

Chapter 281: Instant Active Technique

The tumbling and reverberating waves of spiritual energy hit every corner of the room, bounced back, and surged again.

A slight mysterious aura could be sensed in the air, which was the enlightenment of the heavenly Dao.

Xu Xiaoshou laid on the floor like a dead fish with his hands clinging to the sides of his thighs. His whole body was straight.

However, his legs were apart from his knees down and looked like a twitching mermaid.

‘Did I have a breakthrough?’

Without checking the energy reserve, Xu Xiaoshou could tell that the obstacle for the mid-stage of Origin Court State had been knocked down.

The effect of his Breathing Technique to absorb magic pills was already a hundred times better than ordinary people at the acquired level.

Even cultivation geniuses could merely absorb one-tenth of what Xu Xiaoshou could absorb of magic pills.

With one Origin Court Pill and the help of the Innate Level Breathing Technique, Xu Xiaoshou almost thought that he had returned to the day when he got out of the Outer Yard.

He felt something that was no different from the feeling he had when he absorbed the magic pill the first time.

‘But I’ve already been to Tianxuan Gate and had some experiences!’

Xu Xiaoshou wanted to cry. Yet it also occurred to him that Origin Court Pill, which was a seventh-grade pill, was incomparable to a ninth-grade Spiritual Cultivation Pill.

Unfortunately, his well-maintained cultivation progress was once again interrupted by an accident.

As expected, in this world, there were always uncertainties.

He had thought that the early and midstages were seemingly not so different.

Xu Xiaoshou checked the energy reserve and was a little surprised.

In fact, the difference was quite pronounced.

To cultivate from the early stage to the peak stage would take more time than to cultivate from the third realm to Innate.

The need for spiritual energy was the same.

After breaking through the mid-stage, the energy reserve had more than doubled.

Moreover, the solidification of the spiritual energy was once again greatly reinforced.

'As such, if I employ spiritual techniques, my combat power will double,' he thought.

'No wonder those guys cultivate desperately and want to break through the stages. It turns out that it is the best and fastest way to cultivate.'

'Unfortunately, this path is not suitable for me.'

If Xu Xiaoshou could one day comprehend a Master spiritual technique or come up with enlightenment, he would be considered someone with full talent.

Yet it was still unsuitable for him.

At the moment, he had no choice but to put aside the matter of stages for the time being.

Xu Xiaoshou could do nothing about the consolidation of cultivation, which should have been left for the Breathing Technique to take care of.

He fixed his focus on the red interface in Yuan Mansion.

Passive Points: 82,020.

He remained silent for a while.

"I've been impulsive."

His original plan was to draw 10 in a row. Unfortunately, there was no good result. In a desperate state, he drew an extra 50,000 Passive Points, which Xu Xiaoshou didn't even realize at the time.

'I shouldn't have drawn so much, and I have lost a single digit by doing so.'

However, he was not too upset about it.

He thought it was useless to feel remorse.

'Luckily I have won something.'

If not, Xu Xiaoshou wasn't sure whether he would keep on drawing until he lost the rest of the remaining 80,000 points.

He thought that he was quite lucky to obtain a Passive Technique that he could use with other techniques to make himself stronger.

He still thought that it was not enough.

Though he had added an Innate Level Passive Technique and imagined it to be a wonderful skill, it might have limited usage in actual combat.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced back and forth at the dozen of main Passive Techniques before he finally paused.

Recoil Innate 1.

This was a marvelous technique.

Compared to a Passive Technique like Sharpness, which had yet to be developed, this technique was the only one able to play a major role during combat.

Once the enemy was close, they would be unexpectedly struck by the Recoil. It would work both in theory and practice.

Xu Xiaoshou hadn't seen anyone who could maintain a calm expression on their faces after they hit him. They all looked like they had just eaten sh*t.

It was disgusting to watch them.

He didn't deny the disgusting nature of this technique. At the same time, he recognized its undeniable power.

With the newly obtained Toughness, it was natural for him to choose this Passive Technique.

In so doing, his opponent would have their sh*t recoiled out after they attacked him rather than looking like they had eaten sh*t.

Xu Xiaoshou acted immediately as he thought of it. He ordered 10 skill points without hesitation.

Recoil Master 1.

With a strong resonance in his chest, Xu Xiaoshou felt that he had an endless surge of energy. It was as if there was an additional force of ancient dragons and elephants in his simple and unadorned flesh.

He felt that he could crack the heavens with one punch.

'Wait a second!'

In a sudden flash of spiritual light, Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes wide.

'Crack the heavens?'

In the past, he couldn't achieve that. He would have been knocked away due to the Recoil when he wielded his fist.

But it was different now.

With Toughness, the power of a punch could be completely channeled to his target...

Even if it was a part of empty space.

Xu Xiaoshou was agape in shock.

He had seen Ye Xiaotian's Hand of Ripping Heaven and knew that spatial rules existed in this world.

It was not invisible and massless. On the contrary, it was more like the major elements, such as water and fire, being traceable.

'As long as I'm powerful enough, or I can comprehend the space, then with one punch...'

'This... This is none other than the legendary...'

Xu Xiaoshou was on the verge of drooling. He hastened to come before the bronze mirror on the table to examine himself while stroking his chin.

His beard had grown out because he was too lazy to take care of it. Fortunately, the beard was not white since he was very healthy.

Yet, it didn't stop his soul from burning with excitement.

With a fire in his eyes, he pointed a finger at the bronze mirror and chastised crossly, "Be my son then!"

"Bah, I shouldn't say so."

"How should I say it? It's something to do with a boat."

Xu Xiaoshou scratched his head. He could no longer remember it clearly since it was a long time ago.

"Forget it. This sentence is also quite good. If I said, 'Be my son,' to 10,000 people, I might get a lot of Passive Points." Xu Xiaoshou laughed.

Though he couldn't remember the lines, he still recalled the scene of the heavens cracking.

He believed that he could achieve that feat himself.

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his fist, wielded his arm in the air, and threw out a punch

The feeling was completely different.

Previously, he would only have such a feeling when he was attacked, even though he had Recoil.

With Toughness, there was a counter-push force in his body. Even if he punched the empty space, he could still send out the striking force.

Boom!

The door exploded.

Wood chips flew in all directions, and a hole appeared in the doorway. Xu Xiaoshou saw the corridor outside the door.

'This...'

He was filled with surprised happiness. He had almost jumped up to celebrate.

'Have I achieved it?'

'Although I didn't break the heavens, the attacking effect was exactly the one I have been looking for.'

'This is not a Passive Technique at all, but an instant Active Technique!'

Gazing at the distance between the shattered big bed and the doorway, Xu Xiaoshou was ecstatic.

'Has my attacking distance increased?'

'I now have something that can produce the striking distance!'

Chapter 282: Exploding Posture

"Enemies are attacking!"

A horrific cry rang out in the corridor.

They were followed by thumping footsteps.

Immediately after that, the clerk who had registered Xu Xiaoshou and Mu Zixi at the counter rushed to the door with a broadsword in his hands.

In the next second, he was frozen.

The deep pit on the floor, the broken bathroom door, the big bed in four pieces...

The soundproof door with a protective barrier was pierced through.

What a tragic combat it must have been.

He saw the blood on the elbow of the lad and then smelled a strange odor still lingering in the room.

The clerk lowered his head and saw the bloodstain on the door.

Gurgle!

He swallowed the saliva and spoke with difficulty. "Sir, are you alright?"

"It's okay, it's okay."

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand casually. He was aware that this guy must have been thinking the wrong way. Otherwise, he wouldn't have received so many Suspected messages in the Information Bar.

Yet, Xiao Sixteen had been dead a while ago. All this mess was caused by testing his own ability.

Of course, he couldn't tell anybody the truth.

Xu Xiaoshou showed a calm expression on his face while folding his arms behind his back.

"It's all over. Give me a new room."

"Okay." The clerk nodded. "Sorry that you are frightened. Please come with me this way. We will clean up this room later."

"Mm."

Xu Xiaoshou followed the clerk in silence.

On the other hand, the clerk was horrified, wondering what kind of a person the attacker was. Who could sneak into Plenty Gold Inn and cause such damage?

The barrier was set up from the outside to the inside, which was enough to resist the strike of a Throne-level swordsman.

How was it possible?

"If you are really okay, can you keep quiet about the incident? We can let you and your friend stay here free of charge."

The clerk spoke cautiously after he found that Xu Xiaoshou seemed able to be reasoned with.

The reputation of the inn was important. If the place couldn't guarantee the safety of its guests, who would dare to come there and stay?

It was known that most of the guests there were those who were desperate and fled from their enemies, and they often encountered opponents who they couldn't fight against.

Xu Xiaoshou had no intention to refute the proposal. He couldn't publicize the incident because it was something he had done.

But free of charge...

To be honest, Xu Xiaoshou felt very sorry for what he had done.

"It's unnecessary to be free of charge. You can just give me another room. I have money."

The clerk felt panicked when he heard that. Before he could say more, the next door was snapped open as they walked past it.

Mu Zixi stuck her head out. She came out when she saw Xu Xiaoshou.

She turned her head around and immediately frowned.

