

## Chapter 101 Killing One's Teacher?

The compressed fire seed in Xu Xiaoshou's hand disappeared as he dropped the line, and another one, which was even more raging, sparked above his thumb instead.

A strange look appeared in Elder Sang's eyes. The energy contained within that one was like an unbridled stallion. It was so incredibly restless that for a while it looked like it might explode at any moment, making it far more terrifying than the one from before.

Yet, Xu Xiaoshou seemed to have an unusually firm hand on it somehow, which managed to prevent it from actually exploding.

Elder Sang knew that Xu Xiaoshou was a genius, but he didn't know the kid was that much of a genius.

He was so impressive that he'd managed to conjure a compressed fire seed, and, the way the elder saw it, being able to control it to such an extent would be rather insane.

"Seeds on All Five Fingers."

But judging by the name, there had to be more to it than that, no?

Swoop!

While the elder was still mulling this over, yet another spark lit up on Xu Xiaoshou's index finger. The distance between the two flames was but that of the crevice between his two fingers. Being in such close proximity brought the flames near the point of violent explosion.

Xu Xiaoshou quickly turned the heat down, enabling the two flames to quiet down.

The elder was evidently impressed. "Not bad. Go on."

Xu Xiaoshou wiped the sweat off of his brow and erected his middle finger next, causing yet another spark to light.

Fzzz.

There was a magnetic pull between the three seeds, which made them unimaginably far more terrifying. Despite having turned down the heat at the moment, he still struggled a little to keep them in line.

The seeds violently fluctuated, drawing black lines on top of his fingernails.

Elder Sang was intrigued by what he was seeing, and he started to believe that Xu Xiaoshou's "Seeds on All Five Fingers" technique was indeed capable of blasting the library's windows apart.

While there were only three of those things, the effect they had on each other brought their energy level to the point of surpassing most other spiritual techniques. One could only imagine what would happen if one were to throw those into someone else's mouth.

The elder was about to tell his disciple to stop, but he kept his mouth shut after seeing how focused the kid was.

Initially, Xu Xiaoshou had actually thought of just bluffing, but his epiphany had actually turned out to be quite formidable instead.

He'd gotten the inspiration from seeing the two seeds cross and explode earlier, but he hadn't expected their potential damage to be so exponentially increased when pulling at each other at such an infinitely close distance.

"Okay, could try being a little wild," he thought. "The old man is here. Shouldn't be much of a problem.

He took a peek at Elder Sang with his Sense, noting that the old man was quite interested, and immediately made his decision.

He figured that if he were to be able to finish researching this skill, it would become far more powerful than the "Lesser Fireball."

He figured that he'd be able to make it his most powerful technique.

Fourth one!

He focused and conjured yet another seed on his wobbling ring finger.

"Yes!"

He took a good look and found that the compressed seed was noticeably smaller, so much so that its power was far weaker than that of the other three.

What happened?

He was baffled and felt his body become weak. It was only then that he realized that his spiritual source was getting depleted.

"Sh\*\*!" he thought. "I totally forgot about this!"

The next second, he found to his horror that the appearance of this unstable factor had severely wrecked the balance between the previous three.

All four bits of flames on his fingertips rampaged at the same time, shuddering violently and emanating a terrifying aura of destruction.

"F\*\*!"

He immediately shuddered and instinctively made to throw all those things out the window, but he found Elder Sang in his way, very intrigued by them.

All four sparks might as well have been plastered on the old man's face.

Huh?

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

The elder had been having a good time studying the flames, being very impressed by the kid's ideas.

He'd noted this move developed from alchemy was indeed fresh and new, and it had completely absorbed him, causing him to look forward to the kid conjuring the fifth one.

Yet, said kid had instead thrown the four seeds at him without warning.

It wasn't that he was afraid of the flames, but the kid could've warned him first.

"What the h\*ll are you doing now?" he thought.

"Are you trying to ambush me?"

"Are you trying to kill your teacher?"

Elder Sang immediately leaned backward, causing his hat to flip into the air. The three seeds that were flying higher shot through the hat and out the window.

It took mere seconds for the entire hat to be reduced to nothing.

The remaining one with lower energy, which was flying lower, coincidentally shot into Elder Sang's nostril.

What the...?

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

He was enraged at that moment, but he didn't explode with anger right away.

His life still mattered more, after all.

While the situation was dire, it wasn't unsalvageable.

He too was of the line capable of general Infernal Heavenly Flames, which meant that he would be completely fine, so long as he could internalize that flame.

On the other hand.

Xu Xiaoshou saw that the bit of flames had shot into his master's nostril, and he became all flustered.

"Elder Sang didn't manage to evade them?" he thought. "Sh\*\*, that's unexpected. What was that old man doing?"

"Was he spacing out?"

"Even I didn't dare to space out when I was testing my moves, and here he was actually spacing out instead?"

However, he had no time to mull over any of these thoughts. He took a deep breath before the seed was able to get too deep inside his nostril.

"So long as I'm quick enough," he thought, "The seed won't..."

"D\*mn, what's that smell!?"

"It stinks!"

“Urrgghh.”

He barfed, and saw the elder’s body shudder all of a sudden, and a stifled rumble was heard from the elder’s stomach.

It blew?

Both of them looked at each other, and there was only silence between them.

Xu Xiaoshou saw the old man’s cheeks puff up slightly before returning to normal, yet the sound of the old man’s tonsils moving was unmistakably clear.

“Sh\*\*!” he thought. “Is he bleeding?”

Xu Xiaoshou was filled with disbelief, unable to process the fact that he had actually managed to hurt the elder.

Elder Sang was shaking all over.

But he wasn’t shaking from pain. He was shaking from anger.

He’d thought his level of powers would enable him to instantly internalize the flames, even if it got into his stomach.

Yet, Xu Xiaoshou the devil had actually sucked it out, which had messed up all the spiritual sources in his body so much that they’d gone out of control. While this had only taken place in the span of a second, he had nonetheless missed his window of opportunity to internalize the flames.

If it hadn’t been for the fact that he had trained his body as well, the Tiansang Spirit Palace might have actually lost its vice dean from then on out.

“Are you hurt?” Xu Xiaoshou was in shock.

Elder Sang took a deep breath to stop his body from shaking and suppressed his rage.

There was nothing else he could do.

He had to suppress it.

Masters who’d almost ended up being killed by their disciples during their first meeting were virtually unheard of, after all. Exploding with rage would only mean that he was of inferior quality as a master.

He quietly turned around and took out a new hat from his ring before slowly putting it on.

“Nonsense. Stop running your mouth.”

A breeze blew in from outside the window as soon as the elder spoke, and Xu Xiaoshou was able to smell blood.

The scene was incredibly awkward, and Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t bold enough to blow his master’s cover. He deemed it wise to just let the wound heal itself.

Better a person in pain than two persons in pain. Opening up the wound like that would probably get him in trouble...

Hehe. Xu Xiaoshou forced a grin, trying to make the atmosphere less awkward.

Hehe. Elder Sang then grinned in response, seemingly trying to save face.

The air was silent, which made the atmosphere...

Even more awkward.

The corners of Xu Xiaoshou's eyelids twitched, yet he was still unable to say anything.

While it was usually easy for him to badmouth other people in their faces, he was still unable to muster the gall to do so with the elder.

Yeah, at times when he subconsciously got in way over his head, scenes like this would happen...

"What was that?" Elder Sang didn't turn around.

Xu Xiaoshou was restless, and he wondered if the old man was aware of the Breathing Technique.

"Some kind of technique," he answered ambiguously.

"Oh, technique, huh..." Elder Sang was quiet again.

Xu Xiaoshou almost burst out laughing, noting that the old man was trying to make the atmosphere less awkward as well, which meant that the old man wasn't actually interested in his Breathing Technique.

Xu Xiaoshou then probed, "So, should I start to extract the essence?"

"Yeah, extracts..."

"..." Xu Xiaoshou didn't know what else to say.

Elder Sang finally came to his senses and no longer stood with his back facing his disciple. He turned around and added, "Forget extraction for now. There's yet another important thing I need to tell you."

## **Chapter 102: My Sights Set Not on Tiansang but on the Five Regions**

Xu Xiaoshou felt rather uneasy.

"So, am I gonna get it right now?" he thought.

Elder Sang glowered at him, exasperated. "That technique was decent, and you could look into it, but if you want to keep it under control, I'm afraid that you'll have to wait until after you've broken through into the Innate Level."

He then looked Xu Xiaoshou up and down, and disgust appeared in his eyes. "Your level is just too low."

Xu Xiaoshou was relieved. "It's fine if you diss me, so long as you don't beat me up or kill me," he thought.

"I'd say that I'm rather quick at making breakthroughs," he said.

However, he was still feeling rather vexed. While his level was indeed low, his progress was not.

It'd only been about half a month since he'd emerged out of isolation, yet he'd already made breakthroughs from level three all the way up to level nine.

Furthermore, he'd achieved such a rate of progress while trying his very, very best to suppress it. If it weren't for his concern of being at unstable levels, he would have gotten much, much higher.

The days before him were long. He had no need to rush.

He was a firm believer that "haste makes waste," and deemed it imperative to first lay a strong foundation by mastering the basics at the 10 levels of Spiritual Cultivation level. He wasn't into being all bangs and flashes with no substance.

