

Chapter 271: Subduing the Cat

Upon hearing this, Mu Zixi, who was standing behind Xu Xiaoshou, was unknowingly delighted. Her ponytail seemed to float a little.

Jiao Tangtang held back the strong urge to kick him, took a deep breath, and pointed at Greedy the Cat Spirit. "It cannot die!"

"Don't you worry."

Xu Xiaoshou smiled. "That goes without saying. I, Xu Xiaoshou, am a peace-loving person who never gets into any trouble. Greedy will definitely get the best treatment it deserves by my side, including eating all the best foods!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he took out a portion of cooked beef from his space ring and subtly tempted Greedy the Cat Spirit. "Hey little cat, want to have a taste?"

Jiao Tangtang fumed and almost blew up. She immediately snatched the meat from his hands.

"There is one more condition you have to agree to. You cannot feed it any meat!"

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. "Why so?"

"Do not ask. There are some things you cannot know."

"Hmm..."

With a twirl of his hand, Xu Xiaoshou retrieved the cooked piece of beef from her hands and muttered, "Well, I did not intend to give it to her anyway. I did not get this for her from the start."

He turned around and said, "Here. This is for you."

Mu Zixi's face brightened up into a huge smile immediately, temporarily forgetting all the anger from earlier.

"What is this?"

"I bought it just now."

"It looks so good!"

She took the wrapped beef from him and grinned from eye to eye as she obediently ate it. She took a step back to patiently wait for Xu Xiaoshou to end his conversation with Jiao Tangtang.

Seeing this sight, Jiao Tangtang thought, "Perhaps this is not such a bad decision after all. If this lad can treat Greedy the Cat Spirit as well as he treats this lady..."

"Meow!"

A loud cry brought her back to reality from her imagination. Her face turned dark as she saw Xu Xiaoshou forcefully shove Greedy the Cat Spirit into his arms.

“Xu Xiaoshou! Can’t you use less force?”

“Don’t worry, I know what I am doing.”

“You do not look like you know what you are doing at all! Oh, I want to kick you so much,” Jiao Tangtang thought as her eyes twitched.

She was too angry to speak.

Xu Xiaoshou yawned and said, “Alright, I have already generously agreed to your requests. Now, it is your turn to show your sincerity.”

“What do you mean by sincerity?”

“Are you going back on your word? We agreed earlier on that if I help babysit this cat, you will compensate me regularly!”

Jiao Tangtang clenched her fists and then released them silently.

She thought, “Forget it. Isn’t it just some compensation? Even though we already spent a lot on Greedy, there are still some savings left.”

“How much do you want?”

“What do you mean by how much? I am not interested in money.”

Xu Xiaoshou raised his brows and casually said, “Give me a way to contact you!”

Before Xu Tangtang could speak, a sound of grievance came from the back.

“Xu Xiaoshou, what do you think you are doing?”

Mu Zixi was furious.

She thought, “Do you think a single piece of beef can bribe me? How dare you ask for another woman’s contact information in front of me, your junior sister!”

“What does a child like you know?” Xu Xiaoshou pinched her cheeks and sent her back to where she came from.

Jiao Tangtang looked at him weirdly and jokingly asked, “Do you want my communication jade device?”

“Of course!”

Xu Xiaoshou exclaimed, “How else am I supposed to contact the both of you if I want your help to kill someone or something in the future?”

Jiao Tangtang was puzzled. “Is that all?”

“What else were you expecting?” Xu Xiaoshou bafflingly asked. Suddenly, he took a huge step back and covered his body with his arms. “What were you thinking of?”

Jiao Tangtang stared at him with her beautiful eyes wide open and thought, "This rascal... How could he look like he is the victim when he is the one asking for my communication jade device? You are the one who asked, so how come now it looks like I want to do something to you?"

"Here!"

She threw the communication device to him angrily as she turned to leave.

Locked-on, passive points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou caught the device and saw the latest notification update appear on the Information Bar.

"Just as I had thought. This woman seemed chic and cool but secretly did something to me without me knowing," he thought.

Locked-on...

"Was it to prevent me from doing something out of the blue?"

"What a joke!"

"I am a wholeheartedly upright man. What kinds of problems could I cause?"

Xu Xiaoshou laughed to himself in disdain, not taking this secret lock-on to heart at all.

After thinking about it, Jiao Tangtang was probably doing this just in case as a last resort.

What could she do even if something happened, and she returned after she left?

With Greedy the Cat Spirit in his hands, these two were bound not to be able to do anything to him.

On the contrary...

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the communication jade device in his hand and smiled.

He thought, "Things are going so smoothly today. After killing a person, I managed to recruit two helpers of unknown but strong cultivation levels."

"With a call through the communication jade device, they will not dare to not come."

"If I am getting hunted by someone or have the intention to kill someone, with just a quick call, these helpers will come to my aid."

"Ha-ha, I have never thought the day would come when I could order two helpers around like a boss."
Xu Xiaoshou laughed.

In actuality, these two were very high-level helpers.

Xu Xiaoshou shifted his gaze from Jiao Tangtang's back to the cat in his arms with a troubled mind and thoughts.

"A being similar to the grey mist figure..."

"Is this cat worth it or not?"

...

Amongst the crowd, the three swordsmen had sensed something was wrong and left the place early.

Seeing that the two did not fight, the rest of the crowd were disappointed and also left.

In no time, the crowd gathered outside the Plenty Gold Company had dispersed.

For Tiansang City, events like a crowd gathering to watch a fight that ended up not happening were considered commonplace.

For the very busy City Guards, it was even more common.

In reality, if Spiritual Cultivators were to battle, those with common sense would usually bring the battleground to the sky.

As long as no innocent bystanders were hurt or killed, or if the City Guards were busy, there would be no trouble.

Of course, the huge commotion that Xu Xiaoshou caused earlier was a different case.

Xin Gugu rested his staff on his shoulders and followed Jiao Tangtang closely behind. After they were a distance away, he asked, "Is it really a good idea to let that guy babysit Greedy the Cat Spirit?"

"Theoretically, no." Jiao Tangtang replied simply without turning her head.

Xin Gugu was momentarily speechless and realized that he felt the same way.

Even if Xu Xiaoshou was not very obedient and thought differently from regular people, it seemed...

That he was the best choice for now.

No.

There was still one more.

"Actually, his junior sister seemed like a good choice too," Xin Gugu said.

Jiao Tangtang's lips curled. When she had turned back to look after walking away from Xu Xiaoshou, she realized something.

As an enemy, this kind of person would have been very troublesome.

But if he was an ally...

"No. If Xu Xiaoshou did not appear, then that might have been the case. Since there is a better choice for us, why not?"

"The little girl might be good, but she is too weak!"

Xin Gugu stopped walking. "Xu Xiaoshou is also..."

"Have you forgotten how he easily snatched Greedy from your hands?"

Jiao Tangtang's eyes flashed coldly at Xin Gugu, scaring him and causing his neck to retract.

“That was because I wasn’t paying attention!”

Hearing this, Jiao Tangtang smiled coldly. “Even though he is slightly weird, if you try to ignore his biggest flaw, his abilities, intelligence, and agility are all rather superior!”

Xin Gugu scratched his head and thought for a while before lifting his head.

He hesitated but said, “But, this flaw, I can’t seem to ignore it...”

Click!

Jiao Tangtang’s face stiffened.

She took a deep breath and positioned her dress to reveal her snowy white leg.

She thought, “Out of so many things you could learn, you had to learn the wrong one.”

“Stand properly,” she commanded.

“What for?”

“I said to stand properly!” Jiao Tangtang raised her slender and straight leg.

Xin Gugu was confused, “Uhh...”

Pow!

Chapter 272: An Organization That Should Not Be Provoked

In a secret room on the highest floor of the Plenty Gold Company...

An old man and woman were in the room.

The woman, Qu Qing-er, looked at the dispersing crowd from the window and blurted, “Old Man Jin, how did you know that those people would not fight?”

The old man smiled. “I didn’t.”

“Instead of stepping in, why did you just calmly watch them make trouble and form crowds at the doorsteps of our company?”

“It is not that I didn’t want. It was because I couldn’t.”

“Why?” Qu Qing-er asked. “They even smashed our golden emblem. If we let them go, won’t we seem...”

Old Man Jin gave a wry smile and raised a hand to stop her from finishing her sentence.

To be honest, if it were someone else causing a ruckus in front of the Plenty Gold Company’s building, they would have instantly been chased away.

Even if they dared to stay, Plenty Gold Company, as one of the top 10 trading corporations on the mainland, would have the combat power to deal with them.

But now...

Old Man Jin sighed and asked, "Qing-er, have you heard of the demon beasts?"

"Demon beasts?"

Qu Qing-er removed her gaze from outside the window and looked at the old man. "I have heard of them, but what do they have to do with this?"

Old Man Jin smiled and replied, "Under the protection of the older generation, the young people of your generation have already forgotten the terror of the demon beasts."

"A few decades ago, Holy Divine Palace ordered that all demon beasts remaining in this world were to be eliminated, bringing peace to the land."