"Xu Xiaoshou, did you do damage again?"

Xu Xiaoshou glared at her.

'Can you save some face for me because there is another person here?'

The clerk looked confused, wondering if the lad had done this himself.

Xu Xiaoshou hastened to push the little girl back into her room. He had no intention to go into her room. He closed the door behind him.

"An eyesore."

After glancing at the clerk to his side, Xu Xiaoshou spoke with an affirmative voice, "Let's go!"

The clerk was confused.

Suspected, Passive Point, +1.

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

...

After he arrived in a new room, Xu Xiaoshou laid down on the bed carefully.

The drawing was over, so it was most likely that no more explosions would happen.

Although he had only drawn Toughness this time, his combat power had improved a great deal.

Overall, Xu Xiaoshou was very satisfied with the result.

"It was a wonderful experience!"

“It’s a pity that the Awakening Pool was not used.”

According to his original plan, he might be able to imitate Berserk Giant to obtain a killer skill.

However, he only had 30,000 points left.

“I don’t have enough points for drawing!”

Xu Xiaoshou checked and found that he still had a few complementary keys. He couldn’t help but feel delighted.

He inserted a key. Soon after, he was frustrated again.

Nothing happened...

As expected.

It was understandable.

Passive Points: 32,020.

The points were enough for any Passive Technique to be upgraded by six levels. ‘I will take the exam for the magic pill technician badge tomorrow, so I’d better order the Cooking Expert.’

Yet, Xu Xiaoshou didn’t intend to take the exam for a higher level. The ninth-grade magic pill technician was enough to prove his identity.

He had tried in the Spirit Palace and found that he had no way to cultivate the seventh-grade Origin Court Pill with his current Innate Level 1 Cooking Expert.

He thought that he might be able to achieve it only by going up many levels.

On the other hand, his purpose was to pass the exam to get a badge. As a result, he could sell the stolen goods to Plenty Gold Company. A high-level badge was not more helpful for the purpose.

The most important thing...

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the Awakening Pool, feeling an itch in his heart.

Even if the 30,000 points were wasted, he still wanted to play another hand.

This was a luxurious game that cost 10,000 points to just throw a stone. It excited him to think of the potential!

Without further hesitation, Xu Xiaoshou exchanged for an Awakening Stone. He bound it with the Recoil and threw it at the pool.

Bounce!

Bounce!

Bounce!

Unfortunately, the 10,000 passive points were gone after the stone bounced three times on the surface of the water, making some slight water splashes.

'I'm feeling great!'

Xu Xiaoshou, who was already mentally prepared, didn't feel any pain this time. On the contrary, he bet on the noble Awakening Pool while thinking that he would spend the money to make some splashes on the water.

'I'm feeling great!'

As he was about to exchange for two more stones, he was completely taken aback when he looked at the information bar.

Awakening is successful!

Recoil!

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

'Crap, I hit the target with one shot!'

He straightened his legs and stood up on the bed incredulously. He moved backward with his body hunched and his head covered with his hands as if his brain was going to explode.

'What a fortunate day this is!'

'The Awakening is successful with merely one trial!'

Xu Xiaoshou's heart seemed to have stopped beating. He breathed heavily, trying to regain his composure.

However, thinking about the effect of Berserk Giant, how could he possibly regain his composure?

'Exploding Posture?'

'What the hell are these Extended Passive Skills? They are all suppressed by garbage names like Strength and Recoil!'

'Once awakened, they are all getting fierce, and their names are even becoming rampant.'

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly beat his chest with his fist. Warm blood surged again, and his heart was finally beating wildly again.

However, there was also an additional force inside his body that wanted to explode with it.

'This is...'

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. He remembered that he sensed the primitive surging power deep in his awareness when he was sealed by the grey mist figure and was on the brink of dying.

The force that was surging in his body at the moment was similar.

Unlike the endless violence at that time, the power at the moment was nothing more than an explosive force.

It was as if it was uncontrollable and about to explode.

'The power of Awakening?'

Xu Xiaoshou's head ached as he realized that it was the necessary condition to initiate the Awakening.

'Therefore, Exploding Posture won't happen unless I'm on the brink of dying, but I have to decide if I'm going to initiate it each time I'm attacked.'

'Great!'

Thinking of this, Xu Xiaoshou could no longer suppress the excitement. He let out a sigh of relief.

Boom!

With a booming sound, the clothes on his body exploded. Fortunately, Xu Xiaoshou relied on his Agility to act swiftly enough to keep his underwear intact.

'Is this the cracking explosion?'

The endless golden light permeated his body. Xu Xiaoshou's hair flew up, and his eyes let out a beam like a lightning bolt.

It was the posture of a godly fighter arriving.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned by his own image in the bronze mirror, thinking that it was not the former Xu Xiaoshou but an improved version of himself.

The waves of golden energy continuously surged in his body. Xu Xiaoshou could no longer hold back.

He looked toward the wooden door.

Chapter 283: The Power of One Energy Bead

Xu Xiaoshou wielded his fist in the air but didn't bring it down. He paused at a critical moment.

'No, I can't do it. Exploding Posture should be on a par with the Berserk Giant.'

'If I bring down this punch, I'm afraid Plenty Gold Company will be destroyed.'

As he thought of this, Xu Xiaoshou changed his fist to a pointed finger and shook it slightly.

Bang!

An energy bead traveled through the empty space and passed through the wooden door in the blink of an eye.

"Is that it?" Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyebrows.

The next second...

Boom...

A blast thundered throughout the clouds as a golden light exploded.

Not only did the door panel shatter to pieces, but the wooden wall barrier next to the door and the corridor outside the door had also been destroyed.

A large spherical hole was created, and a golden mushroom cloud rose up.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled and unconsciously lifted his head by following the golden airflow.

'Ah, sunlight is so strong!'

He shielded his eyes with his hand. He suddenly found that something was wrong. 'Hmm, where's the ceiling?'

...

"Enemies are attacking!"

With an ear-piercing loud voice ringing out again, Mu Zixi and many other guests pushed open their doors with squeaky noises.

Those who were close to Xu Xiaoshou looked at him sideways. Without opening their doors, they could all see a man standing in his underwear.

The wall was gone.

Swoosh.

Xu Xiaoshou put on his clothes as quickly as he could and immediately ended the Exploding Posture.

Before he could let out a sigh, he jumped up and dove into the wooden bed behind him.

The sound of footsteps could be heard. The closer the footsteps, the slower they were.

Xu Xiaoshou could tell the expression on the clerk without actually seeing it by using his Perception.

...

In the corridor, the clerk was extremely upset.

Seeing the corridor ahead that had been blown through, he hesitated for a moment before he walked forward.

After all, he was Innate and could fly.

'This place seems to be somewhat familiar.'

The blast had obviously disrupted the layout of the place, but as an old clerk, he could still remember the location.

This place was clearly the new room where he had taken the young man.

'Could it be that someone has broken through the barrier wall again to assassinate him?'

The clerk immediately dismissed the idea as he thought that someone couldn't be brave enough to come twice in a row.

But...

That had been quite the explosion.

He suddenly recalled the remark the little girl made after she pushed the door open earlier.

'Is it possible that the young man has done it himself?'

After flying into the shaded spot, the face of the clerk had changed from pale to a dark color.

The scope of the blast was very large. Who could afford the loss of the property?

When he came before Xu Xiaoshou's door, he wanted to shout curses. He saw a bloody figure crawling out from the crumbling bed.

It was the young man named Xu Xiaoshou.

Xu Xiaoshou covered his chest with his hands and pointed to the broken window while spewing blood from his mouth. He started muttering.

"That way... Run... Run away!"

Bang!

He fainted and fell to the ground after having said that.

The clerk was confused.

Was there really an assassin?

Suspected, Passive Point, +1.

The clerk hastily approached the young man and helped him get up. He wanted to check out his injuries. Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes and grabbed the clerk's hand.

"Chase the assassin first... Array wheel... Middle-aged man..."

Xu Xiaoshou fainted again after speaking.

The clerk was stunned by this tragic scene.

Array wheel?

Was the assassin a spiritual array master?

The guest had already provided him with a lot of information, so he couldn't ignore it. He waved his hand without hesitation.

"Chase!"

Several figures left immediately, following the clerk.

Mu Zixi bounded over while holding her twin ponytails with her hands.

The explosion was a ground-breaking event for others, but it was a familiar event for her.

She waved her hand to create a wooden barrier and partition the room, preventing prying eyes from seeing them.

The little foot in a white boot kicked Xu Xiaoshou's face. The little girl rolled her eyes when she didn't see any response from him.

"Xu Xiaoshou, don't play dead!"

Hearing his junior sister's voice, Xu Xiaoshou woke up.

Looking around, he saw that the clerk was nowhere to be found.

"Are they all gone?"

"Yes."

"No one came to see me?"

"I'm here, am I not?"

"You're different. I'm asking about the clerk or somebody. Did the clerk go with them?"

"Uh-huh."

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled, wondering why the clerk went with the others to chase the nonexistent culprit.

He thought the clerk was merely an Innate and wouldn't dare fight against the assassin if they did come to kill him.

'Fortunately, I have already killed Li Seven, so they won't be able to find anybody.'