Elder Sang was completely oblivious to what was going on inside Xu Xiaoshou's head. All he saw was that Xu Xiaoshou was only at Spiritual Cultivation level nine, and thought the kid's level still too low.

He deemed that the kid had to fight for resources with those from the Inner Yard, so the kid had to at least get to the Innate Level. Otherwise, the kid would just run into obstacles after obstacles.

"I managed to get you a slot to enter the 'Tianxuan Gate' when I went out earlier. Head over there three days from now. The density of spiritual energy there will be enough to allow you to break into Innate Level."

"Tianxuan Gate?" Xu Xiaoshou was puzzled.

Elder Sang nodded and continued, "It's a secret realm belonging only to the Tiansang Spirit Palace, and it only opens once every year. Ten new candidates from the Inner Yard and the Inner Yard Thirty-three are given access to the place.

"This is the first resource that disciples from the Outer Yard who've joined the Inner Yard get. It is of utmost importance.

"As the champion of the Wind and Cloud Contest, you naturally would've been given a slot if you'd been allowed to join the Inner Yard..."

The elder then snickered and continued, shaking his head as he went. "But you were set up."

"I was set up?" Xu Xiaoshou was surprised.

This was rather different from what he'd heard from Elder Qiao. Wasn't he not allowed into the Inner Yard because his training hadn't yet reached Innate Level?

"Indeed." Elder Sang clapped himself on the head and went on.

"They told others out there that you weren't admitted because your level didn't make the cut, which was the truth. Yet, if one were to look at this more closely, they'd realize that your Innate Level physique could've made up for that.

"However, there were simply too many joining the Inner Yard this year. Four, remember? If you'd been added to the list, that would've taken away five candidacy slots for entering the Tianxuan Gate.

"There are more than 10 among those who were newly made one of the 33. You can imagine just how tough the competition would've been.

“As such, the Council of Elders could only slap a label of ‘your level not cutting it’ on you to strip you of the chance of joining the Inner Yard, so as to free up one slot for the Tianxuan Gate event.”

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his fists, feeling very vexed.

This was definitely more than just stripping him of an opportunity and a slot. If they’d done this to someone other than himself, such a decision could have probably ruined their lives.

The world of spiritual cultivation was not one where people fought for a distant future but for what was right before their eyes.

Being left in the dust one year could take an untold amount of time just to catch up again.

Elder Sang snickered and casually continued, “No need to be angry or vexed. Things like this don’t usually happen to the Tiansang Spirit Palace. You’re considered lucky to have run into such affairs.”

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

“Lucky?” he thought. “Am I supposed to like bow in gratitude or something?”

Elder Sang’s tone turned solemn as he added, “But, once you get outside of the spirit palace, you’ll find that this is basically how the world at large works.

“Before you’ve become sufficiently powerful and get recognized, all of your hard work will look like sh\*\* to those on top.

“The world isn’t a nice place. All living things suffer for it. The ones on top don’t play nice, and the people suffer for it.

“No one will pity you just because you’ve worked hard. Pawns will be pawns. The length of your life is preordained, and your success and failures depend on the favor of the gods up there.

“When you’re just a pawn, you’re considered lucky just to be of use. It’s completely normal to not get noticed.”

Elder Sang held Xu Xiaoshou’s clenched fist and squeezed it, and the young man’s fist immediately loosened.

“Many geniuses out there are arrogant enough to think that they’ve broken through the so-called cage throughout the ages, lauding that they’ve finally achieved freedom and chanting things like ‘my fate is in my hands’...

“Yet, years or over a dozen years later, the world remains the same as it was, and those so-called geniuses back then are nowhere to be seen. The wheels of history trod on, and those people were unable to so much as even make their mark.”

He then seriously looked the young man in the eye. “I hope you won’t be one of such people.”

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath, and his gaze fell on the shriveled hands of the elder. He didn’t know what to think.

Elder Sang continued emotionally, "My advice remains. Be the best pawn you can be before you've obtained absolute power.

"At the very least, let those people up there think that you're but a pawn.

"Get it?"

Xu Xiaoshou nodded slightly.

"I get what you're saying," he thought, "But why do you have to grip my hands so hard?"

"Let go." He swung his hands rather earnestly.

Elder Sang was irked. "I spent all that energy telling you all this and this is what you're hung up on?" he thought. "Godd\*mn. Can you be a little more normal?"

He was so irked that his breathing became a little rushed, and he flung the kid's hands away.

Xu Xiaoshou rubbed his hands, noting that the old man indeed had quite a grip. Was that how Master Level people were like?

Or should he say...

Above Master Level?

He actually took Elder Sang's words to heart.

Similar to how he'd been fed an Infernal Fire Seed by that old man, unable to resist it, he was helpless in the face of the Council of Elders' decision as well.

But then again, should that matter?

"Am I, Xu Xiaoshou, so easily defeated?" he thought. "There's only one thing that matters. What doesn't kill me will only make me stronger!

"The days ahead are long, and if cages are indeed everywhere, just like how that old man put it, I shall break them one by one."

Xu Xiaoshou had said the same thing on the day he and Elder Sang became master and disciple.

He was taking this seriously.

He then paced and thought for quite a while before saying, "I'm actually not that concerned about all that. It's just that I'm making progress with levels a little too quickly. Hell, I just broke through level nine yesterday.

"If I were to get inside that so-called Tianxuan Gate and manage to break into Innate Level, wouldn't that like cause my level to be unstable?"

He voiced his biggest concern, which was something that had been bothering him for a long time, hoping that someone would finally be able to enlighten him on the matter.

Yet, Elder Sang's jaw almost dropped to the floor when he heard what Xu Xiaoshou said.



“You?”

“Unstable foundations?” he thought. “Who are you kidding, man!”

Elder Sang was irked and amused at the same time.

“You’re someone at Spiritual Cultivation Level nine who beat the many Innate Levels out there and became a champion. Then you killed someone at Origin Court Level and Voidness Level from the Inner Yard, and now you’re telling me you’re worried about your foundations?” he thought.

“Can it be that your ambition will only be quenched when you’ve finally managed to kill several who are at Master Level, eh?”

Elder Sang took a deep breath and answered, “Among the 1800 or so disciples out there from the Outer Yard, you were the one who became champion despite being of Acquired Level. What is this instability you’re talking about, then?”

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head. “I’m not comparing myself with them.”

Something else was seen in the elder’s eyes as he praised, “Losers are indeed not worth being compared to. You and I are quite alike in that sense.”

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless. “That’s not what I meant!” he thought. “Don’t go about twisting my words! Who the h\*ll is like you here!”

He then recalled the night when the masked figure had taken him. Ye Xiaotian had appeared that day, and they’d had a conversation.

He still remembered that very well.

“Some people were already capable of fighting masters when they first broke through to the Innate Level. Some people, when they first broke into Innate Level, could cut down masters!

“I don’t think I have such powers right now,” Xu Xiaoshou answered.

Elder Sang rolled his eyes. “You’re only at Spiritual Cultivation Level nine! Just what the h\*ll are you thinking?”

“I wasn’t actually thinking about it, but when that masked guy appeared that night and wanted to catch me, I just had to think about it.”

The elder was astonished, not expecting Xu Xiaoshou to actually face such pressures.

“I could protect you.”

“You couldn’t do that forever,” Xu Xiaoshou said calmly.

“You want to be like them?”

“No.” Xu Xiaoshou paused and said unyieldingly, “I want to surpass them.”

He turned his gaze to outside the window and looked at the sky, which had lost its colors.

“Didn’t you say that there are five regions on this continent?”

“What about it?” Elder Sang looked at him.

Xu Xiaoshou stood in the nightly breeze, feeling rather emotional deep down.

“My sight sets are set not on Tiansang but on the five regions.”

### **Chapter 103: New Place**

Whack!

Elder Sang smacked Xu Xiaoshou right then and there without so much as flinching.

“Five my a\*\*! What nonsense is that!?”

“Are you at Innate Level already? Have you been outside the spirit palace? Do you know what it’s like out there? You sure know how to talk big!

“I just told you to devote yourself to your training and be serious about serving as a pawn, but you went on to talk big instead. You really think that just because you have something that others don’t, you’re already better than others, eh?”

The elder then twisted Xu Xiaoshou’s ear so hard that tears almost rolled down Xu Xiaoshou’s cheeks.

“L-Let go of me!”

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded. The old man was definitely doing this to vent his frustrations from that attack before.

That had to be it!

“It’s not every day I get to be in such high spirits,” he thought. “Why did it end up like this?”

“Aren’t masters supposed to encourage their disciples and tell them to be ambitious and dream big?”

“So why the h\*ll is this guy his student to lay low and be a useful pawn!?”

“How could I ever?”

“You think that I, Xu Xiaoshou, would be okay with being a nobody for the rest of my life?”

“I’m sorry,” he said. “Let me go already.”

However, he immediately submitted. After all, he was still under Elder Sang’s tutelage and had to follow his rules.

Elder Sang sternly told him off. “From here on out, keep such words to yourself. Don’t say them to anyone else.”

“I only said it once...” Xu Xiaoshou grimaced. His ear was hurting so bad that his eyes were squinted as he pointed at his ear. “Let go.”

Elder Sang finally let go and clapped him on the shoulder. “Even once is enough to get you killed. Keep that in mind.”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded furiously.

