?"

Zhang Ruochen's voice rang out from inside the room.

Walking under the moonlight, Red Light Emissary was like a nighttime spirit. She walked until she reached the maple tree before stopping. Her voice carried a hint of tiredness. "There are matters that I wish to speak with you about."

"Swoosh!"

The door of the guest room opened and Zhang Ruochen walked out in a long white robe, holding a pot of tea. He gently closed the door and walked toward Red Wish Emissary. "Your Excellency, please feel free to talk."

The two of them sat across each other at a stone table in the courtyard. Their moods were very calm and they appeared particularly quiet. Around them, only the rustling of the wind could be heard.

A moment later, the Red Wish Emissary sat up straight. There was no fawning manner on her face and she appeared very classy, like a beauty that had walked out of a scroll. Her two crystal-like red lips opened slightly and she slowly said, "The young master has sent someone with an order for me to return to Evil Emperor City. We might need to leave Cyan Cloud County tomorrow."

Zhang Ruochen observed Red Wish Emissary's eyes closely and noticed something. "I seem to see some dissatisfaction in Her Excellency's eyes. Does she not wish to return to Evil Emperor City?"

The Red Wish Emissary looked at Zhang Ruochen strangely and said, "Indeed, those who can become Masters of Spiritual Power are clever people."

“To be frank, I came to Cyan Cloud County to take over some warriors of the Black Market who have moved from the Eastern Holy Land to the Eastern Evil Land. Right now, I indeed do not wish to go back but the young master’s orders cannot be disobeyed. Do you have any idea that can help me stay in Cyan Cloud County?”

Red Wish Emissary was just saying things. She did not really think that Zhang Ruochen would be able to come up with a solution for her. After all, even she, with her intelligence, could not think of anything. Could he be any cleverer than her?

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment and then picked up the teapot to refill Red Wish Emissary’s cup. “It’s actually not a difficult matter.”

Red Wish Emissary’s heart jumped. Her beautiful eyes immediately stared at Zhang Ruochen and she quickly asked, “You have a solution?”

He lightly said, “The most decisive method would be to kill the person who brought the order, then you can pretend to know nothing. This way, you will not have disobeyed the young master’s order and you can continue staying in Cyan Cloud County. Is that not so?”

Red Wish Emissary smiled and her eyes dimmed. She couldn’t help but shake her head.

Originally, she had hoped that Zhang Ruochen actually had some clever trick. She had not expected it to be such a bad idea.

However, Zhang Ruochen’s guts were something she greatly appreciated. At least he hadn’t been intimidated by Di Yi and Serene Blue Emissary’s names.

Red Wish Emissary elegantly lifted her teacup and gently took a sip. “Perhaps you did not know. The person who brought the order was one of the Seven Star Emissaries, Serene Blue Emissary. He is not someone who is easy to kill.”

It had to be said, no wonder Red Wish Emissary was a disciple of a Saint—when she was behaving enticingly she could knock someone head over heels; when she was being elegant, she was more noble, more refined, and more beautiful than a princess of an empire.

“I don’t think so.”

Zhang Ruochen’s finger knocked gently on the table. “If Her Excellency wants to fight for the young master’s position, now is the best time to kill Serene Blue Emissary. Killing him would be like chopping off one of Di Yi’s arms.”

Red Wish Emissary’s eyes turned cold. Raising a slender arm, she slapped her hand against the stone table and icily said, “You dare speak such treasonous words! Do you believe that I can kill you right now?”

However, Zhang Ruochen remained calm and said, “If Her Excellency does not wish to fight for the young master’s position, then why is she unwilling to return to Evil Emperor City?”

Red Wish Emissary stared into Zhang Ruochen’s eyes and saw his calm expression. Afterward, she drew back her murderous feeling and smiled. “You are indeed very clever. You’re right, I do want the young

master's position. However, your method will not work because I cannot kill Serene Blue Emissary at my current level."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "I can give Your Excellency a hand."

"You?"