Xu Xiaoshou was a bit puzzled as to why they were so careless.

On second thought, he was only in the mid-stage of Origin Court State, so they must have thought that the assassin was not high in cultivation.

The consecutive explosions could have easily been blamed on the power of the array wheel.

'I've been disregarded again...'

As a matter of fact, Xu Xiaoshou felt delighted to be disregarded this time.

He waved his hand to indicate for Mu Zixi to dismantle the barrier. "Let's go. We can't stay here any longer," he said.

"After all, we are the ones who have caused the damage, so we have to compensate for the damage somehow."

"You must learn by example from your senior brother. In the future, you can't delay or skip the payments, OK?"

"You have to pay up if you owe them!"

"Have we caused the damage?" Mu Zixi followed behind him and paused when she heard that. She seriously said, "Xu Xiaoshou, you should pay attention to the wording. It was 'you,' not 'we!'"

“Ahem.”

Xu Xiaoshou felt embarrassed and awkwardly said, “There shouldn’t be so many rules for a senior brother and a junior sister. We don’t need to pay so much attention to the details. We should go by the old saying, ‘Enjoy the fortunes together, and share the difficulties together.’”

Mu Zixi was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

As they walked, she saw the crowd still surrounding the two of them. Feeling embarrassed, she transmitted her voice, “Xu Xiaoshou, can you stop making trouble? I haven’t had a good rest yet!”

“It seems that I have had a good rest.” Xu Xiaoshou turned his head around.

Mu Zixi was astonished.

‘If you can’t get a good rest, who do you blame then?’

‘Doesn’t the person responsible for all of this know that?’

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

“Were you making magic pills?” The little girl was so angry that she changed the topic of conversation.

“No.”

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head. “Your senior brother has developed a new thing. This time... I’ve had a qualitative leap forward!”

“What is it?”

The lad turned his head around and held down her head.

“You wouldn’t understand.”

Mu Zixi pouted.

‘Again?’

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

Xu Xiaoshou ignored his junior sister and recalled the terrifying results from earlier.

The Exploding Posture was indeed a cracking explosion.

Like being possessed with a godly fighter, an energy bead shot out along with a golden light as he had shaken his finger slightly. He didn’t expect that he could achieve such a blasting feat.

The technique could cause the same damage as the Seeds on All Five Fingers technique.

Yet, the feat of Exploding Posture was achieved by simply shaking a finger.

It was well-known that Exploding Posture, as a state-type Passive Technique, was more useful for adding powers.

Was the attack of the energy bead its main attack method?

Not at all.

Once this state was on, he could continue to deliver his original techniques.

What if the Seeds on All Five Fingers or Great Fireball Technique could be attached to the golden light?

“Tsk, tsk...”

Chapter 284: Fate and Great Horror

This was a new inn.

Xu Xiaoshou chose to stay in this one after he and Mu Zixi left the previous one. He didn't dare to make any trouble this time.

He had paid more than 10,000 spirit crystals for the explosion. It was the amount he paid because the owner of the inn thought that he was assassinated and didn't dare charge for the repair of the barrier.

In fact, Xu Xiaoshou regretted what he had said to Mu Zixi about setting an example after he heard the amount he had to pay.

However, he had already said it, so he had no choice but to pay up.

Otherwise, his righteous and majestic image in the eyes of his junior sister would be gone.

He and Mu Zixi agreed to rest for two more days and take the opportunity to practice making magic pills before they took the exam for the badge.

Xu Xiaoshou went back to his room alone again.

It was clean.

‘How nice!’

He felt a bit sentimental.

He decided that he wouldn't use the remaining Passive Points recklessly again. He had saved them for any emergency.

“Meow!”

The little white cat landed on the end of the bed. It sniffed with its nose, showing a joyful expression on its face, even though the cat was at Xu Xiaoshou's feet.

“Is your name Greedy the Cat Spirit?”

Xu Xiaoshou looked the cat up and down for a while but failed to find out what was so special about it.

Apart from its purple eyes, this little white cat was really nothing out of ordinary.

Yet, he was fully aware of the fact that...

It was a ghost beast.

It was similar to the grey mist figure.

Although he couldn't tell why the white cat was so weak, a ghost beast was a ghost beast anyhow. Only one creature was born in each sub-dimensional space, so it couldn't be ordinary.

"Meow!"

The little white cat looked up at him and called out intimately.

"Greedy..."

"How nice."

Xu Xiaoshou murmured to the cat. He envied this kind of carefree state. If someone could provide him with Life Force every day, let him live a life without worrying about food and drink, and guarantee his safety...

It would be the life of a deity.

'I can't have such a life, but a shabby cat can.'

Xu Xiaoshou kicked the cat.

The little white cat didn't get upset. It was aware that its master didn't use much force to do it. The cat turned over and got on Xu Xiaoshou's feet again.

"Ma Ma..."

The guy on his chest was unhappy. With a cry, two flashes of red light came out from its body.

Xu Xiaoshou was alerted.

Was it a killing intent?

Greedy the Cat Spirit puffed up its hair and leaped behind the bed, shrinking its body in the air.

"Very sensitive, eh!"

Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyebrows, thinking that its reaction was not slower than his.

He patted Aje, which was a stone at the moment, and explained, "Do not mess around. This is your junior brother whom you can't kill."

"Hmm? Junior Brother?"

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand to beckon for Greedy the Cat Spirit to come over. He turned the cat around and changed his wording, "This is your junior sister. Take care of it in the future!"

"Ma Ma..."

"Meow!"

Xu Xiaoshou was pleased. He caressed the cat with one of his hands and held the stone with another hand, falling in deep thought as he laid quietly on the bed.

“Ghost Beast...”

He thought of Mo Mo. The lonely and quiet woman was different from both Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu.

They were all ghost beast host bodies, but one accepted it willingly while the other two resisted it.

‘Is this some kind of a force?’

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the white cat and narrowed his eyes.

He had sensed the liberating power exerted by the grey mist figure.

If the Tianxuan Gate hadn’t suppressed it, and Berserk Giant hadn’t intervened, he figured that he might have died there.

However, they were not the only ones in this world.

Compared to Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu, Mo Mo and the grey mist figure were more like lone wolves who developed and acted alone.

But the other two were apparently not that type.

‘Hence, there is a pure ghost beast... In other words, there is an organization for the pure ghost beast host bodies.’

Xu Xiaoshou felt a chill on his scalp.

One of them would be able to destroy heaven and earth. What were they attempting to achieve by binding themselves together?

He recalled his last conversation with Elder Sang. It seemed that the goal of Saint Servant was the same as that of Mo Mo, who had become a ghost beast host body.

‘For power?’

Xu Xiaoshou caressed the cat with a grave expression on his face, but the cat was quite pleased with the treatment.

Even the masked man, who had astounding Sword Will and Swordsman Cen Qiaofu as his subordinate, was still craving power.

Those ghost beast host bodies with the most direct and purest source of power still formed an organization secretly, and they didn’t even dare to let others know about them.

‘For what?’

The more Xu Xiaoshou thought about it, the chillier he felt.

If those two super-powerful terrorist organizations had anything in common...

They were both purged by Divine Hall.

The difference was that one of them was pursued by the White Coat, which was specifically responsible for capturing and killing the rebellious humans.

The other one was pursued by the Red Coat, which existed to slaughter ghost beasts.

‘Divine Hall?’

Xu Xiaoshou’s impression of this continent’s first organization was absolute justice and order.

He knew nothing else about the organization.

‘Justice...’

‘Perhaps, this is the competition for the Dao that the old man talked about!’

Xu Xiaoshou hadn’t believed it before.

However, as his strength improved and knowledge widened, he found that what the old man with a conical hat in the Spirit Palace said the night of the master-disciple ceremony made more and more sense.

The reality was rather cruel.

Xu Xiaoshou had learned the different positions of a chess master and a pawn in the Spirit Palace.

It was a helpless but realistic situation.

At the moment, he was the pawn at the mercy of others, and his own chess master was none other than Elder Sang.

He didn’t dare to decline, even though he was reluctant the night of the master-disciple ceremony.

After the ceremony, no matter whether it was absurd acts or messing around, all he did was go astray from the path the old man designed for him.

In the end, he found that he could not escape the control of the old man.

He had merely veered slightly from the path that he wanted to stay away.

What happened after the deviation?

After he had walked away from the path, he found that Elder Sang had laden thousands of paths for him.

How could he break away?

No matter whether it was Infernal Heavens, Tianxuan Gate, or Zhao Shu, or Zhang Xinxiong...

The old man seemed able to control people and matters perfectly.

No matter how off-path he had been, what he did was always the outcome the old man with a conical hat wanted, judging by the results.

“Phew.”

Xu Xiaoshou exhaled gently. He was very smart, so he could figure it out clearly.

Yet, he was helpless about it.

Fortunately, Elder Sang had a peculiar and eccentric personality, and he acted in his own style. Moreover, the others couldn't understand why the old man liked Xu Xiaoshou so much.

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't even understand it himself.

The old man seemed to understand him more than himself, which was terrifying for Xu Xiaoshou.

However, Elder Sang answered his questions clearly after the master-disciple ceremony.