“Back to the case of the Tianxuan Gate. What you said made some sense. Foundations are important.

“Well then, after you get through the gate, keep walking as far as you can and find the ‘Black Cliff.’ That place should enable you to solidify your foundations. As for the process...

A familiar chuckle was heard from the old man. “It might be quite painful.”

Xu Xiaoshou shuddered. “What is that ‘Black Cliff’ thing?”

“The Tianxuan Gate is a lesser secret realm, and there are a lot of places for training there. Black Cliff is one of those places.

“Water from the falls over there is extremely heavy and contains terrifying sword aura, making it just right for you. The question then is if you can endure the process.

“But then again, it’s not like you need to head there and nowhere else. You could still just find somewhere, anywhere, to train once you get inside the Tianxuan Gate.” Elder Sang was apparently saying this to rile Xu Xiaoshou up.

Xu Xiaoshou was momentarily stunned. If this was someplace that intimidated even that old fart, then he wasn’t so sure about it himself. “I’ll think about it.”

Elder Sang rolled his eyes. “Heh, all that big talk about setting your sights on the five regions, and you’re already getting scared?” he thought to himself.

The elder flicked his hand and conjured an intricate jade scroll, then handed it over to Xu Xiaoshou. “If you’re heading to the Black Cliff, you should be able to train what’s in this thing.

“But then again, the most important thing to do after getting in there is to make a breakthrough into the Innate Level. Don’t ever forget that. I won’t be able to get you any resources after you come out otherwise.”

Xu Xiaoshou carefully took the jade scroll, not so sure about training whatever was in it.

That Infernal Heavenly Flames alone had already brought him so much pain, and he wondered what the old fart would make him train this time.

However, he was completely stunned when he put the jade scroll to his forehead.

“10 Sections of the Finger Sword?”

“And a complete version?”

Shocked, he looked at the elder. “Where did you get this?”

It was the broken piece he’d found back in the library that had piqued his interest like nothing else. If it hadn’t been for Elder Sang appearing after he’d found it, he would’ve been training in that set of techniques instead.

But then again, a broken piece being returned to its original complete version was still quite surreal.

He nonetheless very well knew the value of the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword. If nothing else, the part about infusing one's being with sword will alone was something most couldn't have thought of.

Which meant no one could've restored this thing to its original complete version if it was originally only a broken piece...

Unless they'd managed to find the creator...

"Wait," he thought. "This jade scroll looks so new. Does that mean Elder Sang knows who the person who created it?"

The elder went on to smack the kid again, and he seemed to have gotten addicted to doing so.

"That's none of your concern. Just train well and hone your skills in alchemy. I'll be happy just as long as you don't get yourself in any more trouble."

"Sure."

Xu Xiaoshou put the jade scroll away and took a look at the overturned massive tub. "So, umm, I'll get to alchemy now?"

"I might be able to get the extracts with just a few more tries."

He was very confident in what he said, as extracting the essences was but a matter of keeping the flames under control.

After acquiring "Cooking Expert," most of his obstacles had been removed from his path. The only thing left to do was simply to get familiar with the process.

Elder Sang's mouth twitched instead, and he answered, "We'll leave that aside for now. Get yourself your own place, then we'll talk about refinement."

"No, I'm about to succeed."

Xu Xiaoshou then looked at the sky. It was dusk, and nightfall was around the corner.

He'd only need one more night to work at it and would definitely succeed, so he wasn't about to just give up.

Yet, the elder wasn't about to let him have his way.

"Go and do it somewhere else then."

"Why?" Xu Xiaoshou was exasperated. He then looked at that massive red pearl above him and said, "This place is cool enough."

The elder was silent.

"Why?" he thought. "Are you really asking me why?"

"I sure as h\*ll can't figure out how you're capable of such a level of destruction at Spiritual Cultivation Level nine, but I have to admit, Xiao Qixiu really has good eyes.

"You're really a walking menace!"

"I just left this place for a bit and you managed to almost blow the library up working on compressing the flames. If you were to really get to refinement..."

"Boy, I couldn't imagine."

Although he thought this, he wasn't about to voice his thoughts aloud. He wasn't going to just let the kid have his way.

"Get your own new place in the Inner Yard and do your thing at your own place. Come to me after you've finished extracting the essences."

His words caught Xu Xiaoshou's attention. He was perceptive enough to catch the keyword. "Inner Yard?"

"Indeed."

"But then again, you're not yet an official disciple of the Inner Yard, so you won't be getting an Inner Yard Disciple Token Pass. That means you'll have a problem getting a place..."

"Hmm, go to my place, then," Elder Sang said.

He looked on his table for his token.

"Hmm? Why is it gone? I remember putting it on the table..."

Xu Xiaoshou then awkwardly pulled a reddish-black token out of his ring. He'd thrown the token inside along the way earlier.

"Umm, is this it?" he asked.

Elder Sang turned around and asked in surprise, "Why is that thing with you?"

"It was blown to the ground, didn't you see..." Xu Xiaoshou brushed over the matter and changed the subject. "By the way, is it okay for me to use it? Aren't you abusing your authority?"

Elder Sang was amused. "So what if I am?"

"I'm the vice dean of the Tiansang Spirit Palace. Is anyone going to stop me from letting my disciple train in the Inner Yard?"

"If I were to be particular about it, a personal disciple of an elder is of a status a lot higher than the Inner Yard ones."

"Furthermore, I've already gotten you a slot to get inside the Tianxuan Gate. So, are you going to be particular about me abusing my authority?"

"Well, that makes sense..." Xu Xiaoshou scratched his head, stunned by the magnanimity the old man was displaying.

"Matters like these aren't even worth mentioning in the eyes of those in power, I guess," he thought to himself.

“Well... I’ll at least need a cauldron for alchemy. This one here seems nice enough. Could I use this one?”  
He then walked over to the three-legged bathtub.

“In your dreams!”

The elder immediately appeared before the tub and put it away before taking out a considerably smaller tub from his ring.

“Take this one instead.”

“The grade?” Xu Xiaoshou asked, his face glum.

“Eighth-grade.”

“What about that huge tub?” Xu Xiaoshou asked.

“You know of the famed swords, right? Some cauldrons need no grade classifications,” he snickered.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

“Go\*\*amnit!” he thought.

“I would’ve taken that tub with three legs if I’d known it was so awesome...”

“I guess one really can’t judge a cauldron by its looks.”

#### **Chapter 104: Ten Signatures**

The setting sun lit up in the western sky, making the clouds look like passing dragons.

When Xu Xiaoshou walked out of the library, he was startled by the emptiness stretching out before him.

“What happened?” he thought.

“Why is all the grass gone already?”

“Did someone come here to mow the lawn or something?”

“Boy, some work they did!”

After taking his time to make sense of the directions, he went deeper into the Inner Yard instead of going out into the Outer Yard.

He’d very reluctantly chosen to make the trip to the library, but due to the rules between him and that old man, choosing not to make said trip would’ve brought about dire consequences.

However, none of the trouble he’d anticipated had come to be. Elder Sang had actually become a lot more easygoing, so much so that he hadn’t minded the blood he’d spilled. Xu Xiaoshou never would’ve dared to imagine that possible.

“I guess that’s the difference between outsiders and those you consider your own...”

He was feeling rather puzzled, but he was sure of one thing—Elder Sang had definitely become a lot nicer after they became master and disciple.

“Well, I should say that he treats me entirely different now,” he thought.

“People are really weird creatures...”

Xu Xiaoshou mulled this over for a bit before he stopped thinking about it altogether.

It was a good thing that the elder would never go about torturing him. As such, he could do away with the thought of escaping the spirit palace for the time being.

As for what would happen in the future...

“Well, I’ll think about it when the time comes,” he thought.

“At least from the looks of things now, that old fart sure has a brilliant personality. And, if I’m being honest about it, he really goes to the extreme.

“Whether he’s being uncaring toward others or protecting his own, he really seems to go all in.

“He almost ended up getting me killed when we hardly knew each other, but now that we’ve become master and disciple...”

He touched the ring for a bit.

36 seventh-grade Origin Court Pills, a complete version of the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword, a slot to enter the Tianxuan Gate, and a ring full of herbs.

He’d never dreamed he would get so much just from risking his neck to see that old man.

It was the complete opposite of what he’d expected.

“Hmm, there’s also that eighth-grade smaller tub.” He went about listing what he’d gotten.

While the tub he’d gotten was only about half the size of the massive three-legged one, it was nonetheless large enough to fit four to five people bathing in it. That smaller tub was still several times larger than the other normal-sized cauldrons.

“Eighth-grade eh...”

He then drew his Hiding Pain, noting that the sword was only at Ninth-grade.

“Can’t do, man. You gotta keep up with my progress, dude.”

He rubbed the black sword for a bit, and it actually shook slightly, seemingly weeping.

“What’s going on?” he thought.

“Are you really gonna develop intelligence now?”

He was astonished. This was the first time he’d seen Hiding Pain exhibit such an emotional side other than when it tended to act against its owner.

Yet, when he thought about the Epitaph of City Snow, he sighed right away. Comparisons did indeed come with demerits, after all.

“Ninth-grade shouldn’t be able to develop intelligence of any kind, I guess...”

He simply stuffed the sword back into his ring, his face deadpan, then took out the token that he'd gotten from the elder. This token was currently the most important thing in his possession.