"It was best if these beings did not come out of their hiding. Whether it was because of Holy Divine Palace's deterrence or simply because they wanted to go into seclusion, it was more or less the same. At least, they did not dare to come out."

"Now, they are coming."

Uncertain, Qu Qing-er asked, "Demon beasts?"

"Yes."

Old Man Jin nodded and said, "The demon beasts are coming. Weren't you curious about what that Xu Xiaoshou was holding in his hands?"

Qu Qing-er's eyes lit up. She had been thinking about why two seemingly extraordinary people had been suppressed just by Xu Xiaoshou grabbing air.

"So it wasn't air..."

Old Man Jin knew what she was thinking and said, "I think what that guy was holding in his hands was a demonic beast."

Qu Qing-er was stunned. "You think... Old Man Jin, do you really think that?"

"Yes." Old Man Jin nodded.

"Demon beasts originate from extradimensional spaces. No matter how much Holy Divine Palace hates them, somehow they seem to have been gifted by the extradimensional spaces from where they came and are mostly invisible."

"These beings cannot be detected by spiritual senses either and seem to not belong to the world at all."

"Weaker ones can still be seen with the naked eye. As for the strong ones, they can't be detected even if they were standing right in front of you!"

Qu Qing-er was shocked. "What? How is it possible that even you cannot see them?"

She thought, "How do we kill demon beasts if even Sovereign Stage powerhouses are unable to see them?"

“Don’t tell me that those who killed the demon beasts were all cultivators who were stronger than Old Man Jin?”

Her heart skipped a beat when she recalled what Old Man Jin said earlier about Holy Divine Palace’s order to kill all the remaining demon beasts.

“Is Holy Divine Palace the No. 1 organization on the mainland?”

“Why is it different from how I remembered Holy Divine Palace to be?”

She finally asked, “So, what you are saying is that the two who were dressed exotically were searching for the demon beast, but the demon beast took a liking to Xu Xiaoshou, right?”

As soon as Qu Qing-er finished her sentence, she realized something amiss and panicked. “That guy could see the demon beast that even you could not!”

Old Man Jin smiled and said, “It was not only Xu Xiaoshou. Within the crowd, the swordsman hugging the famed sword could also see it.”

“It is said that those who can see these beings have great mental strength or spiritual powers that are manyfold of ordinary people. This is something that normal Spiritual Cultivators cannot compare.”

“As you know, these skills are not learnable and are inborn talents.”

“Hence, you can deduce that these people are extremely gifted and have bright futures ahead of them!”

Qu Qing-er was interested and asked, “Are you saying that I can befriend these people?”

“No!”

Old Man Jin rejected her firmly. “That is what I am about to tell you about. Do not go near these people!”

“Why?” Qu Qing-er asked curiously.

Old Man Jin sighed and “There are many rules in this world. Even the Way of the Heavens will surface once you attain Sovereign Stage.”

“These rules, or rules-like existences, can limit you and protect you at the same time.”

“Like what I said earlier about Holy Divine Palace, as mainland’s top organization, it tries to protect everyone as much as possible, but is this really for the best?”

“In dark corners that you cannot see, demon beasts still exist. Moreover, we are unable to tell how well they are prospering.”

“You people these days have already lost the chance to understand these demon beasts. Think about it. What if this force counterattacks?”

Qu Qing-er was shocked and asked, “Isn’t there still the Holy Divine Palace?”

Old Man Jin shook his head. “I’m saying what if!”

“Although the chances are low to the point that it is negligible, what if it happens?”

“Even if it is as you thought and there is no chance for this to happen, what about other similar forces? Holy Divine Palace has suppressed many forces.”

Qu Qing-er lowered her head in deep thought. She seemed to have caught what Old Man Jin was hinting at and looked shocked. “Are you saying that Plenty Gold Company is also thinking of rebelling?”

“You are thinking too much!”

Old Man Jin interrupted her. “As the top organization on the mainland, Holy Divine Palace’s title is not just for show. Even if many forces wanted to rebel, throughout the past and present, how many have succeeded?”

“Then...” Qu Qing-er did not understand. If the Plenty Gold Company did not want to rebel, then what was Old Man Jin trying to say?

Old Man Jin stroked his beard and smiled. “I just wanted to tell you that chaos is coming. In this world, there are many things that you can interfere with, but there are some you must not go near.”

“Which forces?”

“One is called Xu Yue Grey Palace, and the other is Holy Vassal!”

Qu Qing-er frowned. To be honest, she had barely heard anything about either organization.

If these organizations were so unknown such that even an intelligence agent like her had barely heard of, what was there to be afraid of?

There were many other stronger organizations on the mainland. Why was there a need to beware of these two?

Glancing at Old Man Jin again, Qu Qing-er wanted. When saw that the old man had his eyes closed, she knew he did not want to speak more on this matter.

“Xu Yue Grey Palace? Holy Vassal?”

Qu Qing-er contemplated what she had been told. According to Old Man Jin, those two organizations were not as simple what they seemed.

These might have been the organizations that Old Man Jin was referring to when he was talking about rebellions against Holy Divine Palace.

But...

How was that possible?

Holy Divine Palace was an organization that had been standing strong for 10,000 years.

“Holy Vassal...”

Qu Qing-er chewed on this name. If her intel was accurate, this organization had recently become active in Tiansang City. There had even been rumors that they had invaded Tiansang Spirit Palace.

Chapter 273: Qu Qing-er’s Guess

It seemed that the information had been suppressed. Other than this minor information, Qi Qing-er could not uncover anything else.

But then, so what?

Just because they invaded the Spirit Palace, could they shake the foundations of Holy Divine Palace?

Qu Qing-er thought it was funny and did not think about it anymore. Instead, she put all her thoughts on Xu Yue Grey Palace.

Regarding Holy Vassal, she still had some sources she could gather information from. As for Xu Yue Grey Palace, she only knew its name.

“Old Man Jin, regarding these two organizations...”

“Go investigate by yourself! Treat it as a test from headquarters!”

Qu Qing-er paused for a moment before her face lit up with happiness. Had the higher-ups at headquarters finally noticed her?

She was so excited that she almost jumped with joy. Realizing that this was a big opportunity, she immediately went to grab the old man’s arm and started to swing it.

“Old Man Jin, just tell me please,” she pleaded with her eyes glimmering. “It was not easy to get this chance. I can’t miss it!”

“No, this is a test!”

“Just a little bit? A tiny clue is enough...” Qu Qing-er let go of Old Man Jin’s hand. She moved her hand to his back and started massaging his shoulders.

Qi Qing-er had always been quite attractive. With her acting cute, how could Old Man Jin resist her charms?

“Alright, alright, just a little hint. Those two guys from earlier should be from Xu Yue Grey Palace.”

“As for the rest of the information, you will have to look for it yourself!”

A sly look flashed across Qu Qing-er’s face as she started to process that information.

“Xu Yu Grey Palace, and that invisible demon beast... Are they somehow related?”

Old Man Jin remained silent but was quite surprised.

He thought, “No wonder she was noticed by headquarters. Her mind is rather quick!”

“Although it was just a guess by headquarters... To come to this conclusion, they had to have expended a lot of resources.”

Old Man Jin only arrived in Tiansang City’s branch after spending significant effort following this tiny hint about Xu Yue Grey Palace.

Now, based on a single incident that happened outside the windows, Qu Qing-er was able to come to some conclusion.

Then again, she had the advantage of seeing it in reality to affirm her guess and subtle hints from him that made it not that difficult to guess.

Old Man Jin shook this feeling of surprise away as he realized that his over-thinking might have affected his judgment.

However, Qu Qing-er's guesses did not end there. She continued to pace around the room, counting with her fingers and muttering under her breath.

"Why would Xu Yue Grey Palace have any presence in Tiansang City? There has to be a reason."

"And Holy Vassal has been recently active in Tiansang City."

"If these two are what you, Old Man Jin, mentioned to be one of those organizations hiding in the dark, it cannot be a coincidence that they are both present at the same time in this exact location. There has to be a reason behind this!"

"What would that be?"

Qu Qing-er's brows tightened. She suddenly released them and clapped her hands in realization. "The hint is... the three swordsmen!"

"Those three men are not ordinary since they have two famed swords in their possession. Excluding the Fringe Moon Immortal City, the only other organization with this capability would be the Burial Sword Tomb."

"Why would these men arrive in Tiansang City?"

Qu Qing-er realized something was amiss. Such thoughts were definitely scary.

Fringe Moon Immortal City and Burial Sword Tomb were very different organizations from Xu Yue Grey Palace and Holy Vassal.

They were well-known and established organizations in the eastern region.

There was an idiom that went, "Of all the eastern region swordsmen, half are from Fringe Moon Immortal City, and the other is from Burial Sword Tomb!"

Was the arrival of these swordsmen a coincidence as well?

"Impossible!"

Qu Qing-er denied that thought immediately. Suddenly, she recalled a rumor that she heard outside Tiansang City and all of it made sense to her.