He came to the Spirit Palace simply to avoid certain unnecessary calamities.

Someone with such strength, intelligence, personality, and acting style could only be his chess master.

'Am I a pawn in the eyes of others?'

"Heh!" Xu Xiaoshou sighed.

Among the great powers, was it true that every single one of them was very terrifying?

Divine Hall, Saint Servant, and the ghost beast organization...

And those horrific entities operating in this world, which Xu Xiaoshou hadn't come into contact with...

'Perhaps as my strength keeps on improving, those people will appear by my side without warning like the white cat on my hand.'

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he had been embroiled in a dangerous situation.

'Yet, if I didn't take in Greedy the Cat Spirit back then, could I withstand Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu?'

'It seems that I'm still a bit powerless...'

The feeling of powerlessness couldn't be eliminated by Exploding Posture.

The feeling stemmed from the world, but it was also like fate and the relentless wheel of history.

It rolled over everyone, and no one could escape it.

Xu Xiaoshou lowered his head and saw Greedy the Cat Spirit displaying a joyful expression on its face.

The little creature was moaning slightly, taking a pleasurable nap, and enjoying itself.

'The competition for the Dao?'

The young man didn't dare to think about it anymore.

He was afraid that Elder Sang's worldview would replace his own knowledge of this world if he thought too much.

Chapter 285: Servant Status

Zhang family residence...

The second house in the eastern part of the city...

It was cool in the early morning. The birds were singing, and the flowers smelled fragrant.

This was the courtyard belonging to Zhang Xinxiong, which was very large and luxurious.

Those who could come in and out of the place were his maidservants, in addition to Zhang Xinxiong, the master of this courtyard.

“It’s been three days.”

He Yuxing couldn’t help but speak as he looked at the black-skirted woman sitting in the pavilion. He turned his head toward the rising sun.

It was the third day since they came to the Zhang family’s residence. They spent all three days there.

They didn’t even have a place to rest.

Although the two of them did not need a resting place, it was problematic for the Zhang family to treat two of the 33 people from the Inner Yard of Tiansang Spirit Palace in such a manner.

Just because...

The maidservant?

Lan Xinzi raised her chin and asked gently, “Can’t you wait any longer?”

“It’s not that I can’t wait any longer.”

He Yuxing shook his head and said, “My will can’t be demolished in three days.”

“Not to mention three days, I can wait for three years or 30 years!”

“As long as...”

He gazed at Lan Xinzi, but he could only see her pretty profile. He couldn’t help but let out a sigh.

“As long as I get up, this Zhang family, which dares to treat you like this, has no value to exist anymore.”

Lan Xinzi curled up the corners of her mouth and lowered her head with a smile. He Yuxing was mesmerized by the scene.

“Let’s go!”

The black-skirted woman suddenly got up and looked toward the east. The east had just woken up. The sky and earth were in the broad daylight as soon as she stood up.

“Where to?” He Yuxing asked.

“After having waited for three days, where do you think we can go? We can’t just go home.”

“Has the old man, Zhang Taiying, agreed to see you?”

He Yuxing was a little surprised. He looked around and didn’t find any commotion or sense any trace of Sword Will or spiritual senses.

How had Lan Xinzi learned the news?

“It’s just a mind transmission between a master and a servant.”

The black-skirted woman spoke in a low voice. She seemed to have figured out his thoughts and walked out of the courtyard.

As He Yuxing was about to follow her, he heard the woman in front of him say, "Wait for me here. Don't go anywhere."

"Wait here?"

He Yuxing paused, but he didn't feel at ease.

At the bottom of his heart, the thing he hated the most was waiting.

He moved his feet.

"Wait for me!"

The unquestionable voice rang out again. He Yuxing took a deep breath and finally stood still, watching Lan Xinzi leave.

"Wait..."

A flash of mockery appeared on his face and soon disappeared. At the moment, he had the most determined expression on his face.

He Yuxing sat down and knocked on the table with his hand. His eyes had a burning blaze in them.

"Wait!"

...

The main hall of the Zhang family...

Sitting at the head seat with the golden scales was an extremely tall man dressed in flamboyant clothes. He had a pair of horrific eyes.

His right arm was broken at the shoulder. However, his temperament was as strong as a giant when he sat at the head seat.

His terrifying aura was powerful enough to crush everything and could make everyone lay on the ground.

"How are the preparations for the night banquet at the city lord's mansion?"

Zhang Taiying rested against the back of the chair with his eyes closed, looking slightly lethargic.

The caretaker of the house approached with his body hunched and hurriedly said, "All have been prepared properly, and the sole scroll of the Heavenly Mechanics, which was specially requested for City Lord Fu, has also been obtained. Thus, the plan has been carried out perfectly this time."

"In addition, the Zhang family has been flourishing in recent years, so we will be able to get more White Cave quotas this time."

"It may even be possible to get double digits quotas!"

The caretaker smiled broadly in an attempt to make the man in front of him feel thrilled, but it was in vain.

“The White Cave quotas...”

Zhang Taiying rubbed his eyebrows and opened his eyes. His terrifying aura made the caretaker take a step back in shock.

“Do you think that sometimes preparing so much is useless?”

He seemed to still be talking to the caretaker, but his gaze was fixed on the black-skirted woman kneeling in the hall. His tone was morose.

“Those who should still be alive haven’t come to see me, but those who have messed up are often here!”

With a thud, the caretaker knelt on the ground.

“This subordinate deserves to die!”

Zhang Taiying gave a cold laugh and looked back at him. “Deserves to die? What did you do wrong this time?”

“I...”

The caretaker’s face turned green. His back was damp with cold sweat, and he couldn’t say a word.

Zhang Taiying waved his hand, indicating that he had no intention of giving this old caretaker, who had been with him for more than 10 years, a hard time.

He just couldn’t control his emotions at the moment.

“That’s all. You will host the meeting inside on my behalf, and don’t make any mistakes for the night banquet of the city lord’s mansion this time.”

The caretaker stood up and nodded his head repeatedly.

“Yes, yes.”

“Master!”

A female voice suddenly rang out, which halted Zhang Taiying’s footsteps.

The caretaker looked at the woman kneeling on the ground with a grave face. It was as if his gaze could devour someone.

‘Can’t you see that the master is not in the right state right now?’

‘How dare you speak in such a situation!’

‘Can’t you wait a little longer?’

Lan Xinzi couldn’t wait any longer. Seeing Zhang Taiying inclined to leave after a pause, she spoke out again to make him stay.

“Master!”

The caretaker took a step back. His face was as pale as white paper. He was afraid that the blood might splash onto him.

Zhang Taiying finally stopped and glanced at the black-skirted woman on the ground. His eyes were cold. He spoke in a mocking tone.

“Now that Zhang Xinxiong is dead, you want to release yourself from the maidservant status.”

No sooner had the remark been spoken than all the other maidservants waiting in the hall knelt down on the ground in unison with trembling bodies.

It was easy to imagine how hard it had been for the Zhang family to survive each day since they heard the news that Zhang Xinxiong died.

Although the family head didn't mention it, anyone who said anything related to “death” and “Xinxiong” might lose their life.

However, the maidservant who had left the family for seven years had come back asking to be released from her maidservant status after Zhang Xinxiong's death.

If this was not courting death, what was this?

The crowd in the room had a chill in their hearts.

‘If you want to die, you shouldn't do it in such a frightening way!’

‘If you are really tired of living, you can just go find a rope yourself. Why do you want to come here and make things difficult for us?’

In the eyes of the crowd, Lan Xinzi was also trembling.

She didn't dare look up.

She could face anyone calmly and with ease, but Lan Xinzi couldn't help but tremble while facing this man.

Zhang Taiying, the head of the Zhang family, was a man who had outlived tens of thousands of people.

With his own strength and ability, it took him several years to lead the Zhang family to the top of the four major families in Tiansang County.

This was...

Not important.

The important part was that Lan Xinzi, who had low self-esteem, couldn't raise her head to look at her master while speaking...

Even if she had already become one of the 33 and reached the Master Stage.

“It has nothing to do with Young Master Zhang. It is my personal matter...”

“My?” Zhang Taiying raised his voice.

Lan Xinzi was interrupted, but she didn't respond. She lowered her body even more.

“This is a personal matter of this maidservant. Even if Young Master Zhang didn't have the mishap, I... This maidservant still mentions such a matter!”

She had almost spoken through her gritted teeth.

It was a dream of hers for seven years, and it was also a humiliation for seven years.

All of this had to come to an end.

As a Master, she would be an honored guest in any famous family, but...

“Hah!”

Zhang Taiying grunted, which was like thunder in the hall.

He raised his left arm, twisted his wrist, and spoke in a calmer tone.

“In that case, did you have this idea even before Xinxiong's death?”

Chapter 286: The Determined Way

Seeing the familiar wrist-twisting move by Zhang Taiying, the caretaker was almost paralyzed.

‘It sounds like you are emotionally stable now, but judging by your act, it seems that you have the intention to kill someone again!’

Lan Xinzi understood this, but she had no choice but to speak like an arrow on the bow that was ready to shoot out.

She raised her head defiantly and solemnly said, “That's right. Young Master Zhang knew about my idea.”