Red Wish Emissary shook her head and said, "You are indeed quite powerful, but Serene Blue Emissary's cultivation has already reached the peak of the Sixth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. Furthermore, he holds a Holy Weapon and several trump cards—enough to challenge a Monk in the Ninth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm.

"Although he is not a Saintly Being, he is not much weaker than a Saintly Being. Even if all the Monks in Red Willow Heights attacked together, they may still not be able to kill him. On the other hand, when you fought against Ji Gui and Luo Shi, you were already straining your power. How could you be a match for him?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "Times change."

Zhang Ruochen released his Spiritual Power. The Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi around them began to tremble violently and then turned into purple lightning. It gathered behind him and formed a giant God's Shadow of thunder.

"Crash! Crash!"

The God's Shadow made of lightning was fierce and had glowering eyes. It held a thunderous hammer in its hand and was about 10 meters tall. Two horns grew out of its head and a horrifyingly powerful aura emanated from it.

Red Wish Emissary abruptly stood up and exclaimed with disbelief. "The Wrath of the Thunder God. You have already succeeded in practicing one of the second-level magic arts?"

The Wrath of the Thunder God was one of the two second-level magic arts that she had given him just today.

Red Wish Emissary's expression changed slightly and she took a step back. She immediately summoned her Spiritual Power and adopted a defensive posture. She warily asked, "Who exactly are you?"

Red Wish Emissary was a Master of Spiritual Power. Naturally, she knew how difficult it was to practice a second-level magic art, so she did not believe that Zhang Ruochen would be able to successfully learn the Wrath of the Thunder God in half a day.

Even with her current forty-third level of Spiritual Power, it would still take at least half a month to successfully learn a second-level magic art.

"Your Excellency, why are you so nervous? Do you suspect that I have practiced second-level magic arts in the past?"

Zhang Ruochen won Red Wish Emissary's trust and slowly abated his Spiritual Power. The God's Shadow formed by lightning behind him also gradually dissipated until it completely disappeared.

The powerful aura also disappeared with it.

Chapter 600: One Night

Sure enough, the Red Wish Emissary was rendered less alert, and she asked, "Can you manage to master the second-level magic art in half a day?"

"Why not?" Zhang Ruochen answered.

The Red Wish Emissary asked suspiciously, "How can you prove it?"

Zhang Ruochen was quite confident. He said, "Just give me one more night. I can manage to learn the other second-level magic art."

The Red Wish Emissary gave Zhang Ruochen two second-level magic arts, "Wrath of the Thunder God" and "Lightning of Great Destruction."

"Wrath of Thunder God" was not a rare second-level thunderbolt spell, and it had been recorded on many Codexes of Spiritual Power.

However, "Lightning of Great Destruction" was a much more powerful spell. It was a top-notch second-level thunderbolt spell.

Most importantly, the spell had been invented by a Master of Spiritual Power in the Black Market. Even Masters of Spiritual Power trained by the Black Market itself were mostly not adept at the spell, let alone Masters of Spiritual Power trained by other groups.

It was a safe bet that Zhang Ruochen had never practiced "Lightning of Great Destruction" before.

The Red Wish Emissary meticulously sized up Zhang Ruochen with a smile while seating herself by the stone table again. She said, "If you can manage to practice 'Lightning of Great Destruction' overnight, I can grant you a psychic device."

"If you say so. I might as well seclude myself for refining right now. Tomorrow morning, I will show Your Excellency 'Lightning of Great Destruction.'"

Zhang Ruochen rose up with confidence written all over his face and strode back into his chamber.

Of course, it would be impossible for Zhang Ruochen to acquire the second-level magic art overnight.

But, he owned the "Yin Yang Wooden Graph." One night in the external world equaled several days in the Scroll World, giving Zhang Ruochen ten times the practice time.

Also, his spiritual power was level 44, one level higher than that of the Red Wish Emissary. Presumably, it would take Zhang Ruochen much less time to practice the second-level magic arts.

One night was more than enough for him to practice "Lightning of Great Destruction."

The Red Wish Emissary, of course, did not believe that Zhang Ruochen could manage to learn it in one night.

However, what if he made it?

The Red Wish Emissary involuntarily started to wonder about what Zhang Ruochen had said before.