"White Cave?"

"Are the rumors about the Eighth Sword Deity's Fourth Sword true?"

As the thought crossed her mind, Qu Qing-er's eyes widened with shock.

Meanwhile, Old Man Jin sighed in admiration. This lady was indeed quite capable.

In such a short amount of time, she was able to understand and become enlightened. She possessed a strong aptitude.

“Nobody knows if the rumors are true. Since all these characters are here, it is inevitable that within the next two weeks, Tiansang City’s bound to get interesting.”

A flame ignited in Qu Qing-er’s heart. “If the rumors about White Cave are true...”

“No, whether they are true or not does not matter anymore.”

“Even huge organizations like Fringe Moon Immortal City and Burial Sword Tomb are putting a foot in this matter. Once the news gets out, the entire eastern region will definitely be shaken.”

“Even false rumors will become a reality.”

“In these circumstances, if I were to be part of the game, even if I cannot get huge benefits, a small one would be sufficient for me to stabilize my position at headquarters!”

“The White Cave’s quota?”

Qu Qing-er raised her head and looked at Old Man Jin, “According to convention, there will be a banquet at the city lord’s mansion where all the heads of Tiansang Prefecture will gather to divide the quota.”

“I’m afraid that this time, it will be a bloody fight.”

Old Man Jin laughed and replied, “Flesh that you can’t get even if you beg with a bowl is bloody. But flesh that you can get while eating with a bowl... Well, that’s meat!”

Qu Qing-er smiled.

Based on strength, even if their company only had one branch in Tiansang City, they were not weaker than the four major families.

This meat was something she wanted to try.

Old Man Jin waved his hand. “Go, make sure you are prepared.”

“Yes, I will not disappoint you!”

Qu Qing-er bowed and was about to leave when she remembered something. “About the guy from earlier, Xu Xiaoshou...”

“He seems to be the one that No. 32 wants to blacklist. The explosion in the back alley seemed to be related to him as well.”

Old Man Jin waved his hand without a care. “You can investigate if you want to, but that’s not important. It is more of the City Guard’s matter than yours. Remember your main task.”

As long as Xu Xiaoshou was involved with demon beasts, his ending would not be good.

The Holy Divine Palace was not just for show.

The headquarters' guess was ultimately just a guess. Even if there is a one-in-a-million chance, it was hard to say.

Even if the two organizations were up to no good, the Holy Divine Palace might not even pay them any attention.

At best, they were just two slightly stronger ants.

When it came to Holy Vassal and Xu Yue Grey palace...

Once the red-clothed and white-clothed were out, they could only become ghosts.

Old Man Jin shook his head and sighed. The current world did not know what happened at that time, but he had the chance to be a small part of it. He understood the Holy Divine Palace's strength.

It was a strength that could not be measured.

Hence, he tried to advise Qu Qing-er not to go near those people

Just like a swordsman hugging his sword and backing up immediately after seeing the demon beast, the people who came from large organizations had good intuition and foresight.

On the other hand, those who entered into the fray...

"Hehe!"

Qu Qing-er did not know what Old Man Jin was thinking about. After responding to him, she left the room with many doubts."

"Is it really ok?"

Her woman's intuition led her to feel a little lost. In all that had happened, it seemed as if the young man called Xu Xiaoshou could not be overlooked.

Two killers, a demon beast, three swordsmen, and Xu Yue Grey Palace...

After thinking about it, she wondered why it seemed that they all had something to do with that young man.

Qu Qing-er's thoughts scared her. She lightly tapped her cheeks to stop herself from over-thinking any further.

"Phew, headquarters is more important... Headquarters is more important..."

"It was not easy for Old Man Jin to get this opportunity for me. I have to do well."

"I have to perform well at the city lord's mansion's banquet and obtain a few quotas!"

As for that young man...

Qu Qing-er laughed as she found her thoughts were ridiculous. She removed any thoughts about that unimportant passer-by in her life.

"He is just Innate Stage..."

Chapter 274: Xu Xiaoshou Panics

Plenty Gold Company...

In an extravagantly decorated inn...

Xu Xiaoshou felt an affinity with the words "Plenty Gold" as he carried the unconscious man on his back and checked into two rooms with Mu Zixi.

After some washing up, he immediately plopped down on the soft, big bed.

With the huge amount of Spirit Crystals he had on him, he planned to treat himself to the best accommodation and food.

After all, Xu Xiaoshou's initial intention for this trip out of Tiansang Spirit Palace was to be a tourist.

He wanted to experience this world's customs and have a taste of the outside world.

Since he possessed too much money gained from unclean purposes, he decided that he had to spend it as quickly as possible.

Afterward, he would go for the test to obtain his Alchemist Badge and then pay a visit to the Plenty Gold Company. This city full of spiritual energy would soon see a new and rising millionaire.

"Tsk tsk!"

Xu Xiaoshou almost drooled as he daydreamed about his future wealthy and beautiful life.

He soon flipped himself around and stopped dreaming as he reached into his sleeves and took out a ring.

Such was life. In every extravagant life, there were always some pesky rascals trying to deal with from time to time.

"A killer..."

Xu Xiaoshou squinted his eyes as he looked at the ring, which he had gotten from the killer in the back alley.

He felt that he had been living a low-key life. He always acted in peace and did not make many enemies. The only person who was always appearing in front of him and disturbing his peace was...

Zhang Xinxiong.

It was a pity he was dead.

"Could it be the Zhang family?" Xu Xiaoshou wondered.

He was well aware of the four big families in the Tiansang Prefecture. The Zhangs, Chaos, Zhous, and Sus were all highly prestigious and well-known.

The talents from the younger generation of those families had mostly been enrolled into the Inner Yard of Tiansang Spirit Palace, living up to their families' names and expectations.

Xu Xiaoshou and those young talents were acquaintances.

But to tell the truth, he knew nothing much about their families and only had a very general idea about them.

He did not know how strong they. After seeing how they sent not one but two Master Stage assassins after him right after he the Spirit Palace...

The only word for them was “unfathomable.”

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the assassin lying by the door. The man had gone into a coma again after he knocked him out with a strike of his palm.

To be honest, if not for Mu Zixi’s mentioning of the matter, he would have thought it had already ended.

But then again, it was also good that there was one of them left to be interrogated once he woke up.

As much information as possible needed to be dug up from his mouth since he was going to be silenced in the end anyway.

Xu Xiaoshou looked back at the ring. His eyes lit up with excitement as he started to think.

“I wonder how much happiness a Master Stage’s possessions bring?”

He licked his lips and probed it with his spiritual senses.

“Spirit Crystals... Spirit Crystals again.... This is pushing me to my limits!”

Xu Xiaoshou felt overwhelmed by the terrifying amount and thickness of spiritual energy within the ring. It was visibly multiple times that of his current number of Spirit Crystals.

The ring contained a large space within it, and at least half of it was filled with Spirit Crystals.

Just based on a quick scan, the figure was almost close to the millions.

“Come to think of it, is there anything like a Spirit Crystal card or something in this world?”

Xu Xiaoshou thought about the Plenty Gold Company. Theoretically, there should have been something like that in existence there. The only explanation for this was that this ring’s owner loved hoarding wealth.

Taking his gaze away from the overwhelming mountain of Spirit Crystals, Xu Xiaoshou looked toward the other side of the space.

Elixirs, spiritual weapons...

From those that were familiar to those that were not, they were all heaped together in a pile.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked. How many people had this guy killed to be able to obtain so many treasures?

It was highly possible that dozens of Innate Stage cultivators could be fully equipped with this amount and variety of weapons and elixirs.

There were even a handful of Master Stage treasures.

“Phew...”

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath and calmed his overwhelmed emotions. He had finally gotten the chance to understand the wealth of someone at the Master Stage.

Since this man was an assassin, he probably would not trust anyone or any place. Thus, he likely carried all of his belongings on him.

Upon his death...

All ownership would be transferred.

Xu Xiaoshou did not probe the rest of the treasures for now. In that other half of storage space, something else caught his eye. There were a significant number of array wheels.

There were at least a hundred.

If he counted those that were already scrapped or only half-completed, they would number in the thousands.

“This man seems to be a Spirit Array Caster. Are all of these his creations?” Xu Xiaoshou blanked out a little.

He took out a few formidable-looking array wheels to examine. He immediately concluded that they were much more powerful than his Seeds on All Five Fingers skill.

“This...”

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked. If Jie had not helped him back then, and he continued to treat this man as his own training target, would the assassin have used all of these on him?

“F*ck!”

“One cannot mess with this at all!”

Even if he possessed a Master Physique, Xu Xiaoshou was bound to explode with no remains left if these things were used on him.

Even Sovereigns were likely unable to withstand the power of this attack.

“Spirit Array Caster...”

Xu Xiaoshou went into deep thought. He suddenly realized that this profession might just be the vilest... No, the coolest one.

To be able to fight with all these wheels prepared beforehand...

If he were a Spirit Array Caster, he would first seal the place up with the black lotus from earlier and then throw out everything.