Everyone was taken aback, shocked that she had mentioned the name that she shouldn't have.

‘Are you courting death?’

As expected, Zhang Taiying waved his hand with a grave face. Lan Xinzi was slapped away flying in the air.

With a boom, a pillar in the hall was cracked, and a figure fell on the ground heavily, spurting blood.

Puff!

“He supported me.” Lan Xinzi propped herself up against the ground with a pale face. Her pretty eyes showed an unyielding expression.

Zhang Taiying was furious.

He lifted his left arm, and rich spiritual energy surged.

It was then that the caretaker could no longer sit on the floor. He struggled to get up.

“Master, don’t do it. It’s not appropriate to spill blood at the moment!”

“Spill blood?”

Zhang Taiying raised his tone and morosely asked while pointing to the blood under Lan Xinzi’s body, “Didn’t you see the spilled blood there?”

Bang!

The caretaker fell on the ground again. He thought that he had tried his best.

The spiritual energy gathered in Zhang Taiying’s hand converged into a condensed muddy bead. Although it was a bit small, the compressed energy in it was extremely rampant.

He looked at Lan Xinzi.

Lan Xinzi was determined to have her maidservant status released, so she was staring straight at him without fear.

“It’s ridiculous!”

With a cold laugh, Zhang Taiying flexed his fingers.

Swoosh!

The spiritual source bead flew past the empty space instantly and arrived in the blink of an eye.

Lan Xinzi didn’t make a move to defend herself. Facing the attack of the Zhang family head, not to mention her early stage of the Heavenly Image State...

Even those in the peak stage of the Star Worship State couldn’t resist it slightly.

She had already made up her mind regarding the matter.

If she couldn’t succeed, she’d rather die.

Everyone was shocked. After the death of Young Master Zhang, no one in the residence dared to eat meat, and they didn’t dare to let Zhang Taiying see blood.

Unexpectedly, the head of the Zhang family, who had suppressed his feelings for a long time, erupted that day.

Hum...

Unexpectedly, after passing through the empty space, the spiritual source bead halted in front of Lan Xinzi’s forehead.

As the energy passed by, her black skirt rustled, and her black hair fluttered.

The violent energy was completely restrained within the bead. Such perfect control of power was simply marvelous.

Even so, the aftereffect of the spiritual source caused Lan Xinzi’s forehead to bleed.

Lan Xinzi still didn’t move.

It seemed that even if this bead pierced through her head, she would not retreat even half an inch.

Everyone was stunned.

They were surprised by the woman's determination. More importantly, they were surprised that Zhang Taiying had halted his attack.

Facing a maidservant who repeatedly mentioned the forbidden word and was treacherous, Zhang Taiying had halted his attack.

Did that mean that he had agreed to Lan Xinzi's request?

The other maidservant on the ground couldn't help but feel envious and cynical.

In fact, if Zhang Xinxiong hadn't brought Lan Xinzi to the Spirit Palace, the black-skirted woman wouldn't have had the opportunity to cultivate to such a level.

Otherwise, one more maidservant would have been lying on the ground.

"You are very brave."

Zhang Taiying brought back his left arm and hid it in his robe. His eyes showed a trace of sorrow.

He didn't want to be heavy-handed during the period of mourning Zhang Xinxiong.

Lan Xinzi felt delighted and was about to speak, but she found that the spiritual source bead in front of her forehead trembled violently.

The crowd was shocked.

Boom!

With a loud boom, the great hall was blown into shreds. It was followed by human figures flying head down and wailing everywhere.

The caretaker trembled once and then drew closer to the head seat with the golden scales.

He was fully aware that even if the family head didn't want to kill someone, he had to vent his anger in some way.

Considering the size of that blast, if someone had really blown up...

It was not due to the act by the family head but because of one's own fate.

Poof!

Lan Xinzi spurted blood and slid down from the wall wretchedly. She heavily dropped to the ground. Her body cracked and bled.

Fortunately, she could still breathe.

However, those around her were not so lucky.

The nearby maidservants who were not even Innate were extinguished on the spot. Perhaps even their souls were not left behind.

Those further away had their bodies intact, but they were just corpses.

Some of them were lucky enough to survive the blast, yet they were severely injured.

Lan Xinzi clenched her fist and wiped away the blood from her red lips. Her eyes showed a hidden hatred.

She didn't feel any pity for those maidservants who had been her peers.

Yet, she hated this family that treated others as if they were plants, and she hated the rules of the family and the person who set them.

Zhang Taiying...

Lan Xinzi trembled. The world was enveloped by darkness whenever she thought of the man.

As the smoke and dust dissipated, a painful expression shown in her eyes again. She fell to her knees.

After a long time...

The man seemed tired after he sat back on the head seat. He asked casually in a chit-chatty manner, "What is the name of the person who killed Zhang Xinxiong?"

"Xu Xiaoshou."

Lan Xinzi hastily replied.

"Xu Xiaoshou..." Zhang Taiying closed his eyes, twisted his wrist, and sighed. "What a good name it is..."

He came back to his senses and asked, "What is your name?"

"Lan Xinzi."

"Oh... Lan generation?"

"Yes, Master."

Lan Xinzi trembled lightly, thinking that she belonged to the Lan generation and was a Lan servant, which was her title in the Zhang family.

In other words, she didn't even have a full name.

Zhang Taiying sighed, looked back at the empty site in front of him, and turned to leave.

"Take your possessions and yourself. Get out of here!"

A trace of blood was seen on Lan Xinzi's face again.

The corners of her mouth twitched as if she wanted to laugh loudly. However, she also felt a sense of bitterness. She closed her mouth after it twitched twice.

Boom!

The wall blocks collapsed, crushing the corpses underneath more solidly.

“Yes, Master.”

...

“He’s gone.”

Seeing the woman with bloodstains, He Yuxing still hadn’t released his clenched fists.

He had been standing there for an hour in the midst of a pile of corpses and dead silence when he finally heard the comforting words from Lan Xinzi.

“You are free,” he slowly said.

Lan Xinzi straightened her body. Her face was full of happy laughter.

“I’m free.”

“Xu Xiaoshou... Ha-ha-ha...”

“Have I succeeded?”

” Ha-ha-ha!”

Lan Xinzi laughed out loud, but the tears were unconsciously dripping down from her cheeks.

She had loved Zhang Xinxiong.

However, it was only after Zhang Xinxiong was dead that she had a slight chance to leave the filthy place.

This world was so strange in that those things one longed and aspired for and seemingly similar things were actually very different once they were achieved.

Lan Xinzi laid down on the ground and looked at the sky. She was lost in thought.

She saw the little girl who had just come to the Zhang family. She was innocent, lively, and lovely.

She also saw the girl who helped load the corpses with a miserable and confused expression in her eyes.

The scene changed.

She saw the woman who had entered the Spirit Palace by creating the corpses, and she was numb, heartless, and unscrupulous.

She also saw the woman who cheered hysterically under the competition platform for Zhang Xinxiong, Xu Xiaoshou, and most importantly, herself.

“Love or freedom...”

She pulled down the corners of her mouth and returned to a careless posture.

She wiped the corner of her mouth to clean the blood and messed-up makeup off her mouth.

She tilted her head, smoothed her hair, and asked softly, “Do I still look pretty?”

He Yuxing gazed at the woman lying on the ground. Her dress was somewhat torn, and her pretty face was white. He nodded solemnly.

“You look pretty.”

Lan Xinzi smiled. She got up and took He Yuxing’s hand in her own.

“Let’s go!”

He Yuxing froze and asked, “Where to?”

“The palace in White Cave.”

Chapter 287: Suppressing All Things

“Uhhh...”

Xu Xiaoshou pushed open the window. Sunlight poured in.

He stretched his back. The bones made noises like beans being fried.

‘What a relief!’

After lying in bed mindlessly for two days, he felt happy again.

He had encountered that annoying incident as soon as they got out of the mountain. As a result, he couldn’t implement his original plans properly.

Xu Xiaoshou let himself have a holiday. Waking up from a long sleep, he felt that his mid-stage of Origin Court State had been solidified.

The streets were bustling with people passing by each other in a hurry.

It was obvious that the world would go on in an orderly manner without him causing troubles.

“It’s time to get down to business.”

It was time to go and get the magic pill technician badge. With that item, he would at least have real identity protection.

Whether it was for trading or something else, the item was extremely useful.

Magic pill technicians in Shengshen Continent had a very high status. Those with a higher grade were respected even more by people.

Xu Xiaoshou was curious to know how many Passive Points he would gain if he put the badge on his forehead while traveling.

He closed the window and looked back at the big bed.

“Little one, can you get smaller?”

Greedy the Cat Spirit was a bit too eye-catching.

It was invisible, but what if someone could see it...

A person who could see Greedy the Cat Spirit had to be extraordinary.

In such a situation, what would the other party think of Xu Xiaoshou?

He was certain it would attract unnecessary attention.

“Meow.”

In the face of Xu Xiaoshou’s question, Greedy the Cat Spirit leaped into the young man’s arms with a gentle whine.

After all, they had slept together for two days, so the relationship between the two of them had improved.