With this thing in his hands, he could finally pick his own place like the rest of the Inner Yard disciples.

The concentration of spiritual energy in the Inner Yard was far higher than that in the Outer Yard. He deemed that prolonged exposure to such ambient spiritual energy would enable him to get used to Breathing Technique at Innate Level. Then he could relax and let his body train on his own.

He still had to keep all of his pores shut tight while walking inside the Inner Yard.

If he were to relax his body, he would end up spasming all over despite doing little else other than walking.

"This token couldn't have come at a better time..."

He recalled that dilapidated place of his at the Outer Yard with only a guest room left. With the token pass in his hand, he could finally leave that behind.

And he wouldn't even need to pay for repairs. What a bargain indeed.

"Which place should I pick, eh?" Xu Xiaoshou was feeling rather troubled.

The Inner Yard was just as huge as the Outer Yard. However, there were few people around. The number of disciples inside was less than 10 percent the number of those in the Outer Yard.

As such, theoretically, everyone could get themselves a huge place.

With the exception of those designated training places that were protected by barriers, all the other places were by and large off-limits for training purposes. That much was different from the Outer Yard.

One's comprehension of the celestial ways became clearer after reaching Innate Level. This was because one could no longer train outside someone else's door, as others might come to enlightenment at the same time as oneself. Being in such close proximity meant it was entirely possible for both individuals to interfere with each other, thus nullifying each other's effort.

That was a big deal, as it meant killing each other's chances.

He picked a quiet path and walked as far as it could take him. He would still prefer a compound of his own to be somewhere more secluded.

The guest room back at the Outer Yard was quite a good place, as few ever came to bother him there.

...

Xu Xiaoshou saw that, despite having walked quite a distance, there was still no one around and couldn't help but be in awe that the Inner Yard really had such few people around.

He'd seen several places so far, but none of them were vacant. All the places he'd passed through had already been claimed by people.

He stopped at the end of the road.



The place was incredibly secluded and fit his requirements very well as far as getting his own place was concerned.

However, the place seemed to have been severed by a huge blade, as it was literally cut in half. Its protective barrier was even shattered.

“Well...” Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded.

“There was an underground fight, I guess.”

“While the Inner Yard doesn’t forbid members from killing each other, shouldn’t they have at least taken it to the ring?”

“What’s the deal with cutting someone else’s place in half?”

“I guess that’s the Inner Yard for you. Terrifying indeed...”

Seeing this strengthened his resolve to train while laying low all the time, and he immediately walked in the other direction.

“Bad Feng Shui indeed. Definitely not a place for setting up my own place.”

...

He then saw yet another landscape unfold before his eyes, looking like paradise.

His eyes lit up because, before he saw the place, he actually spotted a woman dressed in blue bowing down.

“Great! Finally someone I can ask for directions from. If I’d gone looking for it with just that bit of info the old fart gave me, I probably would’ve ended up looking for it until dawn.”

He felt like he’d finally run into someone normal after being inside the Inner Yard for so long, and that someone was very alluring.

The woman was wearing skimpy clothes that exposed her supple-looking shoulders. She raised her hands high as she stretched herself for a bit, revealing her curves.

Xu Xiaoshou was just about to call out to her when the woman suddenly turned around dismissively. Yet, before she finished turning a head around, she seemed to pause for a bit before turning to look at him, stunned.

“She knows me?”

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled. She looked like she’d seen a familiar face.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

As expected, a surprised voice was heard. It sounded so alluring that he felt like he’d just gotten electrocuted.

He raised his eyebrows and went up to her. “You know me?”

The woman smiled and then chuckled, "Well, who doesn't know the renowned champion of the Wind and Cloud Contest, eh?"

Xu Xiaoshou then felt rather embarrassed. He'd never expected to find fans of his in the Inner Yard. Especially not one who was so good-looking.

"I try to keep a low profile."

The woman looked him up and down with her beautiful eyes, which then flickered with killing intent. "A disciple of the Outer Yard trespassing into the Inner Yard. I could actually act on my own accord and haul you to the enforcers, you know?"

Xu Xiaoshou was rather amused, thinking that fans from the Inner Yard were indeed something else altogether. He wondered just how many people she'd killed.

Even a joke felt like the real deal.

This faint killing intent really was something indeed.

"That's not important." Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand dismissively and asked, "Do you know of any nice places around here? I've been looking for quite a while, but, I guess from being unfamiliar with the places around here, I've had a hard time finding one."

"Oh? You're trying to find a place of your own here?" The woman was amused.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded, finding her amusement peculiar. He then added, "Rest assured, I'd definitely return the favor."

"Signatures or whatever. I could give you 10 of that."

### **Chapter 105: Signing My Name? More like Signing My Death Warrant!**

Signature?

The woman's smile froze, but then she quickly became amused.

"Oh, I don't need signatures. If anything..."

She seemed to have thought of something and changed the subject. "So you're looking for a place of your own? You're a member of the Inner Yard now?"

"Umm, I guess you could say so..."

Xu Xiaoshou didn't know how to explain his situation to her. Because of the agreement he had with Elder Sang, he couldn't just tell her about how he'd become Elder Sang's disciple.

And it'd be absurd to tell her that Outer Yard disciples could look for a place of their own in the Inner Yard.

But then again, the woman in blue didn't pester him further about the matter. She kept grinning and said, "I know of a place that I suppose you'd like."

"Oh?" Xu Xiaoshou's interest was piqued.

“There’s a mountain at the back of the Inner Yard that sees very little traffic. That place has a lot of vacant places.” The woman pointed in a specific direction. “It’s not far. Take a turn up front and keep taking the smaller path. You’ll see the place soon enough.”

Xu Xiaoshou was elated, yet after pondering it for a bit, he realized that something was off.

“If it’s such a good place, why hasn’t anyone picked there to settle down? And umm... a lot of vacant places?”

“The Inner Yard is huge, and not everyone is as picky as you are. Some people just walk around and pick any they come across and fancy.”

The woman shrugged, showing more of her supple skin. “How they see it, walking any further would probably result in them losing something big for something small. That would be quite a loss.”

Xu Xiaoshou thought what she said made sense. If he hadn’t run into this woman, he probably would’ve stopped going any further.

“Thank you.”

The woman stared at him, and the corners of her mouth twitched. “Don’t mention it.”

Xu Xiaoshou felt his skin crawl. Why was she so bold? And were all the women in the Inner Yard this hot?

The look in her eyes was more than just a fan’s admiration.

The look seemed to say that she’d set her sights on him and there was nowhere he could run to.

“Well then, I’ll be taking my leave to keep looking for my own place.” Xu Xiaoshou knew that fans could be terrifying when they got hysterical, so he shirked away, about to leave.

“Didn’t you say you’d give me a signature?” the woman then asked, somewhat capricious.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. “The h\*ll...” he thought.

“Didn’t you tell me you didn’t want my signature?”

“Hehe, women are indeed fickle.”

“Where should I sign, then?” he asked.

Xu Xiaoshou casually turned around and took out a brush from his ring. It was a gift from his first fan.

“I don’t have anything with me, so just sign my body.” The woman lifted her hand and alluringly turned around like she was dancing, making her look like some blue fairy.

“Your body... where, if I may ask?” Xu Xiaoshou gulped.

“Anywhere you fancy.”

Her voice was so alluring that it was starting to make him tingle all over, and he felt like he was going to pass out.

Seduced, Passive Points +1.

"I knew it..." he thought.

"You witch. You're actually trying to seduce me!

"H\*ll if I'm gonna just succumb to your wiles!"

He took the brush and inwardly told himself to resist her charms. Then, he said calmly, "On the hand, then. Coincidentally, I signed the hand of my first fan's too."

The woman tilted her head. Her jet-black hair draped over her shoulder as she extended her hand to him.

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath and gently touched it, finding it soft and warm.

"Huh?" he thought.

"What's happening?"

"The witch is tickling the palm of my hand?"

Seduced, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou felt like something bad would happen if he stayed around any longer. He immediately lifted his brush and steadied her hand, getting ready to sign.

"Sign my name instead," the woman then said.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. "There're fans actually crazy enough to tell me to sign their name instead?" he thought.

He then recalled not having asked her her name. That was rather rude of him.

"Alright. May I know your name then, miss?"

The woman chuckled as she looked at him, licking the corner of her lips a bit. Her voice sounded mystical.

"Lan Xinzi."

Nightfall came coincidentally, drowning the last bit of dusk colors in the sky. A breeze blew, and the rustling of fallen leaves was heard.

The atmosphere was immediately rendered silent the moment her name fell from her lips.

Xu Xiaoshou felt like a wave had just come crashing down on him.

"Lan Xinzi?" he thought.

"Isn't she one of the Inner Yard Thirty-three that Su Qianqian told me about? One of the three major enemies that I need to look out for in the future?"

"Oh sh\*\*!"

“What the h\*ll is happening?”

“How did I run into my enemy when I was only out asking for directions?”

“D\*mn it. It’s not my name she wants. It’s my life!”

He felt a torrent of emotions raging inside of him, but he didn’t let it reflect on his face.

He recalled how the woman had stiffly turned around and how a killing intent had lingered through their entire conversation.

“Yeah!” he thought.

“How many in the Inner Yard would know me, right?”