Though, one might not be enough.

What about three, 10, or a hundred?

“Oh my god...”

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked by his own thoughts. He guessed that every Spirit Array Caster had thought the same way.

It seemed that being able to kill this man might have to be an accident.

“Phew...”

“Careless again!”

Initially, Xu Xiaoshou thought he was unbeatable with his Master Physique. After suffering a loss in front of the grey mist figure, he became humbler.

After seeing the wealth of a real Master Stage, he realized that he, a cultivating upstart, was nothing compared to a real pro.

If not for Jie...

“As expected, cherishing one’s life is the way to go. In future battles, there shall no longer be any testing of waters. Even in ring matches, there are bound to be accidents.”

“Delivering the killing blow right from the start, showing all the cards, using lightning-quick moves to kill the opponent...”

Xu Xiaoshou thought as he stared at the ring in his hand.

“From now on, his secret weapon will be my secret weapon!”

He tightened his grasp on the ring as if a belief was growing in his heart and gave a firm nod.

“Yes, just like that!”

“This world is cruel. I cannot be soft-hearted and merciful!”

“Oh...” Just then, Xiao Sixteen groaned. He looked like he could wake up anytime soon.

Xu Xiaoshou panicked. After learning a Master’s prowess, he had stopped underestimating people at that level and was terrified.

This man was a Master and the other assassin’s partner.

Needless to say, he possessed the ability to instantly kill.

“Not good!”

Upon seeing that Xiao Sixteen was going to wake up, Xu Xiaoshou immediately flew toward him and dug his fingers into both of his shoulders.

Xu Xiaoshou was still worried even after handicapping both his shoulders, so he sliced his thighs with his fingers.

With four limbs down, he should have been unable to move.

Still feeling unsettled, Xu Xiaoshou pushed his forearms against Xiao Sixteen’s neck.

Even after all of that, he was still worried. Hence, he pushed his hand further and cut into half of the man's aorta.

Blood poured out like a fountain.

As Xiao Sixteen's mind registered the intense pain coursing through the various parts of his body, he almost exploded in pain.

"Argh!!"

"What the f*ck?"

Xiao Sixteen spasmed. His eyes widened as he stared in fear at the serious face right before his eyes. It was as if the death reaper had arrived.

"Xu... Xu Xiaoshou?"

Chapter 275: What Did I Do Wrong Again?

Xiao Sixteen was extremely dumbfounded.

Before he went unconscious, the last thing he vaguely remembered was Jiao Tangtang's powerful kick. Once he woke up, he wondered why the person in front of him was of the other gender.

Were the two of them in cahoots?

Did Xu Xiaoshou actually have such strong backup?

No, that couldn't be it.

Now was not the time to think about it.

Xiao Sixteen tried to look down but felt that his head was very heavy as if it would fall off, so he lifted it immediately.

Scanning his body with his spiritual senses, he was shocked. This young man had handicapped his four limbs to the point that he had almost become a straight pole.

Why?

Xiao Sixteen was confused. His mind was filled with questions. He did not understand.

Even if he had been captured by a powerful enemy, fallen into a deep trench, or been lost at sea after a ship had capsized, the torture wouldn't have been this extreme. Why was he being tortured to this extent even before any interrogations had begun?

Was this guy still a human?

Xiao Sixteen was in so much pain that he was grinding his teeth and could not speak.

The throbbing pain from his body reminded him of the dark times when he was still training to be an assassin.

Even the psychopath back then was not this ruthless.

Now, he could not do anything but accept his fate.

Xiao Sixteen was as still as a stone as his heart sank to the bottom.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at his uncertain face and waited until the Information Bar's swiping slowed before facing him and forcing out a smile.

"Can you move?"

Move...

'I f*cking cannot move even if I wanted to!' Xiao Sixteen silently screamed.

'Would you dare move if you were in my shoes?'

Xiao Sixteen cursed frantically on the inside. He really wanted to try moving, but blood kept pouring out of his neck.

'Spiritual source!'

'That's it! Spiritual source can save me!'

Just as this thought came to his mind, he heard Xu Xiaoshou speak very cautiously. "From now on, you must not fiddle around, including your spiritual source! Once you move, I will panic!"

He thought, 'This is someone at Master Stage!'

'He's a Master Stage killer!'

Despite knowing that this man would not be able to cause much trouble, Xu Xiaoshou was still extra careful just in case.

He was afraid.

He was more afraid of the hundreds of array wheels and the nearly Sovereign Stage spirit-gathering arrays than he was of this man who could also be hiding some secret tricks up his sleeves.

The man could not die just yet. There were too many questions left to be answered.

"Whatever I ask, you must reply to me. Okay?" Xu Xiaoshou asked in a gentle tone, allowing both parties to relax.

Xiao Sixteen's face darkened. He was furious and shaking with anger. He wanted to resist.

Unfortunately, the feeling of helplessness from his body and the finger as sharp and shiny as a knife on his neck made him feel very vulnerable.

He did not even dare to use his spiritual source.

"Okay..."

Hearing the slight raspiness in Xiao Sixteen's voice, Xu Xiaoshou realized he might have been overly cautious.

He looked at the man's neck, which was almost sliced open. He immediately took out a jar of honey and spread it over his wound. "What is your name?"

Feeling the coolness on his neck, Xiao Sixteen finally regained more consciousness and opened his mouth with difficulty. "Xiao Sixteen."

"Was the assassin in the back alley your partner?"

Xiao Sixteen was shocked. He suddenly realized that Seventh Brother had most likely been killed by this man. His heart instantly sank.

"Yes."

"How old are you?"

"32."

Xu Xiaoshou was about to follow up and ask about the Zhang family's situation, but was shocked. "That old!"

The man looked like a youth barely in his twenties.

Xiao Sixteen mumbled, "Huh..."

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

The room was filled with silence. Xu Xiaoshou awkwardly realized that he had interrupted his own interrogation.

Actually, he had not learned much about interrogation techniques.

The effects of Amber Juice were extremely good. Within a few seconds, Xiao Sixteen's wounds started to heal and rapidly close.

Xu Xiaoshou stopped bothering with using any interrogation techniques and instead decided to freestyle his questions. "Were you guys sent by the Zhang family?"

Xiao Sixteen hesitated a little. Even in such a sticky situation, his assassin professionalism and training taught him not to expose such important information.

"Ss... Argh!"

"F*ck! What are you doing?"

Xiao Sixteen had no time to think before he shockingly realized that the wound that had started to heal on his neck had been cut open by Xu Xiaoshou again.

It was a fast, direct cut.

"F*c..."

Resented, Passive Points +1.

“Don’t move,” Xu Xiaoshou said with his hands shaking. He was not a psychopath. This interrogation was turning a little bloody, but for his own safety...

“Let me ask you one last time. Are you guys...”

“Yes, yes, yes. The head of the Zhang family, Zhang Taiying!”

Xiao Sixteen was shaking as he blurted the information out even before this demonic youth finished asking.

“Zhang Taiying placed a wanted poster on Dark Street with a reward of 50,000 spirit crystals for your head. I’m just...”

“50,000?” Xu Xiaoshou’s hands shook a little, which inevitably caused the neck wound to become deeper, and exclaimed, “Am I so cheap that you guys came after me for a measly reward of 50,000?”

Xiao Sixteen took in a deep breath. He had already stopped thinking about the pain in his body.

He felt that if this continued, he would be beheaded.

“Just kill me now! Stop toying with me!” Xiao Sixteen blurted in despair.

He thought, ‘If you want to interrogate, please interrogate properly. Stop shaking your hands. It hurts so much!’

Xu Xiaoshou immediately spread some more honey on him and apologized. “I’m so sorry. Please continue with what you were saying. I did not mean to do that.”

Xiao Sixteen was speechless.

Resented, Passive Points +1.

“Continue talking!” Xu Xiaoshou raised his voice slightly.

“All right, all right...” Xiao Sixteen paused for a moment and said, “I am an assassin from Dark Street. I didn’t come after you for the spirit crystals but because of the Sovereign Pill.”

“Sovereign Pill?”

“That’s right!”

Xiao Sixteen nodded, afraid that any hesitation would lead to more drastic actions from this lunatic in front of him. He rushed to continue speaking.

“The Sovereign Pill containing the Zhang Family’s Ancestral Bear Spirit is much stronger than all the other Sovereign Pills as it allows cultivators to better understand and study the way of the heavens.”

“This is something that all Masters dream to have, even those from the big organizations.”

“Needless to say, for us small assassins, that is the biggest treasure!”

Xu Xiaoshou recalled Zhang Xinxiong’s Ancestral Bear Spirit, as well as Yuan Tou’s abnormal transformation. He roughly figured out what this was all about.

Xiao Sixteen didn't dare to be hesitant. This guy was too scary. If he hesitated any more, he might be subjected to even more torture.

The wound on his neck had healed slightly, so he felt that he could move a little. He looked down and tried to take out the reward deposit, the Sovereign Pill, from his ring.