Xu Xiaoshou felt troubled when he thought that one of them made the sound “Ma Ma” while the other a “Meow.”

“Can’t you get smaller?”

If his question had an answer, Greedy the Cat Spirit would have replied affirmatively to him.

It was something he had figured out in the past two days.

For example, when he asked, “Do you want some water?”

Greedy the Cat Spirit would not respond.

When he asked, “Do you want to drink milk?”

The creature would leap over and greedily suck the Life force.

Since the creature didn’t give a response, it must not have been able to make itself smaller.

“Well, it’s not like everything can get smaller and bigger like Aje. It can even change into the shapes it wants.”

Xu Xiaoshou thought of Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu. As a ghost beast host body, he wondered if the creature could enter his body.

As to how it entered the body, Xu Xiaoshou didn’t know. He figured that Greedy the Cat Spirit perhaps knew how.

Hence, the young man bared his chest and gave an invitation to the little cat on his chest, “Do you want to come in?”

Greedy the Cat Spirit was startled. A delightful expression quickly appeared in its purple eyes. The creature then had a look of disbelief as if asking “Is it really OK?”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded with a smile.

“Yes.”

Whoosh!

After obtaining permission to enter, Greedy the Cat Spirit was afraid that he might regret his decision and immediately jumped onto Xu Xiaoshou's forehead.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. Before he could react, he felt like the Yuan Mansion was being pried open by something, causing him to grimace in pain.

Hiss!

He inhaled and realized that the way Greedy the Cat Spirit entered his body was different from what he had imagined.

"Did the creature enter the Origin Court of Yuan Mansion?"

Origin Court was the most precious place for a Spiritual Cultivator. If this place was injured, the cultivator's spiritual source might be damaged.

If a mishap happened, the cultivator would at least have dementia or, at most, die.

Xu Xiaoshou hastened to gather his spiritual senses in the Origin Court.

Over the chaos and emptiness, there seemed to be a windless and waveless ocean and a dead cat in the ocean.

"What's going on?"

Xu Xiaoshou was astonished, wondering why Greedy the Cat Spirit was not as excited as he had been before entering his body and looked drained of energy.

He used his spiritual senses to investigate and found that the cat was rolling its eyes and spewing white foam.

This guy was spewing so much white foam that it seemed it would last forever.

No, that was not the point.

The point was why the creature could spew the white foam endlessly.

Origin Court was the life source of Spiritual Cultivators. The importance of it was no less than one's own fleshy body.

As far as the quality was concerned, it was even purer than the fleshy body.

If this was the case, shouldn't Greedy the Cat Spirit have been more vigorous by now?

Soon, Xu Xiaoshou realized that something was wrong.

Something that he thought to be normal might have been a terror for others.

He looked up and saw the Red Interface at the top of emptiness.

He remembered that the grey mist figure had employed Celestial Dragon Seal, but the effect of it was limited and fiercely suppressed when it entered Origin Court.

It was like vegetables being chopped.

Thus, not only that dragon but also this cat...

Faced the same consequence.

Xu Xiaoshou felt agitated.

'As a result, all the creatures and things in the outside world can't avoid the fate of being suppressed when they enter my Origin Court!'

It was truly wonderful that he had such a powerful faculty.

He thought that if he could figure out a way to invite the thoughts of others into his Origin Court, they would be a mindless person after they were let out...

Or they couldn't go back at all.

"My goodness, it turns out that this is a powerful weapon!"

Xu Xiaoshou excitedly spoke, but soon realized that he hadn't tried to invite someone in his body actively like the name of Passive System.

'Perhaps the value of the Red Interface existing here is to guard the Origin Court and defend against the invasion of outside demons!'

'However, if someone comes to take my body as a host or forces others to take my body as a host...'

Xu Xiaoshou was naturally unwilling to let that happen. After some thought, he found that he had no way to avoid it.

Since he was aware of the matter, he advised himself that he should be careful when he met Spiritual Cultivators who specialized in mental strength and spiritual strength.

'Complete defeat?'

Xu Xiaoshou smiled, thinking that the injury of his spiritual source wouldn't happen at all.

Whoever came in would kneel.

"Oooh."

A somewhat suppressed cat moan rang out. Xu Xiaoshou didn't pay much attention to it.

He didn't trust the ghost beasts too much. Since it knelt there, he figured he'd let it be.

At least it will not cause any harm to him.

Moreover, the life energy was extremely dense in this place, and Greedy the Cat Spirit would evolve faster there.

'Well, I've done everything for its benefit!'

"Little kitten, wait here patiently, and you will be able to get up some time later."

"Meow!"

Greedy the Cat Spirit raised its head. Its aggrieved purple eyes displayed a sign of "Let me out."

The creature lifted its tender paw and waved it helplessly in the empty space.

Xu Xiaoshou laughed and muttered to himself, "Feel free to suck the life energy here. But the condition is that you are not allowed to touch that thing."

He pointed to the well-nourished Life source and advised, "Try not to get close."

"It's unpleasant to be suppressed here, isn't it? Bear with it, and it will soon be fine."

"Once you get close to this thing, it's not a matter of whether you feel good or not but a matter of whether you will die or not!"

"The consequences are very serious," Xu Xiaoshou said in a stern voice.

"Meow."

Regret was written all over Greedy the Cat Spirit's eyes. Before it could call again, Xu Xiaoshou puffed once. The creature rolled over and fainted happily while trembling.

"Happy growing. Maybe you will have a surprising evolution outcome for me!"

Xu Xiaoshou backed out from the Yuan Mansion with a smile.

As far as Xu Xiaoshou was concerned, the sole role of Greedy the Cat Spirit was the communication jade device, which he could use to contact Jiao Tangtang at critical moments.

He was not interested in raising pets.

However, he could accept pets that could grow up by themselves without him cleaning up after them.

"As such..."

Xu Xiaoshou came before Mu Zixi's door and knocked on it lightly.

"It's time to get down to business."

Chapter 288: Human Scum

The Magic Pill Technicians Association...

Unlike the opulent Plenty Gold Company, the quaint pagoda-shaped building had more of an ancient aura.

This place was located in the center of Tiansang City, with many pedestrians and travelers passing by. However, almost everyone slowed down their pace when they passed by this place.

Hiss!

After Xu Xiaoshou inhaled once, he suddenly trembled violently.

"What a strong medicinal fragrance! If ordinary people live here, they should also be able to prolong their lives!"

Mu Zixi sniffed while holding her twin ponytails.

After a long time, she was a little disappointed and said, "Yes, but the fragrant medicinal odor is gone, and I smelled it awhile earlier."

The passers-by were baffled as well, wondering why the fragrant medicinal odor had suddenly disappeared.

The crowd began to discuss the matter, and their voices got quite noisy. It awakened Xu Xiaoshou who was immersed in sucking the air wildly.

"Uh."

Mu Zixi glanced at him twice and asked suspiciously, "Did you do it?"

"How is that possible?"

Xu Xiaoshou showed an exaggerated expression, asking, "Can you breathe once and drain the air here?"

Mu Zixi nodded her little head. "Oh, you're right."

"Let's go!"

Having said that, Xu Xiaoshou hastened to walk into the quaint pagoda.

In comparison to Plenty Gold Company, there were fewer there.

Yet, each one of them had a graceful and noble temperament, and they looked rather rich and honorable.

After Xu Xiaoshou checked out the place, he returned to the front counter and looked at the receptionist, who was rather pretty, and asked, "Hello, what's your president's name?"

"The president?"

The female receptionist thought that the young man wanted some magic pills, so she didn't expect him to ask for the president.

She wondered what young man's status was and why he thought that he could see the president.

Although she was suspicious, she had to retain proper manners. She replied with a smile, "Are you here to see the president, Shi Ti?"

"Shi Ti."

Xu Xiaoshou turned to Mu Zixi. "Is the name right?"

Elder Sang had given his junior sister a letter and told her to give it to the president.

Xu Xiaoshou would have liked to look of the letter, but the little girl held onto the letter like she was responsible for the safety of the world. She didn't give him any chance to do so.

"That's right!" Mu Zixi nodded.

"Have you read the letter?" Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyebrows.

“No.”

“Then, how did you know his name is Shi Ti?”

“I don’t know.”

“But you just nodded your head!”

“The name is written on the outside.”

“Huh.” Xu Xiaoshou was furious that she didn’t share the information with him, thinking that she was not a good junior sister.

“Please wait a minute. I’ll make a count.” After having said this to the receptionist, Xu Xiaoshou pulled Mu Zixi aside.

The female receptionist behind the counter was completely confused.

‘What is the situation?’

‘Are the young couple having a fight?’

Admired, Passive Point, +1.

“Tell me honestly, what exactly is written in it?” Xu Xiaoshou blocked Mu Zixi in the doorway and viciously questioned her.

Elder Sang had always behaved oddly, and it was hard to figure him out. What if the old man wrote the letter to sell the two of them out?

It was entirely possible.

Mu Zixi said with her small face turning slightly red, “I really didn’t read it.”

“You look me in the eyes and say it again!” Xu Xiaoshou slapped the door panel with one hand.

Bang!

Mu Zixi didn’t dare to look at him. Her ear had even turned red. She almost closed her eyes.