“How could someone I’ve never met possibly be a fan of mine? She’s definitely seen my picture or something and knows that I’m the one she needs to kill!”

While he had no problem playing the fool when nothing much was happening, when it was his life on the line, his brain would definitely get to work faster than anyone else’s given how much he valued his own life.

He didn’t pause his brush in midair again. He deftly twirled the brush in his hand and wore a rather ambiguous grin on his face as he brushed his thumb across her hand without being too obvious.

“Lan Xinzi? That’s a nice name.”

When he was about to sign, he stopped again and looked up with a faint smile. “I just want to check if I got your name right.”

“Hehe!” Lan Xinzi chuckled while covering her mouth, seemingly noting that she knew he was flirting.

She noted that the young man before her was indeed a fine one. It was a pity that she couldn’t go any further with him.

She nodded slightly, yet inwardly she had her doubts.

“Did he...” she thought.

“Halt for a bit back there?”

“So he knows who I am, then.”

“Does that mean he’s just putting on an act?”

“How about I just dispose of him right now.”

“Wait, no...”

“While he did stop, he did touch me nonetheless, although it wasn’t that obvious.”

“But then again, that’s normal right? I’m Lan Xinzi, one of the Inner Yard Thirty-three. What kind of a man would be able to resist me after touching my hand?”

“So that’s why he halted? Because he touched my hand?”

Lan Xinzi was hesitating. Whether she killed him or not would come down to her whims.

“If the kid really knows me and dares to play me like this,” she thought. “I should just kill him and report the matter later. I could dump his body at the Spiritual Library Division and claim that I acted at my own accord after seeing a disciple of the Outer Yard trespass into the Inner Yard. That could work.

“Well, I would only get punished somewhat for overdoing it at most.”

However, she recalled what happened to He Yuxing.

“This kid may have someone backing him,” she thought. “If even an assassination attempt could result in something like that, killing him outright would get me into really big trouble.

Should I just let him go?

“I may not get any better excuses from here on out...”

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

The Information Bar quickly refreshed, and Xu Xiaoshou was rather dazed from the sudden rush of information. He hated having to do psychological warfare, yet he had to go along with it.

“Alright, done.”

He finished signing and put away his brush. He slowly let go of her hand, putting a reluctant look on his face.

“It was a pleasure meeting you, Miss Lan. This name will be what connected us. I hope to see you in the future.”

He put on a hopeful look, then looked up at the sky. “It’s getting late. I’d best keep looking, or I won’t have a place to settle down tonight.”

At first glance, he looked like someone who was feeling the itch deep down yet still wanted to maintain an air of politeness without hinting at anything more than that.

Lan Xinzi lightly touched the name on her palm as she looked at how he was behaving. She was unable to see past his façade.

“Off you go, then. We will meet again.” She waved as she saw him off, yet there was yet another line that she kept to herself:

“If you’re able to emerge out of that mountain, that is...”

### **Chapter 106: Turning Over a New Leaf**

A smile immediately blossomed on Lan Xinzi’s face as soon as she entered the Spiritual Site.

“Master Zhang, guess who I just encountered.”

“Hmm?” Zhang Xinxiong had no home to return to, so he could only stay here temporarily. “Who did you meet?”

“Xu! Xiao! Shou!” Lan Xinzi enunciated each syllable.

“Xu Xiaoshou?” Zhang Xinxiong was surprised. “He’s in the Inner Yard now?”

If any Outer Yard disciple trespassed into the Inner Yard, those caught redhanded would be sent to the execution podium, and the Inner Yard 33 would be allowed to execute them in-lieu of the master...

Countless ways of killing Xu Xiaoshou instantly flashed through his mind, but he managed to suppress the thought. After all, He Yuxing’s experience was still fresh in everyone’s mind.

“Have you dealt with him?” Zhang Xinxiong got up and asked.

He didn’t believe that Lan Xinzi would be so reckless as to ignore He Yuxing’s end, but he was still scared that she would deal with Xu Xiaoshou recklessly.

“I didn’t!” Lan Xinzi glanced at him unhappily as she murmured, “God knows what that boy did to you. Why are you so protective of him...”

“Is he prettier than me?”

Zhang Xinxiong was speechless.

“Me protective of him?” he thought. “I’m just scared that you’ll mess up my grand scheme!”

Lan Xinzi took the wine cup but couldn’t find the wine pot, so she unwillingly put down the cup again.

“Eh. That boy seems to be really close to Xiao Qixiu. He’s only an Outer Yard disciple but can already enter the Inner Yard site. This enforcing elder...”

“Tsk, what an abuse of power for one’s personal agenda!”

Zhang Xinxiong lightly knocked his hand against the table and replied, “I’ve investigated. This boy has nothing to do with Xiao Qixiu, but he’s really close to Su Qianqian. I suppose this was Su Qianqian’s assistance...”

“Hmm, that’s wrong. Regardless of how powerful Su Qianqian is, there’s no way she could change the rule of the Spirit Palace.

“Who could it be?”

“Elder Sang?”

Zhang Xinxiong was shocked by his thoughts, thinking his guess absurd.

It was pretty nice of that unsociable old man to save Xu Xiaoluo that night. How could he think that those two were actually close? He must be having a stroke.

Lan Xinzi, on the other hand, had clearly gone down a different line of thought. She played with her fingers as she said, “Nevermind the Inner Yard site. Xu Xiaoshou was actually trying to go to the Back Mountain. What was he thinking...”

Zhang Xinxiong was puzzled and slowly turned to face her. "Where?"

"The Back Mountain."

Lan Xinzi seemed to recall something, and her jaw dropped in surprise. "Oh my, isn't the Back Mountain Rao Yinyin's turf? Which happens to be a place you've always wanted to go but never succeeded in doing so. What a coincidence!"

Zhang Xinxiong's eyes flared with anger. "Did you persuade him to go?"

"I merely gave him advice out of kindness." Lan Xinzi smiled graciously.

"That boy dared to trespass into the Back Mountain. Rao Yinyin will definitely kick his \*ss. We don't have to do anything. Murdering someone with a borrowed knife. Isn't this perfect?"

"And if he's really powerful enough to stay on the Back Mountain, then he could develop a relationship with Rao Yinyin over time. This is helping one to realize a dream too."

Lan Xinzi stuck out her tongue, her eyes dancing with stars. "That boy is indeed tall and handsome. He's pretty dreamy..."

Bang!

Zhang Xinxiong slammed his palm against the table, causing wooden debris to scatter into the air.

"You're testing my limits!"

Lan Xinzi retorted proudly, "This is my table. Who gave you the right to break it!?"

"You..."

"What are you saying? This is my Spiritual Site. Get out if you don't want to stay here!" Lan Xinzi announced loudly. It felt good to say this.

"I..."

Needless to say, Zhang Xinxiong had no choice but to remain silent, as this wasn't his place.

And he actually gave up on fighting back.

He tried to compose himself and sat on the chair again, then grabbed the wine cup...

"D\*mn it!" he thought. "This broken place doesn't even have a wine pot!"

He put down the wine cup and said slowly, "Didn't Yuan Tou intend to join my Zhang clan? Did he make it into the Inner Yard thirty-three?"

He'd changed the topic so abruptly that it made Lan Xinzi pause for a moment, then she nodded. "He made it, but why are you bringing him up?"

"Xu Xiaoshou trespassed into the Inner Yard. Yuan Tou, one of the newly appointed Inner Yard thirty-three, will enforce the rule in-lieu of us!"



Lan Xinzi raised an eyebrow. This was a vicious move. It seemed like he wasn't going to allow Xu Xiaoshou and Rao Yinyin a chance to get together.

However, whether Xu Xiaoshou could walk out of the Back Mountain alive was another issue!

Indeed, this dude became totally different because of that little b\*tch Rao Yinyin whenever her name was mentioned.

He was only looking out for his own interests, as always.

But...

She'd won this time!

Lan Xinzi's beautiful eyes were full of disdain. "Didn't someone say he wouldn't lay a finger on Xu Xiaoshou unless he stepped outside of the Spirit Palace?"

"He's asking for it. Why can't I capitalize on the opportunity?"

"What makes you think Yuan Tou would do it? He's just become part of the Inner Yard thirty-three and has a bright future ahead of him."

Zhang Xinxiong laughed. "The likes of him are just a bunch of poor fawning dogs. If he doesn't want to do it, there are many more people who would gladly replace him.

"Tell him that if he wants to join the Zhang clan to bring Xu Xiaoshou's skull to me before this time tomorrow as proof of his allegiance!

"If he doesn't want to do it, there are plenty of others who will!

"If he's scared of executing someone..."

"As long as he can stay alive for three months, I can fetch him out!"

He was finally going to do it!

Indeed, the only person that could induce this man into action was none other than Rao Yinyin.

Lan Xinzi was propping her face up in her hands, looking like she was worshipping him.

"Master Zhang, you're absolutely impressive!"

"Shut up!"

...

"Hachoo!"

Xu Xiaoshou pulled his clothes tighter around him.

Although the night had lowered the surrounding temperature, his innate body couldn't be invaded by the cold wind. So, the only possibility was that Lan Xinzi was planning to backstab him again.

However, he was backed by Elder Sang now, so those people shouldn't look for trouble with him so blatantly!