If she wanted to stay in Cyan Cloud County, the Serene Blue Emissary had to be killed to remove one of Di Yi's capable sidekicks.

"Can this method work out?"

The Red Wish Emissary closed her eyes, considering all of the possibilities.

For instance, she had to gather manpower to deal with the Serene Blue Emissary's guards if she wanted to kill her.

Then, after the Serene Blue Emissary was killed, who should be framed for it? The Yin and Ying Sect? The Heresy?

Third, could she and Zhang Shengming kill the Serene Blue Emissary on their own?

Fourth, after they killed the Serene Blue Emissary, would Di Yi come to the Cyan Cloud County himself? Could she bear Di Yi's revenge with her current power?

Assassinating the Serene Blue Emissary was of vital importance, therefore everything needed to set in perfect order beforehand. Otherwise, a minor mistake would bring unimaginable consequences.

She kept thinking it over all night until dawn broke. When she opened her eyes, her pupils were burning with a sharp, murderous feeling.

The Red Wish Emissary had already made up her mind. No matter what happened, she had to take her chances. She could not sit doing nothing until misfortune came for her.

When the door squeaked open, Zhang Ruochen came out.

He saw the Red Wish Emissary still seated by the stone stable and smiled. "Did you stay here the whole night?"

The Red Wish Emissary flipped away the dewdrops on her sleeves. She smiled. "I was worried that you might run away, so I thought I'd better keep watch."

"You are such a joker. I have already managed to practice 'Lightning of Great Destruction.' Why would I want to flee?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

The Red Wish Emissary looked deeply at Zhang Ruochen, who believed deeply in himself. He did not seem to be bragging, so she could not help but get excited at the prospect.

She said, "All right, come with me. I want to see with my own eyes if you really learned it."

The Red Wish Emissary stood up and led Zhang Ruochen toward a hall. After entering a stone gate, they climbed down a stone ladder stretching underground. They passed through the defenses, and finally, they arrived in the space beneath Red Willow Heights.

In this pitch-dark space, cold and serenity reigned supreme and only the footsteps of Zhang Ruochen and Red Wish Emissary could be heard.

If they released spiritual power, they would strongly perceive the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi nearby.

In the darkness, Zhang Ruochen said, "Your Excellency might be too careless. If I harbored evil thoughts against you and took any actions here, Your Excellency, with your current power, you would be no match for me."

The Red Wish Emissary remained silent. She stopped walking and lifted her hands, pushing her Genuine Qi out.

"Swoosh!"

Basked in Genuine Qi, the Spiritual Crystals on all the walls twinkled and sparkled. The whole room was immediately lit up.

In the center of the space stood a colossal black altar. The edge of the altar, the ground, and the stone walls were all heavily carved with inscriptions. Some of them even extended deeply to connect with the others.

The Red Wish Emissary turned around and stared at Zhang Ruochen. She smiled. "Where you are standing now is the hub of the 147 defensive spells in Red Willow Heights. A mere thought of mine can activate all of them. If you really wanted to hurt me, I could turn you into a mass of dust."

Zhang Ruochen wore the same expression. He said, "It turns out that Your Excellency brought me here to test me."

"Is that all right? This shows that you are someone worthy of my trust."

The Red Wish Emissary gave Zhang Ruochen a provocative look and then said, "You claim to have already managed to acquire the second-level spell 'Lightning of Great Destruction.' Show me."

Zhang Ruochen did not hesitate. He lifted his arms and held his hands together to unleash all of his spiritual power.

"Lightning of Great Destruction."

With a boom, tens of thousands of wisps of electricity formed, flowing around the whole underground cavern.

The light became increasingly stronger and more intense, as if it had turned into an ocean of electricity.

The defensive spells in the cavern had been activated, and they securely enveloped the power of the thunderbolts. If not, Red Willow Heights would have burned to the ground in no time if the power of the electric ocean ran its course.

The Red Wish Emissary could barely hide her inner astonishment. She thought to herself, "*He actually managed to acquire the second-level magic art 'Lightning of Great Destruction' in one night! What a genius!*"

The Red Wish Emissary considered herself highly talented in practicing spiritual power, but she paled next to Zhang Ruochen.