It was at the moment that a roar came from the door.

“You beast, let go of the girl!”

Xu Xiaoshou was surprised.

He was frozen for a while before he realized that the voice was addressing him.

After all, the postures of the two of them looked like the bad behaviors of delinquent teenagers.

But...

There was nothing to be angry about.

Xu Xiaoshou turned his head around slowly, feeling both annoyed and amused.

This place was the site of the Magic Pill Technicians Association, so who dared to mess around there?

Besides, he was talking to his junior sister. Why did an outsider interrupt them?

'Is it the so-called hero saving the beauty?'

The speaker was a gorgeously dressed young man. He was wearing a white robe with the phoenix dancing among spirit clouds, a green hat with a purple jade hairpin, and a belt with the dragon-imaged jade on his waist. He was holding a three-foot sword.

His clothes were fluttering, and his posture was elegant and outstanding. Seeing all of this, Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback for a moment.

Though he had seen such a handsome man in the bronze mirror, it was the first time that he had seen such a man face to face.

"Whoa!"

Xu Xiaoshou turned his head around and said his junior sister in shock, "Little girl, your spring has arrived!"

Mu Zixi mumbled, "Uhhh..."

Cursed, Passive Points, +1, + 1, +1, +1

She inclined her head and stared angrily.

Where had he come from? Why had he gotten involved in their private matter?

"The morale of the world is getting worse, and the world is getting crueler!"

The young man held the sword and approached with a righteous expression on his face.

Xu Xiaoshou's expression changed after he heard those lines.

The lines were very bad. How can this guy save the beauty by quoting such terrible lines?

As the young man in the white robe approached, Xu Xiaoshou stayed put. He propped his body with one of his hands against the door frame. The girl was still pressed in front of his chest.

'I have already acted, but why...'

'Why didn't the lovely girl take the opportunity to flee?'

'She must have been frightened too much!'

The young man displayed a cynicism and hatred for low morality. He had been traveling the world with his sword and drinking wine while singing. The people he hated the most were those like Xu Xiaoshou at the moment.

"Let go of the girl!"

Xu Xiaoshou was silent for a long time before asking, "Should I let you do it?"

The young man was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

Mu Zixi felt indignant and scolded him, "You're shameless!"

The young man was confused.

'This...'

He checked twice and was certain that the girl was scolding him.

'What's going on here?'

He tried to save the beauty as a hero, but he was scolded by her.

'I'm trying to save you!'

The white-robed young man was a bit panicked and said, "Lady, lady, you're mistaken. I didn't mean that. I was going to..."

Xu Xiaoshou chimed in, "You were going to save the beauty as a hero and put me down at the same time so you can take the opportunity to befriend the girl."

"Hey, wake up already. This way of picking up a girl has been out of date for a long time."

"Not to mention that you are not strong enough to put me under your feet."

"Your way of thinking is no different from what you thought I was doing, even though you have polished it."

"Human scum!"

The white-robed young man was taken aback. It was true that he had the idea of saving the beauty as a hero, but he really wanted to...

But human scum?

He grew furious instantly and yelled, "You!"

"What? What?"

Xu Xiaoshou rolled his eyes and asked, "Didn't I make it clear?"

He checked the young man up and down and sighed. "It's golden outside but rotten wool inside."

The white-robed young man was so angry that he had almost passed out.

'Is this guy really this rude?'

'Can you let me say something?'

'Just one sentence!'

The young man's hand holding the sword was trembling, and his mouth was muttering something. Xu Xiaoshou turned his head to look at the girl in front of him and asked, "Do you girls all think someone with such fancy clothes looks handsome?"

Mu Zixi froze for a moment and surveyed the face of the young man. She looked at Xu Xiaoshou with a flushed face.

“No, not handsome.”

Chapter 289: A Heavenly Game

“Puff!”

The gentleman wearing white robes was furious.

He finally realized that these two had to be in cahoots.

“You two... How could the two of you do this in Magic Pill Technicians Association?”

“So what?”

Xu Xiaoshou said, “We were just casually chatting. Why don’t you mind your own business and just leave?”

The gentleman wearing white robes did not know what to do.

If he were to leave just like that, wouldn’t it be very shameful for him?

“What is your name?” he seriously asked as he raised his sword. “I want to battle you!”

“A battle?”

Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyebrows. “You can’t be expecting to beat me and then embrace the beauty, right?”

The gentleman wearing white robes was speechless again.

‘This guy...’

‘How could he have known what I was thinking!’

“I...”

“I? What I? There’s no need for explanations,” Xu Xiaoshou replied with a wave of his hands. “As the saying goes, explaining is trying to cover up, which makes it the truth.”

“Ugh!”

The gentleman felt a pang in his chest as if had choked on blood.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked. “No way. Are you going to start spurt blood so easily?”

All was well before he said that. As soon as he did, the red-faced gentleman felt pain in his chest.

“Pff!”

There was no blood being spurted. Instead, the air was filled with saliva.

“Blech.”

Xu Xiaoshou displayed a disgusted expression. He immediately covered his junior sister and pulled her back a few steps.

The gentleman felt embarrassed and shouted while pointing his sword toward the sky. "You rascal! Don't leave! Fight me!"

"What an idiot..." Xu Xiaoshou sighed. "No one battles nowadays. If you want to fight, let's have a deathmatch. Do you dare?"

The gentleman in white robes was shocked.

'That is a little... straightforward, isn't it?'

'It does not have to go to that extent!'

He had chickened out a little, but the people in the hall had already started to gather into a sizeable audience.

Under these gazes, as someone who was still young and impulsive, who would be able to endure?

"..."

"Wait a minute!"

Xu Xiaoshou interrupted before the gentleman could speak again and said, "You should consider carefully. Don't be impulsive. Impulse is the devil!"

The gentleman finally calmed down a little, but Xu Xiaoshou continued, "You cannot defeat me, so there's no need for you to give up your life over such a tiny thing."

"Pff!"

This time, there were some signs of blood in the saliva that he spurted.

'As a cultivator with Upper Spiritual Level, do you think I can't defeat you?'

"I..."

"Wait!"

"..."

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled. He raised his hand and pointed in a direction, signaling that this time it was not him who spoke.

The gentleman turned around. He could not understand why he was so unlucky. How could one trip become so unendurable?

The one who spoke was apparently a guard that he knew.

He held his fists and greeted him. "Master Fu, this is the Magic Pill Technicians Association. Please be careful."

With that, he looked at Xu Xiaoshou, walked up to him, and softly asked, "This gentleman, could you kindly let Master Fu speak a few words? He looks like he is at his limits."

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated to respond.

Master Fu?

He felt that the surname was a little familiar.

Fu Yinhong?

Recalling the female vice commander of the City Guards in the back alley of Plenty Gold Company the other day, Xu Xiaoshou's face became weird.

'It can't be. This world can't be this small, right?'

'Is it possible that the surname Fu is a prestigious surname in Tiansang City?'

He pulled the guard over and softly asked, "What is the mayor's surname?"

Sympathy flashed across the guard's face. He knew instantly that this guy came from outside the city.

What local would dare talk to the mayor's son this way?

"His surname is Fu. This is the mayor's son, Fu Xing!"

Xu Xiaoshou's heart skipped a beat, and his legs were like jelly as he felt a pang of regret.

Fu Xing...

The mayor's eldest son...

It meant that the Fu Yinhong he saw that day could be this guy's sister.

Had both of them come from the mayor's mansion?

How could he, as someone who had just left the mountains, so coincidentally meet all these famous people?

Was it just that all these famous characters lived within Tiansang City?

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the gentleman and clarified, "Is your surname Fu?"

"No, my surname is not Fu!"

The mayor's son Fu Xing already hardened his resolve to battle Xu Xiaoshou. He knew that if his real identity was exposed, Xu Xiaoshou might not dare to fight him anymore.

But...

He could not always rely on the City Guards to help him settle problems whenever he ran into them.

"Do you want to fight me?" Xu Xiaoshou asked.

"That's right."

“If that is the case, can I set the rules?”

Xu Xiaoshou knew that he could not avoid this battle. If he did not settle it now, it might bring even more problems in the future.

‘As for Fu Yinhong, there should not be much of a problem regarding that city guard I attacked the other day, right?’

Fu Xing was stunned. This guy seemed to already know his identity, but he still dared to accept the battle invitation.

He started to see him in another light.

Glancing at Mu Zixi, Fu Xing raised his head and said, “Sure.”

“Alright.”

Xu Xiaoshou clapped and said, “I have a way of battling that is totally up to the heavens to decide. Do you accept?”

“Why not!”

“What if you lose?”

Fu Xing mockingly asked, “Do you think I will lose?”

“Yes!”

“Ha-ha-ha!” Fu Xing let out a big laugh. “If I lose, you can do whatever you want!”

“If I can do whatever I want to you, then won’t I become your master?”

Once he said that, the faces in the audience all looked at him differently. Xu Xiaoshou sensed something amiss and quickly added, “Your identity is too prestigious, so that would not be appropriate. If you lose, you only have to call me a big brother. You don’t have to call me master!”

Fu Xing smiled coldly.