When Xu Xiaoshou saw him looking at this ring, he misunderstood and was extremely horrified. Although he panicked, his movements were quick. He immediately struck. His hands went through Xiao Sixteen's chest.

"Don't move!"

"Oof—"

Xiao Sixteen immediately puked a mouthful of blood onto Xu Xiaoshou as his eyes widened with fear. He lifted his head.

'I...'

'What did I do wrong this time?'

Chapter 276: A Show Within a Show

It seemed that Plenty Gold Company's inn had extremely high-quality soundproofing.

No matter how loud Xiao Sixteen screamed, no one came to his rescue.

In the room...

Xu Xiaoshou carefully helped apply medicine to the man's wounds, silently praying that he would not move around.

He thought, 'He is afraid!'

'But I also want the intel!'

'If Xiao Sixteen does not cooperate, then he can only die!'

'It would be such a waste if he dies like this.'

With a look of seriousness, Xu Xiaoshou said, "I am saying this sincerely. You really cannot move around. Once you move, I will panic..."

Xiao Sixteen was on the verge of breaking down.

He thought, 'What do you mean you will panic if I move? Is this something a human being should say?'

'I only want to retrieve the Sovereign Pill from my ring. That's all!'

'I was being so sincere, but what did I get in return...'

Instinctively, he wanted to look down at his wound, but the fear from deep within his soul stopped him immediately.

'I must not move!'

'If I move again, I will really die!'

Xu Xiaoshou saw the wound recover gradually and sighed. "Okay, you can continue. You were talking about Zhang Taiying? What cultivation level is he?"

"Sovereign."

No wonder. As the head of one of Tiansang City's most powerful families, he was definitely not weak.

Xu Xiaoshou thought about for a moment and asked, "How many Sovereigns and Masters are there in the Zhang family?"

Xiao Sixteen's eyes looked hollow as he replied instantly, "On the surface, there seem to be only Zhang Taiying. There might be more hidden within the shadows. I'd estimate at least three Sovereigns."

"How about Masters?"

"I'm afraid the number is in the double digits."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless. This was indeed a big family.

From what he knew, on Shengshen Continent, as long as someone had attained the Master Stage, he or she already possessed the foundations to be a founder of an organization.

The organizations at the top of the pyramid would have the backing of Sovereign Cultivators.

Nevertheless, the Zhang family was a single silo organization. No matter how strong they were, they could never compare to organizations with a strong and robust educational system like the Spirit Palace. Hence, they basically only had Sovereigns that could be counted on one hand.

For the Zhang family to have at least three Sovereigns, it was sufficient to show their dominance and prowess.

It could be said that there were many talents within the family.

An organization as big and established as Tiansang Spirit Palace only had a few Sovereigns.

Even if those few senile guys were to be counted, it would only be slightly more than 10.

As for those who really could fight and were still strong, Xu Xiaoshou had only seen four...

The big four.

That was all.

If the Zhang family had at least three...

Xu Xiaoshou immediately retracted his plans to counterattack the Zhangs and chucked that dangerous thought aside.

It was not wise. What if they hid well, and there was a fourth, fifth...

What would he do then?

It would be like committing suicide.

Xu Xiaoshou stopped thinking and looked at Xiao Sixteen.

The man was as still as a stone. As long as Xu Xiaoshou was silent, the man was also silent. It was as if he had completely given up on struggling and only wanted to be an answering machine.

But then...

Locked-on, Passive Points +1

He might have been able to deceive Xu Xiaoshou, but he could not deceive the all-knowing Information Bar.

With this notification, Xiao Sixteen's acting was immediately exposed.

Although Xu Xiaoshou had never let his guard down the whole time...

'Such a pity. Though I didn't plan to give you a chance from the start...'

'But if you continue to act and think of ways to escape, then even that one in a million chance that I might let you go will never appear!'

'Ugh.'

Xu Xiaoshou inwardly sighed.

Initially, he wasn't sure if he could bring himself to end Xiao Sixteen's life after the questioning. Now, it seemed that...

It was no longer a concern.

"Continue talking. Tell me what the Zhang family knows about me and my actions."

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes kept moving as if he was in deep thought about what Xiao Sixteen had said.

Xiao Sixteen's voice remained hollow as he continued. "The Zhang family not only put up a reward for your head in Dark Street but, more importantly, in Three Incenses as well."

"Three Incenses?" Xu Xiaoshou was puzzled.

"Yes, Three Incenses is the most mysterious assassin organization on the mainland. It is coined as the divine palace of all assassins. Those wanted by this organization can be considered dead."

"Why?"

Xiao Sixteen finally looked interested and glanced at Xu Xiaoshou as if looking at a dead man and continued speaking.

"Three Incenses has split its wanted list into eight levels. The first five levels are for show and not for people to place their rewards on, so no one has ever taken up those jobs. The last three are the scariest."

"This was how the name Three Incense came about. Dead Man, Evil Man, and Decayed Corpse are the sixth, seventh, and eighth levels of the wanted list, respectively."

“Even the lowest level, Dead Man, has a reward of at least a million spirit crystals!”

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned as pale as a white sheet upon hearing this.

A million spirit crystals?

Was he worth that much money?

He had the urge to chop his own head off and hand it over for the reward.

The Zhang family had to be crazy. How much money did they have to be able to put up such a reward for a weakling like him?

“A reward of millions of crystals...”

Xu Xiaoshou knew that assassins were extremely hungry for rewards.

If a mere 50,000 attracted the likes of Master assassins like Li Seven and Xiao Sixteen, what about a million?

What kind of a joke was this?

“You are lying!”

Xiao Sixteen’s lips curled into a smile. He finally saw fear from this devil’s eyes. It was a beautiful sight.

He thought, ‘If this fear can also be seen when I deal with him later, that would be perfect.’

“Lying to you?”

“I do not need to lie to you. What I said earlier is the truth. The reason you are still alive is that the big bosses at Three Incenses look down on your abilities.”

“To them, killing someone is a sign of status and image!”

“With your abilities, they do not even want to lift a finger.”

Xiao Sixteen chuckled and added, “That’s where we are different. As a minor assassin, I need resources and money!”

Xu Xiaoshou seemed to understand and said, “Everyone has their own troubles and problems. It must have been hard on you as an assassin.”

Xiao Sixteen muttered, “Huh?”

He thought, ‘What is this?’

‘Is he consoling me?’

‘Do I f*cking need your empathy?’

‘I am a cold-blooded killer. I do not need this!’

Suspected, Passive Points +1

Resisted, Passive Points +1

Xu Xiaoshou sighed and patted Xiao Sixteen's shoulder. After a while, he asked, "Is there anything else you want to say?"

Xiao Sixteen shook his head.

"No."

"I've said everything that needs to be said. I have also given you all of the Zhang family's intel."

"Besides the Zhang family, what you really need to take note of is the Three Incenses. That organization will not stop until you are dead."

Xiao Sixteen had not dared to lift a single finger from the beginning until now.

Aside from still feeling pain, he could feel this young man's medicine working very well between his muscles.

Even with his four limbs broken, he could now move a little.

Just a little more...

Xiao Sixteen silently plotted as he lowered his gaze. He was trying not to release any killing intent and only display signs of despair.

The despair was so strong that it was numbing him.

Xu Xiaoshou took his hands off Xiao Sixteen's shoulder. He appeared to be in deep thought as he started muttering under his breath.

"Three Incenses..."

"Shkk!"

As he was muttering, he swiftly sliced his hands across Xiao Sixteen's neck, causing the man's head to fly.

Chapter 277: So Many Ways to Become Stronger, I Wonder Which Is More Comfortable?

Dong!

The object landed on the floor and rolled a few times before stopping, leaving a trail of bloody red.

Xiao Sixteen's eyes were the same as they had been before he died. They were filled with despair.

All the unbelievable thoughts and fear...

Did not exist at all.

All that ceased to exist due to Xu Xiaoshou's extreme nervousness and fear.

Foosh! Foosh!

Infernal Heavenly Flames burned again.

Ever since Xu Xiaoshou acquired Infernal Heavenly Flames, other than using it in alchemy, it was mostly used to incinerate corpses.

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he did not do the Infernal Heavenly Flames justice.

The well-known Infernal Heavenly Flames, which were able to burn anything under the sun, had become something that was unable to catch up with his footsteps.

Fortunately, the flames could still be able to be used for alchemy. The quality and texture of the medicine made from these flames were not affected at all.

“Ugh...”

Just as he was having these thoughts, he felt a pang of nausea.

Xu Xiaoshou was still not used to killing, even though he had killed so many people.

In the past, it seemed to all just be fireworks.

As long as they were far away, and he could not see it, he did not have many reactions to it.

Now, it was right smack next to him with blood spurting out from the beheading of the assassin. It was a little too intense for him.

“Phew!”

Calming himself down, the Infernal Heavenly Flames quickly burned all the bloodstains away. After washing up, Xu Xiaoshou returned to lie on his big bed.

“The Zhang family, Three Incenses...”

To tell the truth, regarding the Zhang family, he had half the mind to just charge into their place and kill all their leaders.