And if they were looking for trouble with him, it'd only been a day since the assassination, so tonight should be absolutely safe.

"Hmm, I better find a Spiritual Site soon and rest well for the night!" he thought.

"After I enter the Tianxuan Gate three days later, I won't need to be scared of anyone anymore.

"Hang in there, Xu Xiaoshou!"

...

Lan Xinzi hadn't fooled him. After making a turn and continuing down the dirt path, he arrived at an Arcadia.

There was a river by the mountain, and he could faintly hear the sound of a crashing waterfall.

There were numerous Spiritual Sites here, but none of them were occupied.

"Could this be a scam..."

Xu Xiaoshou felt slightly uneasy, but when he thought that assassinations would happen anyway no matter where he stayed, he became more relaxed.

"Not this, not this either..."

He had rejected a few desirable ones only for one reason: the deeper the location of the Spiritual Site, the richer the spiritual energy.

He could feel his cultivation level rising just by standing still.

At the end of the Back Mountain, the crashing waterfall sounded like thunder.

A grand court was beside the waterfall, occupying an area that was at least triple the size of his outer yard. The protecting barrier was even more magnificent and was able to hide the interior decoration.

Xu Xiaoshou held his token and came to the brushwood door, then entered the place with the token.

The gate was wide open, and the moonlight had filled up the entire space.

He looked high-spirited.

Yesterday, he'd been fraught with dangers, but today he'd pushed open the gate of an Inner Yard Spiritual Site.

He strode in with one big leap!

"This step is a small step to turn over a new leaf and also a major step for me, Xu Xiaoshou, on my road to success!"

### **Chapter 107: Thoughts for going premium!**

Hmm, we are going premium! (Rubs hands)

I am a cute newbie, a very very cute kind of newbie.

I have signed a contract for this book for sixty-thousand words, testing water for ten-thousand words. Its first recommendation was fantasy, a popular genre.

For those of you who are familiar with the procedures, it is very rare that a book can stand out amongst the fierce competition. For me at least, I have read many books of such genres and there were very few that could outshine the others.

But this book is actually standing out! (Shocked expression)

I have to express my utmost sincere gratitude to Xiadada, my editor. Although he does not talk much, he has been supporting me from the backend and the recommendation trending for this book has never stopped.

From the testing-water stage to going premium, from popular category to strongly recommended on the home page...Thank you so much!

God knows that so much has happened to the books written by my peers. There were books going premium, getting terminated, getting terminated after going premium...

It was truly frightening to watch!

But, this made me feel grateful for everyone even more!

Without your favourite bookmarks, recommendation tickets and reward...

There is no way that this book could make it to premium, let alone maintain its first or second position on the recommendation spot amongst its peers!

Thank you so much once again! (Bow)

...

About this book, first and foremost, its basic style would not be changed. You can tell this from how Xu Xiaoshou has broken the system pointer at the start of his appearance.

He is destined to be an extraordinary person, someone who is weird and a little silly. He is hotblooded sometimes as well...

It's normal that he would not be appealing to some people.

I know my place and I am satisfied by the fact that he is liked by a small fraction of people. If there is anything I would like to ask for, maybe....let's have more of these people!

My original intention for writing this book was to let everyone has something amusing to read about during their free time. If I am to extend this intention, that is to connect with the readers on a deeper emotional level, as the story progresses...

Whether to laugh, or to ponder, or to remain in silence...

If I could achieve all these, that would be fantastic!

If not, at least you must have laughed over this book, hmm, that is more than enough!

About the supporting characters, their roles were never meant to center around one person, to begin with. Regardless of what is this person called, Xu Xiaoshou or Xu Dagong...

I would decide on his/her personality first, then introduce them with a grand entrance at the right time...As long as they are officially featured in the story, they would be part of the essential characters who could push the progress of the story further. This is what I am trying my best to achieve.

They say the difference between a genius and a maniac is separated by a fine line. So, if my characters are becoming boring, that pretty much means that I have lost my drive!

That's all.

...

But, I am so excited now!!!

It's my first book and my first time going premium!

I hope that you brothers could support me generously and subscribe to the initial order. This is extremely important as it would affect the subsequent recommendation algorithm. It is not easy to be a newbie writer here and I could only pray with all my might! (Cry)

If you are not feeling it yet, I hope that you could subscribe to the initial order because of the free two hundred and forty thousand words for this new book.

If you could fight alongside me, that would be even better, please stand by me!

We are going premium tomorrow at 12 p.m. sharp, there might be a delay in the system, but I will never be late!

### **Chapter 108: Heaven on earth (1/10)**

"Red Magical Poppy, tenth-grade spiritual medicine. It can cause mild hallucinations and tastes bitter and astringent."

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked by the sea of Red Magical Poppy near the door.

"There's a lot of tenth-grade spiritual medicine in this place. Is this the benefit of an Inner Yard Spiritual Site?" he thought to himself.

"Red Magical Poppy free of charge?"

"But why this? I could've done with any other spiritual medicine!"

"Hallucination..."

"Just looking at it is making me feel dizzy!"

He rubbed his temples, then proceeded to walk through the sea of Red Magical Poppy to the main house.

This house also had a master bedroom and a guest room. Just the guest room alone was bigger than the burned down main house of his old compound in the Outer Yard.

There were also countless scenic objects in this house.

There was an array pivot in the main house. As long as he stamped on it with his Inner Yard Disciple Token Pass, he would declare ownership of this spiritual site. Elder Sang had told him this before.

Xu Xiaoshou held the Elder Token Pass and entered the main house.

He was blinded by a plethora of colorful furniture.

It was a delicate room decorated in warm colors with all kinds of living amenities.

There was an unimaginable number of things inside.

A gigantic pink bed, a dressing table, a wine-red cupboard...

“Ugh, why does this feel wrong?” he thought.

There were clothes everywhere in the room. They were all well-tailored and made of a wide-ranging variety of materials, including silk, lace, and smooth cloth...

Xu Xiaoshou became more confused as he looked at all these things.

He picked up a piece of tiny red cloth with two strings attached to either side. He could faintly smell a subtle, alluring fragrance from it.

He sniffed it up close, and a shocked expression came over his face.

“This... this is a pantie!”

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded by the panties of all different cuts and exotic styles that were around the room. This experience had definitely expanded his knowledge of different panties.

“Does that mean someone’s staying here?”

“Then why was I able to get in if someone’s already living here? I wasn’t rejected by the protective barrier!”

Xu Xiaoshou was completely dumbfounded.

“Could it be that the original owner of this place was a woman, but she had some kind of accident that caused this house to lose its master’s mark, disabling the protective barrier?”

“Or could it be that...”

Looking at the Elder Token Pass in his hand, Xu Xiaoshou fell into deep thought.

“It can’t be!”

“If that’s indeed the case, and there are elders out there that malicious, then the girls in the spirit palace are definitely in great danger...”

Putting this thought aside, Xu Xiaoshou tried looking for the array pivot everywhere in the room, but to no avail, which meant someone really did own this place.

He felt unbelievably awkward at having accidentally barged into a girl's room and even seen all those embarrassing clothes on the ground. If the actual owner ever found out....

She would definitely come after him!

"I'd better get going."

He hunched over, immediately planning to leave, but the backdoor of the house was suddenly pushed open, as if by a huge gust of wind.

The waterfall was raging outside the house. It was obviously the same one he'd heard earlier.

Xu Xiaoshou halted.

A girl's room, a waterfall, next step...

Was she bathing?

"That's too much of a coincidence!"

A look of amusement appeared on Xu Xiaoshou's face. The rational side of his brain was telling him to head to the backdoor and leave, but his body was heading in the opposite direction against his own volition.

"Just one look..."

"No! I barged into her room. After all, if the owner's around, I should inform her face to face, lest I get into more trouble later on.

"Hmm, that's right!"

Xu Xiaoshou nodded heavily and, kicking away the panties on the ground, he covered his eyes with his fingers and slowly walked toward the backdoor.

Swoosh!

The waterfall roared like thunder, and there was a steam of hot mist that lingered on the deep hot spring like some divine gas.

He couldn't see anything at all!

Xu Xiaoshou closed his eyes tight, as he knew it would be morally wrong to look at her. If he were to peek through his fingers, it would make the entire situation even more complicated!

Standing at the entrance, he activated his Sense to the fullest.

The hot spring was rippling, instantly attracting Xu Xiaoshou's attention. Following the sound of a few bubbles popping, a beautiful silhouette emerged.

Her jade-like hands were playing with her long silky black hair. With her slender figure dancing slowly in the water, she looked like a fresh lotus. She was so alluring that even a deity would've been seduced by her.

Xu Xiaoshou was deeply mesmerized.

He felt a few water droplets splash on the corner of his mouth, and they tasted kind of salty.

She was so beautiful he got a nosebleed, and Eternal Vitality was running like crazy to make up for the blood loss.

A slightly charming voice called out, "Is sister Su here? Why don't you bathe with me first before you head out?"

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly came to his senses.

"No, I can't stay here any longer!" he thought. "If I stay around, regardless of whether she'll let me explain myself, this will definitely spiral into a gigantic mess!"

But before he could turn, a shocked voice came from the hot spring: "Who's that?"

Xu Xiaoshou was paralyzed.

He couldn't help but open his eyes. The hot mist before him was fading, and he saw a womanly figure turn around.