The fellow seemed to be really confident. This game of unforeseen results had not even started yet, but he already seemed to know the results. Would he win?

“If that is the case, let us begin,” Xu Xiaoshou said vaguely.

“Wait!”

Fu Xing had become weary of being tricked by Xu Xiaoshou and could see the loophole in Xu Xiaoshou’s words.

“You have not finished saying everything yet. What happens if you lose?”

Xu Xiaoshou was surprised. Did this guy actually have brains?

“If I lose...” He hesitated a while but did not want to lose himself in the end.

“If I lose, I will give you the thing you want the most.”

“Oh?” Fu Xing was curious. “Do you know what I want the most?”

“Yea.”

Xu Xiaoshou pushed Mu Zixi forward. “Don’t you want this?”

Mu Zixi was shocked and speechless.

She realized that every time she watched Xu Xiaoshou battle, she was somehow dragged in to be a part of it. Why does this keep happening?

Cursed, Passive Points, +1, +1, +1, +1...

Fu Xing’s eyes flickered with surprise, but to agree to battle this way was too frivolous.

‘Should I not agree, it does not feel right...’

“Stop pretending.”

Xu Xiaoshou exposed him. “Let us start straight away.”

Fu Xing’s face was red, but he did not want to bring up the wager anymore. He said, “You can explain the rules now.”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded and walked forward with hands behind his back.

“This is a simple Heavenly game. The gamble here is based on luck and should not have been played in this world before.”

“It goes like this. You open your palm and spread your five fingers. This means your destiny.”

“At this time, to choose your own destiny, you can only show two fingers, which signifies ‘I can choose my own destiny,’ and ‘Never bow down!’”

“To counter this, you can only keep the heavenly way...”

“And show a fist?” Fu Xing blurted out.

“Yes! Only with a fist can you stop those who want to defy destiny since destiny is something that should not be defied against...”

Xu Xiaoshou stopped midway as he noticed something was amiss.

He raised his head and saw Fu Xing’s darkened face. He was instantly shocked.

“Do you know this game?”

Chapter 290: One Punch Gamble

Fu Xing felt that he had been insulted.

At first, he was still very interested in this Heavenly game that this guy had introduced.

After all, he was Upper Spiritual Level while this guy was only mid-stage Origin Court.

He, as the mayor's son, was someone with a strong sense of justice and would not do something like bully the weak.

But this guy, what had he been saying?

Wasn't this the Rock, Paper, Scissors game that he had played so many times when he was still a kid?

'Are you treating me like an idiot, thinking that I did not have a childhood?'

'Heavenly game...'

'Heavenly my ass!'

Fu Xing was so furious that his face almost looked green.

Xu Xiaoshou instantly realized that this world actually had Rock, Paper, Scissors.

It was a bit scary.

Looking at the surrounding audience, who had also realized what was happening and displaying expressions of not knowing whether to laugh or not, Xu Xiaoshou straightened his tone and spoke again.

"Don't you like this game?"

"How about we change to another game... Er, Black and White?"

Fu Xing's mouth twitched. 'This guy... Does he really think I am a kid?'

'The tone of this coaxing voice... You are insulting me!'

"Let's duel!"

"There is nothing much left to say."

He raised his sword, feeling that his momentum had been broken.

'No way, why do I feel a lack of energy already just by lifting the sword!'

Xu Xiaoshou shrugged his shoulders. "If that is the case, then let's do as you wish."

"Let's go!"

Fu Xing turned his head, wanting Xu Xiaoshou to follow him out of the ancient tower and onto the deathmatch battle stage in the city.

Why would Xu Xiaoshou want his plans to be delayed by this kind of a broken problem?

He raised his hand and said, "Friend, please stop there."

"The deathmatch battle stage is too troublesome. How about we each throw one punch? Whoever can make the other retreat the furthest wins."

Fu Xing turned to look back and gave a cold smile.

"Can't..." The guard wasn't sure what to say.

“That...” Xu Xiaoshou turned to look at the guard. “Just one punch should not be much of a problem right. Don’t worry, I will just let him punch me once. I will not punch him.”

The guard hesitated for a moment before nodding, “Alright, then just do it here. You guys fight. I will watch.”

“Settle it quickly and don’t cause any more trouble.”

He could tell that the youth standing in front of him had already lost the intention to fight after knowing the mayor’s son’s identity.

He was a sensible person.

In Tiansang City, whoever dared to do anything to those with the surname Fu was asking for trouble.

This conflict would be settled as soon as possible.

If they were to fight on the deathmatch battle stage, they might be even more triggered by the audience to fight, causing an unstoppable battle.

This fellow’s life was not important. But if the mayor’s son were to come to any harm, that would be big trouble.

It was best to settle things here. At least he was watching. Even if they fought, there would not be too much of a problem.

“One punch.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Fu Xing and seriously said, “You go first.”

Fu Xing put away the sword in his hands. Even though he was a swordsman, he knows the limits.

After all, Xu Xiaoshou was a citizen, so he shouldn’t kill him.

Even though punishment had to be doled out, as the mayor’s son, he had to maintain his demeanor.

“You go first,” he said magnanimously.

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head. “No, you first!”

Fu Xing thought this fellow had suddenly become polite, but then he heard him add, “If I go first, then you would have no chance to show your moves at all.”

“...”

“Arrogant!” Anger was written all over Fu Xing’s face.

Praised, Passive Points, +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was a little worried and reiterated, “Just one punch. You will not be using skills that throw many punches, right?”

“Of course not!”

“That’s good, that’s good.”

'If that is the case, this guy should not die and only sustain some injuries.'

Xu Xiaoshou was thinking as he looked at Fu Xing with eyes full of expectations.

'Come, show me a punch of the Upper Spiritual Stage.'

'I also want to see my limits with my current skills Recoil and Toughness.'

Fu Xing's expression turned strange as he saw the young man's face seemingly glow with expectation.

'No way. The fact that this fellow dared to raise this request even though I am of Upper Spiritual Stage must mean that he has some backup plans or tricks up his sleeves.'

He guessed that this fellow's physique was not that simple, but he was unsure exactly what level it was.

'No matter what, it cannot be the legendary Innate Level Physique!'

'One punch!'

'I shall give it my all!'

Fu Xing stopped hesitating and raised his right hand. A faint purple spiritual source started to surround it, slowly turning into a dragon with a fierce head as if possessed the power to move mountains and break oceans.

The audience started to retreat a little. Even if there was a guard around, this fist still looked a little too powerful to be by.

"Is it the mayor's mansion's Master level spiritual technique, Purple Dragon Roar?"

"That should be it. I didn't expect the mayor's son to actually master the Purple Dragon Roar. Isn't he a swordsman?"

"He is, but he can't possibly use a sword. If he uses his sword, wouldn't the fellow opposite him be beheaded straightaway?"

"Even though this purple dragon is smaller than Vice Commander Fu's by a few inches, no matter what, it still has a form and is already good enough to punish unimportant people like the guy opposite him."

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou understood what was happening a little as he listened to the crowd speak.

Even if someone said the mayor's son had only learned this spiritual technique's basics, seeing its powerful aura, Xu Xiaoshou was afraid that it already exceeded all the Master level spiritual techniques he had seen in the past.

'I can only say that the requirements to learn this technique are not low at all!'

'Come, show me!'

'Let me have a look at how powerful you are!'

Almost as if answering Xu Xiaoshou's inner calls, the purple dragon in Fu Xing's right hand finished forming. He immediately shouted, "Take this!"

Following that, he flew forward as the purple dragon on his arm swelled and roared ferociously.

Thud—

Under the gaze of the shocked audience, with that loud and clear roar, Fu Xing's punch landed heavily on Xu Xiaoshou's chest.

Boom!

As if an ancient battlefield's war drums had been hit, that low and deep sound of explosion caused hearts to skip a beat.

Under this punch, the purple dragon had totally passed through Xu Xiaoshou's body. Wave blasts emitted from the point of contact between the fist and the body, rippling strongly into an explosion.

Dong, dong, dong...

Everyone retreated in shock, not expecting the purple waves from the blast to be abruptly stopped a few feet from them.

As if it was met by an invisible wall, it could not harm the audience at all.

"Power of the heavens?"

"A Master?"

Everyone looked at the guard, finally understanding why he had the confidence to let the two of them fight in this place.

As for the fight...

Different from what everyone had expected, Fu Xing's face turned beet red as soon as the punch landed.

The purple dragon formed from Purple Dragon Roar looked like it passed through Xu Xiaoshou's body but it did not.

This guy's body was as tough as a piece of rubber that was full of viscosity and tenacity, absorbing all the force of the blow.

His skin was like an impermeable piece of outer covering that the purple dragon could not enter.

As such, how could Purple Dragon Roar bring any harm to him at all?

Layers and layers of energy started to pile up. It was as if Xu Xiaoshou had accumulated them beforehand. At any time, it seemed they would be reflected back as an aftershock.

"Not good!"

In the next moment, Fu Xing's facial expression changed.

Even after he had used up all the power from that fist, Xu Xiaoshou was still rooted to the ground. Just as he had thought, the energy from Purple Dragon Roar...

All rebounded back at him.