From Outer Yard to Inner Yard and finally Tiansang City, all these assassinations left Xu Xiaoshou feeling very frustrated.

As for the level skills...

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the little white cat sitting to the side of the big bed.

The cat had been showing displaying an expression of enjoyment whenever it was beside him, even without seeming to need and food.

He thought, “Do not be fooled by its silly look! It has strong backing and support!”

“Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu...”

“The two of them looked like they should be able to defend against Sovereigns. Even if they cannot, I will snatch their staff and purple chain away. They are bound to have some transformation.”

“But it seems that this is still not enough for the situation at hand.”

Xu Xiaoshou had a headache. It was going to be a big problem if the Zhang family had at least three Sovereigns.

Even if he were to include Jie, he could only come up with only three at Master Stage from his side.

Whether Jie even had the power of a Sovereign was not confirmed.

Someone who could defeat a Master at Astronomical Level might not be able to do the same for a Master of Ying Yang State or Star Worship State. Sovereign was the strongest out of these stages.

The maximum number of Sovereigns that he could bring out from his side might not even be close to the Zhang family's maximum.

"As expected, it is a little challenging for one man to want to go against an entire family."

"I must not be impulsive!"

Xu Xiaoshou calmed himself down again. If there was only one Sovereign, Zhang Taiying, he would definitely not show any mercy.

Now, there was a mismatch of battle power between the two sides. He was getting a little anxious.

"I just have to wait a little more..."

"I am still young. I have time to play with them."

"To be honest, this situation is not that bad. Having a few assassins to occasionally deliver their treasures can help make life much more interesting as well."

Xu Xiaoshou then thought about Three Incenses.

"What kind of a broken organization is it? Is it the holy ground for assassins?"

Xu Xiaoshou had heard of this organization before. Honestly, they were even more popular than organizations like Holy Vassal.

That was only limited to rumors. Xu Xiaoshou had no idea what was happening on the inside.

He had really not expected that this kind of absurd situation would befall him.

He was wanted by the Three Incenses.

"A dead man is worth a million."

Xu Xiaoshou's mood soured.

Anyone who had a knife up his or her neck would feel highly uncomfortable.

"This broken Zhang family. Why are they so good at causing me trouble?"

Since he could not touch Zhang Taiying for now, Xu Xiaoshou had to focus and work on himself.

Improving one's abilities and skills was one of the most conventional ways to eliminate enemies.

Xu Xiaoshou's current cultivation level, even though he had just come out of Tianxuan Gate not too long ago, was already at the maximum of the early stage due to the daily accumulation of power from the Breathing Technique.

It was likely he would be able to attain the mid-stage by sleeping for a few more nights.

This was already under the scenario of not taking any elixirs to aid in cultivation.

"It's too fast," Xu Xiaoshou thought.

"When I battle, I do not rely on my cultivation level's support. Even if I train and maximize my cultivation level, as someone who does not require it..."

"To be honest, it would not make much of a difference."

"The only benefit it will bring is that the energy reserve will be greater."

"With the High Spirits skill, as long as I do not frequently use the newly invented Big Fire Ball, the energy reserves should be sufficient."

"If there comes a time where I need to use Big Fire Ball many times..."

"I might just as well let Jie do the fighting!"

"That kind of situation would probably be too much to handle by myself."

"Leveling up of cultivation levels will not bring too much benefit, but, on the other hand, appearing to be only of the Innate Stage could foreseeably bring surprises to my opponents."

"My opponents have unknowingly risen to those of the Master Stage, but my cultivation level is still the same as ever. This can trick so many of them."

Xu Xiaoshou decided to let this merely Innate illusion stay for a while longer as it seemed to be working pretty well.

Theoretically, this was likely not a sustainable strategy

Considering the situation, incorrect intel would work for a while.

A Master, no matter how careful he or she was when facing an early-stage Innate, would inevitably underestimate the opponent.

During a battle of this scale, who would let go of such an opportunity?

Xu Xiaoshou definitely would not. Agility would not, and Master Physique would even more so not allow it.

"Since cultivation level should not be raised, then there can only be improvements in other aspects."

Xu Xiaoshou took out the jade scrolls for Infernal Heavenly Flames – White Flames and Dragon Melting Realm.

He had studied these two scrolls before. The prerequisite for learning Dragon Melting Realm was that he had to cultivate and grasp White Flames first.

This skill was indeed very powerful, but it was very difficult to learn. There were also some preparations that he lacked.

“Advanced Infernal Fire Seed...”

Xu Xiaoshou shook a little. He read that right. This thing had an additional “Advanced” in front of “Infernal Fire Seed.”

As for how advanced...

Xu Xiaoshou did not know, and he had no plans to ask, let alone think about it.

The silhouette at Goose Lake was still imprinted in his mind. For Xu Xiaoshou to willingly learn this broken skill...

It wouldn't happen unless Elder Sang or Zhang Taiying immediately appeared.

Thinking of them, Xu Xiaoshou took out the rings from Li Seven and Xiao Sixteen.

He had not seen Xiao Sixteen's yet, but he had found many things of interest to him in Li Seven's ring.

“Spirit-gathering array...”

If he learned how to use spirit-gathering arrays, prepared some Big Fire Ball arrays beforehand, and threw hundreds of them into Zhang Taiying's room while he was sleeping...

The fact that Big Fire Ball could not be continuously used shattered his perfect dreams.

This idea was not impossible to execute. The only thing was that he had to grasp the way of the spirit-gathering arrays.

Xu Xiaoshou did not think that it would be difficult. He was getting a little excited.

In the past, whenever he was faced with difficult challenges, the red interface in his mind would settle it for him.

The Strengthen he got before the Windcloud Competition, Eternal Vitality after Infernal Fire Seed, the Cooking Expert skill right after entering the Spiritual Library Division...

It was as if this Passive system had a conscience and knew what he truly wanted...

To the extent that whatever he required was given to him.

Wherever there was a shortage, the gap was filled up.

If that was the case, would it still work this time and give him something like a Spirit-gathering Array Expert?

Xu Xiaoshou put down the rings in his hand and immediately stood on the bed. He closed all the windows and turned the soundproof barrier to the maximum.

Self-cultivation may have seemed to be hard work, but for Xu Xiaoshou, it was a waste of time.

He looked at the red interface within his Origin Residence with high expectations.

“Please excuse me. I have not visited you for such a long time!”

Chapter 278: Bulls*^t Elder, Angelic Xiaoshou

“Passive Points: 182,020.”

Xu Xiaoshou sighed heavily.

It wasn't enough.

This was the result of the past dozen days of hard work since he came out from the Tianxuan Gate, but it still was not comparable to the few hours at the Black Cliff.

During this period of time, he had still purposely tried to obtain points. If not, then this figure would not have even been half of the current amount.

In those ten days, Xu Xiaoshou did not simply wait to get off the mountains.

Every day, he would stroll for at least three rounds in the Outer Yard, with each round stopping for at least half an hour. It was a goal that he had set for himself.

The first two days were all right. Whenever people said that it was the legend of the Other Yard, Xu the Beast, they would worship and show admiration.

Each round earned him at least 7,000 to 8,000 Passive Points.

After that, the situation took a downturn. No matter how huge the Outer Yard was, there came a time when he had strolled way too often.

Within just two to three days, Xu Xiaoshou had become familiar to everyone.

Initially, some people were still surprised.

“Woah, come look at this quick. It's the legend of the Outer Yard, Xu Xiaoshou!”

“Ahhhh, my idol, Xu Nine Heads! Ahhh I'm dead!”

“...”

Including Xu Little Poison and Xu Big Mouth, the nicknames were endless.

Toward the back, they did not even start to call out any names anymore.

It had become a common sight for everyone.

Xu Xiaoshou was worried.

In those few days, he had not even managed to garner 10,000 passive points. This aggressive way of earning passive points did not seem to be efficient.

But was Xu Xiaoshou someone who gave up easily?

He had never-ending ideas.

Upon realizing that this method of obtaining Passive Points was inefficient, he used his status as a senior of the Outer Yard, got permission from the elders, and started gathering crowds to collect money... No, he conducted classes.

This was a senior of the Outer Yard!

Even at his first meeting, Ye Xiaotian expressed interest in allowing Xu Xiaoshou to enter the Inner yard. If not for Elder Sang's objection, his status would have been even higher.

Would a Spiritual Cultivator with such high status actually conduct a class for a bunch of newbies in the Outer Yard?

The whole Outer Yard was immediately excited.

On the day of the class, the roads and streets were empty.

Chuyun Platform was temporarily used, once again exhibiting the grand scenery.

After some rambling, Xu Xiaoshou was satisfied. He had gained nearly 70,000 Passive Points, earning his keep for the day.

As for the type of content that he taught...

As someone who cultivated by breathing, what kind of cultivating content could he possibly teach?

As someone who had gone through nine years of compulsory education, even if he had not taught before, he had listened in classes.

He perfectly imparted a whole chunk of psychology teachings and philosophical worldview to the bunch who were so eager to learn.