"Please don't!"

His pupils dilated, and he subconsciously stuck out a foot to walk forward.

Hypnotized, Passive Point, +1.

The notification on the information bar woke him up like a pail of cold water.

"Hypnotized?"

"An illusion?!"

His foot hung limp in the air. Before his eyes, there was still a woman turning around, but the picture in his brain was of a spiritual sword pushing into his throat.

If he'd walked out recklessly, he definitely would have died!

"But..." he thought. "What the h\*ll is going on? Why can I see two different sets of images?"

"That's wrong."

What appeared before his very eyes was an illusion, but Sense allowed him to see what was really happening.

"That's right," he thought. "Sense is a passive skill."

This woman obviously didn't possess the weird sealing power Mo Mo had. A mere illusion couldn't stop his passive skills from working!

However, once the woman turned to face him, what emerged before him was a hideous and corrupted face. Although Xu Xiaoshou was mentally prepared, he was still shocked.

"I'm not looking, I'm not looking!" he murmured subconsciously and turned around. "I'm here to talk to the owner of this spiritual site, with no intention to commit any despicable act..."

In his mind, the spiritual sword vibrated and immediately vanished.

A woman in a bathrobe appeared before him.

If he were to advance, he would definitely run into her. If he stopped, then he would be exposed.

Hypnotized, Passive Points, +1.

Xu Xiaoshou steadied his steps and passed through the woman in the bathrobe, shattering the image.

“Heh, a piece of cake!” he thought. “If you can’t seal my passive skills or disable my information bar, then your illusion can never fool me.”

On the other side, a woman in a bathrobe looked at him, her expression changing from one of agitation to surprise.

“Why isn’t my illusion working on this man?” she thought. “Is it because he’s really not looking at it?”

“That’s wrong. My illusion can rope a person in, even if they have their eyes closed.”

It was obvious that the illusion had failed to work on him.

However, none of this mattered anymore. As the woman thought over what had happened, her eyes blazed with anger.

Her spiritual sword vibrated and directly shot at Xu Xiaoshou. .

Xu Xiaoshou turned around without putting up a defense.

“Humph, are you trying to force me to stop attacking you?” he thought.

The woman didn’t bother going easy on him and went straight for his heart. However, when she saw his face, she was shocked.

“It’s you!”

She wanted to slow down her attack, but it was too late. The sword pierced through his clothes, and she could no longer control its movements.

Klank!

A crisp sound was produced as Glow of Sharpness and Recoil deflected the spiritual sword, and Xu Xiaoshou’s chest was barely pierced through.

His plan had been to crawl on the ground and moan in pain to gain sympathy first, then take advantage of the opportunity to apologize and leave gracefully...

However, when he got a clear look at the woman’s face, his mind was blown.

“It’s you?”

## **Chapter 109: Flirted**

Clang!



The sword dropped beside the huge pink bed and immediately rang out.

Both of them looked each other in the eye, both shocked by each other and speechless.

A droplet traced the woman's chiseled features, going down to her collarbone, then farther down to her bosom, her torso, before disappearing when it hit her bathrobe.

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't help but gulp. What a small world.

Wasn't this the girl who'd come to watch his fight with Su Qianqian and then kind of like seduced him in the end?

He probably would've forgotten all about it if it'd been anyone else, but this girl was probably the prettiest girl he'd ever seen in his life, and she'd left such a lasting impression on him that he felt like it was only yesterday that he'd last seen her.

"Brother Xiaoshou..."

"Ptuih! Xu Xiaoshou!?" Rao Yinyin spat, her face all red.

"Is this guy the Brother Xiaoshou that Su Qianqian's been talking about all this time?" she thought.

"Isn't he a disciple of the Outer Yard?"

"Is he trespassing into the Inner Yard?"

For a brief moment, the thought of taking on the job of the enforcers as one of the Inner Yard 33 flitted in her mind, and she almost made her move.

"Hold on," she thought. "Even if he did trespass into the Inner Yard, why would he cross the entire Inner Yard to come here? Furthermore, he's already so deep in these parts, and he crossed over the main house just to take a peek at me bathing. Is that right?"

"Furthermore, if he is that kid, then I can't afford to kill him."

Rao Yinyin was furious, and she walked all the way to the side of the bed and pulled the sword, flicking it hard.

Clang!

The "doubted" line kept refreshing in his Information Bar. He was completely frightened by this scene.

"Is she really gonna kill me just to shut me up now?" he thought.

"I detected your presence as soon as you entered. You've been hit with my illusion, and I must say that your will held up quite well, seeing that you managed to get over it."

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded. What was going on?

She recognized him and yet called him "Sister Su"?

"Wait, hold on," he thought. "She doesn't know that my Sense is capable of breaking her illusion, which means she's trying to save face."

“Man, who’s she fooling? H\*ll, this is stupid.”

There was a strange expression on Xu Xiaoshou’s face, yet as soon as the woman turned around, he immediately said, “I saw nothing!”

Huh. But wasn’t that the same as saying he had seen something?

“Ptuih, I just saw...” he began. “Umm, well, that’s not what I mean. It’s just...”

Rao Yinyin went over to her dressing table and fetched a tissue paper and then handed it to him and said, “Wipe the blood off your nose.”

“...”

This was embarrassing!

“Could it get any more embarrassing than this, huh?”

He took the tissue paper and gave up.

Rao Yinyin then sat on the bed with her legs crossed. She lifted her eyes at him slightly, as if she were judging him.

“Did you come here to find Su Qianqian? Or did you come here to take a peek at me bathing? How did you manage to get inside my place?”

Xu Xiaoshou wiped his nose, and since the situation couldn’t possibly get more embarrassing than this, he simply gave up and let loose. He went to pull out a chair and dumped the clothes on it and then sat down on the chair like he owned the place.

“I’m here to find myself a place. It has nothing whatsoever to do with anything that you just said.”

“As for how I ended up here, I don’t know. I pushed the door open, I stepped inside, and there I was.”

He paused for a bit, hesitating. “Didn’t you lock the door?”

Rao Yinyin was speechless.

“My clothes are all over the place, and you’re asking me if I locked the door?” she thought.

She blushed a little at the thought. She’d never expected that a man would actually trespass into her place.

However, it was too late now to tidy the place up.

She took a look at the token in his hand. “Let me have a look at that thing.”

“This?” He held up the token and saw Rao Yinyin nod. He tossed the token to her.

Regardless of how gracious the girl was, he knew he wouldn’t be getting off easy all the same and was ready to get punished in some way.

“Lucky for me I’m not rich to begin with,” he thought. “So there’s little she could get out of me. If push comes to shove, I guess I could pay up with my body.”

“A token from an elder?” she asked. “Hold on. This is from the Vice Dean... A token from Elder Sang?”

Rao Yinyin eyed the reddish-black token, surprise written all over her face. “Why would you have a token from Elder Sang?”

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled. Wasn’t this token just a normal elder token?

When he’d gone to the Spiritual Library Division to pick his technique, he saw that Xiao Qixiu had one that looked just like this one. He wondered just how she knew that this particular token was from Elder Sang.

Was it the aura or some minute differences between them?

“Well, it’s an elder token, and umm, is it to say that this thing allows one to intrude into someone else’s place just like that?” Xu Xiaoshou interjected, a touch of surprise in his tone.

The agreement he had with Elder Sang forbade him from telling her his relationship with the elder.

“The usual elder tokens are incapable of doing so. There are only two tokens throughout the entire Tiansang Spirit Palace that would allow one to do so—those in the hands of Ye Xiaotian and Elder Sang.”

Rao Yinyin paused, and an alluring look appeared in her eyes. She then continued where she’d left off. “How did this thing end up with you?”

“I picked it up somewhere.”

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

“Tell me the truth!” Rao Yinyin glowered at him. “We’re not done here just yet. Whether you can make it out of here alive today depends on what you’re about to tell me.”

“All right.” Xu Xiaoshou spread his hands. “Elder Sang is my master.”

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

Rao Yinyin immediately rose to her feet and took on an intimidating tone. “The. Truth!”

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled.

“What do you want me to say?” he thought. “I lie, and you doubt me. I tell the truth, and you’re unwilling to believe me. What do you want of me then?”

He then closed his eyes in despair. “Don’t ask. It’s something that I can’t tell you about.”

Rao Yinyin was speechless.

She held onto the token for quite some time after hearing this, thoughts running through her head.

After a while, a different look appeared in her eyes, and she actually grinned. She lifted her robe a little and then walked up to him with those long legs of hers.

“It doesn’t matter that you can’t tell me anything. Just the fact that you have this thing means you’re close to Elder Sang.”

Xu Xiaoshou didn't know where to look.

"Okay, what are you trying to do now?" he thought. "I'm barely able to contain myself, you know!"

"Miss, decency please!" he said.

"Decency?" Rao Yinyin frowned and chuckled while covering her mouth. "You're in my room now and that's what you're telling me?"

She then coiled her hand around his neck and blew in his ear, saying seductively, "Promise me one thing. Let this slide today, and I might reward you somehow."

Flirted, Passive Points +1.

Her fragrance lingered in his nose. He'd never been so close to such a stunning-looking girl before both in his past and current life. Furthermore, all she was wearing was but a bathrobe. It was very hard to resist her charm.

"Let go of me!"