Above all, he was a Master of Spiritual Power of the thunderbolt series.

Of all the kinds of Spiritual Power, the thunderbolt series had the strongest attack force.

On the battlefield, a Master of Spiritual Power of the thunderbolt series could unleash a force that would totally destroy a whole regiment.

What a windfall!

The Red Wish Emissary was instantly beside herself with excitement. She counted herself lucky enough to have met him and won him over before anyone else. Zhang Ruochen alone was more valuable than ten Monks with the cultivation of the Ninth Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm.

The Red Wish Emissary was secretly determined to keep Zhang Ruochen as her right-hand man at all costs.

After Zhang Ruochen withdrew his spiritual power, the electricity ocean in the cavern gradually dissipated.

BANG! BANG!

The Red Wish Emissary applauded and exclaimed in amazement. "Excellent, very excellent! Your talent in practicing spiritual power dwarfs mine."

The fact that she complemented his power over hers showed her deference to him.

The Red Wish Emissary presented Zhang Ruochen a purplish crystal ball the size of a fist. She said, "This psychic device is called a 'Thunder Pearl.' It can make your spell-casting three times quicker and ten times more powerful."

Zhang Ruochen reached out for the Thunder Pearl and feigned an expression of surprise. He asked, "It can make the power of spells ten times stronger?"

The Red Wish Emissary smiled, "Yes. I don't think I need to explain the importance of a psychic device to a Master of Spiritual Power. The 'Thunder Pearl' is just a top-level psychic device. A Half-Saint level psychic device is much stronger.

"However, Half-Saint psychic devices are not only expensive, but also rare, even rarer than Holy Weapons. You can not buy one without luck, even if you have many Spiritual Crystals."

Zhang Ruochen said, "How dare I expect to have a Half-Saint psychic device? The 'Thunder Pearl' alone can improve my power greatly. With even a level-one magic art, I could easily defeat Ji Gui and Luo Shi."

The Red Wish Emissary sneered. "Lord Zhang is a Master of Spiritual Power in the 44th level. How noble! How can you compare yourself with them?"

Zhang Ruochen looked at the altar and then at the array inscription nearby. He said, "In fact, I am curious. The defensive spells of Red Willow Heights can kill the Serene Blue Emissary. Why does Your Excellency hesitate?"

The Red Wish Emissary turned grim. She said, "The Serene Blue Emissary has impressive influence. We cannot plan to kill him in Red Willow Heights. Otherwise, serious trouble will follow."

Zhang Ruochen could see that the Red Wish Emissary had already been persuaded. Then he added, "We can lure him to somewhere else and set a trap there and have him killed. I believe that it would not be difficult for us to remove the Serene Blue Emissary with Your Excellency's sorcery and my current power."

Zhang Ruochen was trying, of course, to fan the flames for his plan.

Killing the Serene Blue Emissary would be like cutting off one of Di Yi's arms, and it was sure to draw him to Cyan Cloud County.

If Zhang Ruo went to the Evil Emperor City and succeeded in killing Di Yi, it would be difficult for him to escape.

Luring Di Yi to Cyan Cloud City and killing him there would be less risky and less difficult.

The Red Wish Emissary's eyes wavered and her long eyelashes fluttered slightly. She said, "Are you really willing to take such risks and conspire with me against him?"

"As the old saying goes: man struggles upwards and water flows downwards. Who is willing to bow down to others forever? All I want is that if Your Excellency becomes the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall someday, she can assign me the post of Emissary." Zhang Ruochen smiled.

The Red Wish Emissary tilted her slender body and gave a faint smile. "Of all the people around me, only you have the audacity to act like a man. I can reassure you that I will save the post of Emissary for you if I become the young master one day. However, killing the Serene Blue Emissary is not something to underestimate. We need to make a plan."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Seeing that you have such drive, I am sure I have chosen the right master."

Afterwards, Zhang Ruochen and the Red Wish Emissary started to plan in the underground cavern.