Misleading people was something Xu Xiaoshou would not do, but he had many experiences on how to counterattack enemies, feign weakness, and defeat the strong with the weak.

After that, he would teach the students a little bit of philosophy before everyone started to discuss the world and themselves.

Even those elders who had secretly come to sit in were shocked and impressed.

"Xu Xiaoshou's inner worldview is actually quite developed."

"As expected, we should not judge a book by its cover..."

After the class ended, the Outer Yard disciples were all filled with excitement and started talking to each other.

"It's too deep, as to be expected from Xu the Beast. His teachings almost made me feel like attaining enlightenment on the spot!"

"Yes, yes, I also felt that I had almost gotten enlightenment. What a pity that I seem to be lacking in something."

“Yes, it is like that. Not only was the way of the heavens explained clearly at the end, the battle strategies at the start, as well as the psychological battles, were all very useful and practical.”

“Uh-huh, this was really worth it. It was a free lesson. I thought Xu the Beast was really a big demon king. Who would have thought that he is actually such a kind-hearted person?”

“What a pity for those that did not come. From now on, Xu Xiaoshou is the biggest idol in my heart!”

“...”

After everyone started to cool down from the intense discussion, someone realized that something was amiss.

“Hmm? Why did everyone speak as if they achieved enlightenment, but no one actually did?”

“Yeah, what you said makes sense. Usually, when the elders teach, amongst a few hundreds, there would be at least one or two who would breakthrough. This time, there were thousands of people...”

“Pei, it must be that Xu Senior’s way is too difficult for us to comprehend and practice!”

“Yes, that has to be the case!”

“But...”

Someone asked, “Senior Xu obtained breakthroughs very quickly, so why did he not teach about the way of cultivation?”

This time, everyone was stunned and speechless.

After a long silence, someone slowly began to speak.

“Maybe Senior Xu...”

“He is a legendary talent! He is the kind that could obtain a few breakthroughs within a short time!”

The group of people quickly became alert. One by one, they started to understand.

“Yes, this must be the case!”

“I heard that in the past, Senior Xu was only Level Three, which is even weaker than me. If it was normal cultivation, how could he have a breakthrough to Innate in just one month?”

“Tsk! What you said seems to be true. Did he really achieve Innate within three months?”

“I’m not sure. He might have hidden his level but quickly leveling up has been confirmed”

Hearing all these inevitably triggered Xu Xiaoshou’s recollection.

Someone finally seemed to understand and said, “The harder it is to understand what Xu Senior said must mean that it requires a much deeper understanding, so it must be useful.”

“Even after Senior Xu conducted a class for more than a thousand people, no one could still breakthrough. What does this mean?”

“It means that Senior Xu’s way is the real way of the heavens!”

“This difficult-to-understand way is the real way of fitting into this world. If it was easy to understand, then wouldn’t it mean that everyone was like Xu Xiaoshou?”

“You guys remember those elders and what they taught... Out of a hundred, at least a few could breakthrough. What does this mean?”

“Dog sh*t!”

“The way of the elders is dog sh*t! The way of Xu Xiaoshou is the real way of the heavens!”

After this explanation was revealed, everyone showed signs of realization.

If they were able to teach as well as Senior Xu, why were they only mere elders in the Spirit Palace?

This Outer Yard senior was bound to break out of Tiansang City and into Dongtianwang City and would definitely be stronger than the elders.

Thereafter, everyone started their intense discussions and debates again.

Those who were the first to give such explanations were recognized as Xu Xiaoshou’s first successors. They immediately became Outer Yard’s top students.

Night falling did not seem to deter these people’s passion. Discussions about dog sh*t elders, way of the heavens, and Xu Xiaoshou were continuously being brought up.

Xu Xiaoshou’s Perception encompassed the four corners. He did not sleep but was yawning in a corner and earning Passive Points.

When he had finally stopped yawning and was about to return to his residences, it was nighttime. The surrounding residences had finally quietened down.

In his bedroom...

The reason for such discussions to die down was because some sharp eyes saw darkened faces outside their windows.

Yes, not just one, but a few.

Those were...

The elders!

Chapter 279: Prize Drawing Moment

After the memories were interrupted, Xu Xiaoshou recovered and looked again at the Passive Points at the bottom of the Information Bar.

He had 100,000 Passive Points, which was not too shabby.

Compared to the difficulty of obtaining Passive Points before, it was already a huge leap forward.

To get more points at once, he figured that he had to wait for the next secret realm similar to the Black Cliff to appear.

'So, how am I going to spend the money?' Xu Xiaoshou wondered.

It was impossible to use it all for the lottery.

The wheel was quite expensive. One draw cost 5,000. As such, making 10 consecutive draws would cost him 50,000. Xu Xiaoshou didn't intend to have 30 consecutive draws.

Even if he could draw something valuable, he would still be unable to upgrade.

Passive Skills that couldn't be upgraded to Master Stage were not very helpful for his current strength...

Unless...

Unless he was very lucky and drew a special passive technique like Passive Fist.

Xu Xiaoshou fell silent when he saw the stored value of Passive Fist.

This special Passive Skill had never been activated.

The accumulated points remained the same as the last time he saw it. They were completely unchanged.

It meant that the various attacks Xu Xiaoshou had been a part of the past few days were not enough to add even a single point.

It was horrible.

It was hard for Xu Xiaoshou to imagine how terrifying this Passive Skill would be when it was activated.

He wanted to test it out, but he couldn't let go of the "π" that had endless meanings.

'Let's just leave it!'

He forcefully pulled back his line of sight and looked at it no longer. He started to ponder the allocation of the Passive Points again.

Ten consecutive draws had to be done once. That was the bare minimum, even if it was the last thing he would do.

'Bah, bah, bah!'

There were still 50,000 points, so he decided that he needed to ask for Passive Points at the Master Stage.

In so doing, in addition to Eternal Vitality, Strength, and Agility, he would obtain another powerful weapon.

As for which one, Xu Xiaoshou hadn't thought it through yet.

Maybe it would be a new one, or maybe it would be the old one...

'In that case, I will have more than 10,000 Passive Points left.'

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the Awakening Pool. He thought that the Awakening Pool was no doubt the most helpful if he wanted to substantially increase his combat power.

Xu Xiaoshou periodically remembered the scene in which the Berserk Giant wrestled the grey mist figure to the ground.

From the shattered memory fragments, he could still feel the terrifying power of the Awakening Technique.

A Master had no way to withstand the damage inflicted by the golden light giant.

Xu Xiaoshou wondered if he would have a body like Aje with the puppet armor when he could control the Berserk Giant soberly and intelligently.

In that case...

“Hiss!”

Xu Xiaoshou swallowed some saliva. An expectant expression was displayed on his face.

‘If I can achieve the feat, I will be able to kill any human being, and even Buddha, if they intend to stop me!’

‘No, I can’t dwell on this thought any longer. I have to be practical!’

Xu Xiaoshou felt intoxicated again. He went to the commerce center and exchanged five Passive Keys.

‘God, please bless me...’

Xu Xiaoshou, who was standing on the bed, suddenly jumped off. He paced back and forth in the room for a long time before he stopped at the bathroom entrance.

‘The bathroom is an unlucky place that has gathered all the unfortunate forces in the room.’

‘But...’

Xu Xiaoshou recalled his unlucky bets, which were as bad as those black sheiks. He had stopped believing that he could obtain European Emperor Possessed anymore.

‘Perhaps...’

‘Negative plus negative can result in a positive!’

‘Oh yeah!’

‘European Emperor Possessed!’

After quickly inserting five Passive Keys one after the other, Xu Xiaoshou squatted down while holding his head with his hands and keeping his legs apart. He laid flat on the ground to adopt a pose that could avoid the great evil.

‘Hmm...’

Nothing resembling blackness or unusual phenomenon happened.

It was deadly quiet in the room.

Xu Xiaoshou felt lost, which meant that he couldn’t obtain proficient Passive Skills.

He woke up from his spirit array dream.

He collected his wits and looked at the Information Bar.

Thank you for visiting!

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

Thank you for visiting!

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

One more key!

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

Thank you for visiting!

Four more keys...

Bang!

He landed on the ground head first and knocked a large hole on the floor.

“What a scam!”

“Fifty thousand passive points are gone, which are the most I’ve staked. Damn system... You pay me back!”

Xu Xiaoshou roared like thunder, which was even more heart-wrenching than Xiao Sixteen’s roar.

Fortunately, he had turned the soundproof barrier to the maximum, so the loud noise was not heard by the outsiders.

“Four keys!”

After venting his anger, Xu Xiaoshou came back to his senses and inserted the rest of the Passive Keys into the hole!

Thank you for four consecutive kills!

Bang!

Xu Xiaoshou hit the ground with both knees. His soul and mind felt troubled.

“They are all gone...”

After the price increase, it made his heart ache every time he used a Passive Key. It was apparent that Xu Xiaoshou had lost control and become obsessed with the bets.