Xu Xiaoshou shirked back, and his chin knocked against her forearm, making his skin crawl.

"Get away from me, and don't blow in my ear!"

Rao Yinyin chuckled. And here she was thinking he had guts.

"This is all you've got?" she thought.

Seductive warmth emanated from her lips as she asked, "Are you really sure about that?"

Flirted, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou felt like his blood was boiling over, and he was unable to contain himself. He then lifted...

The woman's arms from around him and jumped up from the chair like he was trying to run.

"What are you up to!?"

He was unable to run far and was simply able to back away to the bed, making it look like both had just shifted positions. "Talk nicely. Keep your hands to yourself."

"Keep my hands to myself?" she thought.

She swept her hair behind her shoulders and then walked over to the bed, a sheepish grin on her face. She extended one of her supple legs, cornering Xu Xiaoshou on the bed.

"I guess I should tell you to keep your legs to yourself too!"

Xu Xiaoshou supported himself off of the bed with his hands, ready to burst into tears.

Couldn't the girl tell that a guy could only contain himself for so long?

## **Chapter 110: Catching an Affair in the Act**

"What are you looking at?"

Rao Yinyin, discovering that the kid's gaze was still lingering on her leg, grabbed his chin and turned his head around, a tinge of red covering her face.

Crack!

It felt as if his neck were about to snap. The only thing in his eyes was a touch of annoyance the reflection of a huge piece of ceiling in front of him.

Rao Yinyin blinked, and she went back to being flirty again, saying softly, "I only need a single pill, and then we can call it even."

"Pill?" he thought. "She's asking me for a pill?"

"Wait, shouldn't she be asking Elder Sang..."

Xu Xiaoshou then pulled at her hand, giving himself some room to lower his head somewhat, before he was finally able to talk. "What pill?"

"Bodhi Pill." She blinked. "Or maybe... a Sovereign Pill."

Sovereign?

Xu Xiaoshou immediately shuddered. He knew that Sovereign was above Master in terms of rank, which meant she was...

"Are you at the peak of Master level?"

His voice was filled with nothing but utter shock. He was doomed!

"Looks like I'm not going anywhere today, then!" he thought.

"Are you saying only someone at the peak of Master Level could want a Sovereign Pill?" Rao Yinyin rolled her eyes at him, yet she remained just as alluring as before.

"Innate Pill is eighth-grade, Master Pill is sixth-grade, Sovereign Pill is..." Xu Xiaoshou roughly counted inside his head.

"Fourth-grade!"

"Are you kidding me!?"

He shook his head so hard that he looked like he was trying to hit something. "Oh, you're not getting a Sovereign one from me. Don't ever, ever think about it!"

"I have Origin Court Pills, though. I could give you 10."

Rao Yinyin was amused at his frustration.

"Why would I want Origin Court Pills?" she thought.

"Sovereign Pill," she repeated.

"This is nowhere near doable." Xu Xiaoshou continued to shake his head and began to bargain. "How about Master Pill, eh? I could like ask for it somehow and see if I could do anything?"

“Oh?” Rao Yinyin raised an eyebrow, a cunning look appearing in her eyes. “So you really can ask for pills, then?”

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart sank, and he wondered if the girl had been bluffing all along.

“Well, then it can only be a Sovereign Pill.” Rao Yinyin started to move her face closer to his, so much so that Xu Xiaoshou was able to feel the warmth of her breath.

“Breaking into Master Level is as easy as breathing to me, so what need would I have for Master Pills, then?”

“And your Origin Court Pills...”

“Keep those for yourself, Spiritual Cultivation Level nine rookie.” The corners of her mouth twitched, and her eyes were full of nothing but ridicule.

Flirted, Passive Points +1.

She pressed a supple finger to his lips when he opened his mouth to say something.

“I’m one to keep my word. So long as you’re able to get me a Sovereign Pill, not only will I let what happened today slide, but I’ll also reward you.”

“What reward are you talking about?” Xu Xiaoshou felt like biting that finger off.

“Didn’t you say you were looking for a place of your own here? If you get me the pill, then you can have this place as well as the entire mountain. And then...”

Rao Yinyin turned her gaze away and looked at his hand, which was pressing on her bed. “If you fancy, you could have my stuff too.”

Stuff?

Xu Xiaoshou traced her gaze and reflexively lifted his hand, finding to his surprise that he had picked up some red cloth made of silk.

The clothing was small, and it was smooth.

He was utterly shocked, and threw it away right there and then.

“Can’t do! No way I could get you such a pill, and I don’t need your stuff!” He shut his eyes, ready to meet his doom.

“A fourth-grade medicine... you’d be better off killing me right now!” he thought.

“I don’t even know if Elder Sang has anything at fourth grade!”

“I have no pill, and what is left is my life!”

Rao Yinyin’s expression immediately turned cold when she saw him just dump her things like that, yet when she thought of Su Qianqian, she returned to being flirty again and grabbed at his chin.

“You don’t like my reward?” That alluring voice was heard again.

Xu Xiaoshou was extremely frustrated. "What's her deal, man?" he thought. "Why the h\*ll did I believe what Lan Xinzi said in the first place and come all the way here?"

Come to think of it, he realized this was a huge trap that had been laid for him, and he'd been dumb enough to think that everywhere was the same if someone were to assassinate him.

"Right, the situation is no longer assassination. Someone is about to kill me right in my face!" he thought.

He struggled and gulped, and felt his mouth become parched.

"I like it."

"Glad you do, then."

Rao Yinyin pressed herself closer to him and pressed on, "So, are you going to give me the pill?"

"Yeah..." he thought. "In your dreams!"

"I, Xu Xiaoshou, would never agree to such an equal treaty!

"I took a peek at you, big deal! Peek at me if you dare, then!

His eyes were filled with anger, yet he didn't dare to voice said anger.

Rao Yinyin was extremely frustrated as well. Did the kid really think she wouldn't do anything?

"You really think you can get out of this without leaving anything behind?" she thought.

"Do you think you're Su Qianqian?"

...

At that moment, her door creaked, and a girl's grumbling voice was heard saying, "Sister Rao, what's taking you so long? Aren't you done yet?"

"Huh?"

The room became so unbelievably silent that one could have heard a needle drop.

Both Xu Xiaoshou and Rao Yinyin were shocked. Both turned their heads around and saw a face wearing an expression of shock greater than theirs.

As soon as she stepped into the room, Su Qianqian saw that Sister Rao of hers wrapped in a bathrobe, straddling someone on the bed with her long, supple legs.

As for that person whom she was straddling, one could easily tell without looking at the face...

That it was a man.

Sister Rao... and a man?

Bathrobe, on the bed?

Arrgghhh!

She cradled her face in her hands and screamed at the top of her lungs. Her voice was so loud that it shot through the clouds in the sky.

...

"My goodness, why is Su Qianqian here!" the two of them on the bed thought.

Their thoughts were oddly synchronized at the moment, and both shockingly said the same thing at the same time:

"It's not what you think it is!"

"It's not what you think it is!"

Huh?

Both of them turned to look at each other, a dazed expression on both their faces.

"Don't copy what I said!"

"Don't copy what I said!"

Rao Yinyin was speechless.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

"Sh\*\*\*, nothing is gonna clear our names now," he thought.

Su Qianqian's eyes were filled with doubt as soon as she heard the man's voice.

She undoubtedly knew Rao Yinyin's voice well, yet somehow, the voice of that man, whom she was unable to see clearly, also sounded oddly familiar.

She scanned with her will and immediately slumped to the ground.

Br-Brother Xiaoshou??

Arrggghhhh!

She cradled her head in her hands, her eyes were filled with disbelief.

"Why are Brother Xiaoshou and Sister Rao in the same room?" she thought.

"Didn't we just go our separate ways at noon?"

"Shouldn't he be in the Outer Yard?"

"Are they... having an affair?"

A million doubts ran through that little mind of hers, including all manner of knowledge that she'd somehow picked up somewhere, sometime. Her eyes were then filled with the intense fire of gossip.

She was still a minor, yet she knew a lot.

She only thought of Xu Xiaoshou as a big brother of hers and had no romantic feelings for him.



At that moment, both that big brother and big sister, both of whom she trusted more than anybody else, had actually gotten together behind her back.

This...

The expression on her face became rather twisted and complicated. A sense of loss from not being trusted, entangled with a curiosity of wanting to know more about some massive secret she'd just stumbled upon... it was a feeling that was difficult for her to place.

She covered her mouth, wanting to say something, yet was unable to say a word.

"Get off me right now. No child should be seeing this!"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression was also extremely complicated, yet he somehow clapped his hand against Rao Yinyin's thigh, like that was how things should be.

The clap was loud and crystal clear.

The smoothness of her leg left him stunned for a while.

"Sh\*\* , what have I just done!?" he screamed inwardly.

Rao Yinyin then looked at the red mark on her thigh. "You dare to hit me?" she thought. "You peeked at me and then you hit me?"

She was both angry and embarrassed and felt like all her capacity for reason was about to leave her. Her terrifying training was brought to the fore, and she immediately brought her hand down on him.

That attack definitely turn his head into mush if it were to hit him.

Xu Xiaoshou wasn't about to let her have her way. He clapped at the bed while she was still shocked and angry, using the recoil to escape from under her legs.

"Qianqian, help! Your friend is about to kill me!"