Looking at the 130,000 Passive Points in the Information Bar, he didn't hesitate to exchange 10 keys.

The plan wasn't always perfect, but people tended to act in such an impulsive manner.

With so much money in their hands, some people tended to use it all to gamble.

"European Emperor Possessed!" Xu Xiaoshou yelled while rushing to the bathroom. He kicked the bathroom door shut behind him.

Boom!

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

Thank you for visiting!

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

Thank you for visiting!

Thank you for visiting!

Obtained Extended Passive Technique, Toughness

Thank you for visiting!

One more key!

"Whoa, something has come out!"

Red-eyed, Xu Xiaoshou rubbed his eyes so hard that he had almost gouged his eyes out. Looking at the unsuitable length, he curled up the corners of his mouth.

"Ha-ha, ha-ha!"

"I knew that I was the chosen one. I can obtain something with 20 keys. Hail European Emperor!"

"Who can stop me?"

Bang!

He was so excited that he didn't bother to open the bathroom door. He rammed through the door before he jumped onto the big bed.

Boom!

The bed also exploded.

"Ah?" The red color in Xu Xiaoshou's eyes gradually receded. Looking at the bed, which was now in four pieces, he fell silent...

For a long time.

“Oh, ha! Ha-ha, ha-ha!”

Xu Xiaoshou rolled on the ground while laughing wildly.

‘Collect it!’

He laid flat while glancing at the Information Bar. He had finally calmed down.

‘Toughness!’

‘What would be the meaning of it? Something like flexibility?’

Xu Xiaoshou climbed up and raised his foot, doing a split in the air.

‘Crap!’

Eternal Vitality was operating ferociously.

The pain forced the excited and slightly crazy lad to sit down on the broken bed, rubbing his thighs. Without hesitation, he decided immediately to ask for 10 skills.

‘Hey, with only 5,000 Passive Points, I have to fill up!’

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t bother to think more about it. He knew that there would be some changes after the Passive Skill entered Innate Stage, and he would gain great enlightenment.

He thought that thinking on his own was not as effective as obtaining the information directly.

‘Anyway, it’s something produced by the system. I thought the name was a bit shabby, but it’s not as shabby as being called strong.’

Toughness, Acquired Level 1

Toughness, Innate Level 1

His body felt a surge of hot current. He felt very comfortable, which was tantamount to being immersed in blooming spring flowers.

As a surge of enlightenment assaulted his mind, Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes lit up. He was immensely delighted and happy.

Chapter 280: Terrifying Combination Technique

‘It’s not flexibility!’

Toughness was the toughness of one’s stamina, not flexibility.

It was similar to a dominant feeling, but not exactly the same feeling, or it was just a certain degree of toughness within the dominant state.

The rest was more like withstanding something.

Yes, it is none other than the withstanding.

It was the same as withstanding a violent windstorm while standing straight.

Once this Passive Skill was upgraded to Innate, Xu Xiaoshou felt like he could never fall on his face again.

It was as if his enemy could in no way drive him back, no matter how strong the attacks were, and the attacks would be dispersed easily by the Toughness.

But...

'I have the power of Recoil!'

Xu Xiaoshou thought something was slightly wrong, but in the next second, he was excited by another one of his thoughts.

'The Recoil and Toughness shouldn't have a conflict, and the combination of the two techniques might have an effect greater than that of one plus one.'

'Imagine that my opponent hits me with a powerful punch. The opponent will be recoiled away flying. At the same time, I will be knocked away.'

'But with the Toughness, will I be not knocked away?'

'Where will the force that usually knocks me away be?'

A beam occurred in Xu Xiaoshou's eyes as he thought that the force would no doubt return to the person who wielded it since it couldn't strike him.

'Double hidden power!'

As he thought about it, Xu Xiaoshou raised his fists and clashed both of his fists with a loud bang.

He remembered that he had done this with a Recoil experiment. When he clashed his fists slightly, both of his hands recoiled violently and bounced away from each other.

This time, he clashed his fists and couldn't find any gap between his hands. His fists looked like they were glued together and stopped.

Although his fists stopped moving, the Recoil force didn't stop.

A terrifying force passed through his body. It was as if an electric drill entered his bones throughout his body.

His arms, which had lost the ability to absorb the force, received the entire force.

The repulsive and excruciating pain made Xu Xiaoshou's face look twisted.

"Mmm!"

He grunted once and felt his forearms going numb. However, the pain was not over yet because the second wave of the clash had arrived with a stronger force.

Hiss!

His elbows cracked, spilling out blood. Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded to see this outcome.

"This is a bit scary!"

Apparently, the Toughness Passive Skill, like the Recoil, was augmented by the strength. It would have a remarkable effect at mere Innate Level.

After he stopped the move, Xu Xiaoshou felt numbness in both of his hands. Fortunately, the Eternal Vitality helped heal the injury, which recovered in no time.

“What a miraculous technique this is!”

After a brief pause, Xu Xiaoshou was excited again.

It was better for the wanted effect to occur at the right time rather than early. If the Toughness occurred ahead of time, he would have been a helpless sufferer, and the technique wouldn't have been able to help at all.

Yet, the technique was obtained when he had a certain physical body foundation. It became more powerful like a tiger having wings.

No, the increase of power was like thunder occurring on the ground from nowhere.

“Recoil and Toughness.”

Xu Xiaoshou murmured. It seemed that he could see...

He could see the scene in which his opponent struck him with a punch, yet he stood on the same spot while his opponent was knocked away with a broken fist and exploded high in the sky.

If the opponent struck him with several punches at the same time...

‘Crap!’

‘The opponent would be a freaking boxer who can punch consecutively!’

‘I think that even if the opponent could inflict one hundred punches per second, they would find their hands were broken before they could complete half of the punches!’

‘What is this...’

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded, feeling tingling on his scalp.

‘This won't be a fight! The system has not only trained me to be someone who can cultivate while sleeping but also someone who can fight while sleeping.’

‘No, it's impossible. It's impossible to have someone so strong in this world.’

‘I must have some weaknesses too!’

After thinking about it for a long time, Xu Xiaoshou clapped his hands.

‘That's it. As long as the opponent resists the first blow and realizes that I have the force of double Recoil, they will definitely not contact me again.’

‘In that case, the combination of my Toughness and Recoil will be useless!’

‘Well, no!’

Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes wide again.

'I'm not going to actually sleep during the life-and-death combat. The opponent can retreat after the first strike, and I can also find a chance to strike back after their first strike.'

'After that, I don't have to do anything but catch the opponent.'

'When the opponent hits me, I'm not going to be knocked away. Then...'

'In other words...'

'The opponent will be knocked away flying.'

'But I will catch the opponent.'

'If the part I grab is his head...'

'Crap!'

Xu Xiaoshou felt sick for a moment.

'That's also not quite right. Nothing is going to happen if the opponent doesn't strike!'

However, Xu Xiaohu thought it over and figured that he could strike if his opponent didn't strike.

'If I strike the opponent, the effectiveness of the combined technique will be invincible.'

Xu Xiaoshou felt weakness in his feet.

'Will I be invincible?'

'It's impossible. Absolute invincibility doesn't exist in this world. I must have some shortcomings!'

The young man held his knees with his hands, thinking about the issue. After a long while, he clapped his hands with a thrill as something dawned on him.

'That's right. As long as my opponent has a strong physical body, the opponent can also achieve the effect of Toughness and transfer the hidden double force back to me!'

'Wonderful, I will be... No, something is not right.'

Xu Xiaoshou realized again that the physical body that could transfer the hidden double force back to him must be someone with a body stronger than the body of a Master.

'How is this possible?'

'Dang!'

After realizing this, Xu Xiaoshou could no longer support himself on his weak knees and fell to the ground.

The corners of his mouth twitched, and his eyelids flickered. It was hard to tell whether he was excited or agitated, he was unconsciously murmuring.

"It's impossible!"

“It’s impossible. I could never be invincible!”

Nearly half a day had passed. Hundreds of combat possibilities had been considered, but he still hadn’t been able to find a way to solve the quandary.

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart wrenching from time to time. He covered his chest with his hands as his expression was continuously changing.

“Heh, heh, heh, heh...”

Xu Xiaoshou had recovered from near suffocation. To relax his body, which was on the verge of cramping, he hastened to choose a magic pill from the ring and sucked it in fiercely.

Hiss!

A violent energy turned into two spiritual dragons passing through his nostrils and entering his energy reserve.

Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes wide, realizing that something had gone wrong.

The spiritual energy...

How come it was seemingly many times stronger than the Spiritual Cultivation Pill?

He lowered his head, picked up a bit of the pill with two fingers, and put it under his nostrils. He smelled the odor of an Origin Court Pill.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

“Oh, oh!”

The young man fell on the ground and suddenly clamped his legs together. His face was turning red.

“Mmm.”

“Crap, no!”

Xu Xiaoshou turned his wrists backward. His neck was sticking up high. He struggled to roll over.

His body was too sensitive. He only felt better when he stayed put. If he moved his body...

“I... ah, ah, ah!”

“Oh, sh*t!”