

I Am Loaded 311

Chapter 311: Can you give me a chance?

Xu Xiaoshou thought, 'I believe I have the right to explain.'

Before he could say what was in his heart, the mild-tempered President Shi Ti had exploded in rage. He raised his hand to slap him, attacking in anger.

"Calm down!"

Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly ducked, narrowly avoiding the blow. He stepped forward to restrain the old president with his body.

"Xu Xiaoshou, I will teach you a good lesson on behalf of Old Man Sang. If I don't beat you up today, I, Shi Ti, will not bear the 'Ti' family name!" Shi Ti roared.

Xu Xiaoshou grabbed the old man's wrist in defense.

He also realized that this old guy must have recognized his Infernal Heavenly Flames and knew his identity.

It was evident from the moment he struck out in anger, yet still exercising restraint, that it would not be a fatal blow for Xu Xiaoshou.

It was just Shi Ti's levelheadedness. He guessed that there was very little left of it now.

Xu Xiaoshou clamped on him. After a moment's hesitation he said, "President, your original family name isn't 'Ti' either."

With darkness looming in his eyes, Shi Ti's actions halted midway. He almost passed out.

"If you can exit the Pill Pagoda standing today, I, Shi Ti will not bear the 'Shi' family name!"

He roared again and pulled his hand from Xu Xiaoshou's restraint in another attempt to slap him, only to find that he did not use spiritual strength. He could not move at all.

"This..."

He tried to use his spiritual strength to launch a tremor, but he realized that a tremendous force emanated from his palm near his thumb. The strange counter-shock and tearing force almost caused him to bleed on the spot.

At this moment, Shi Ti suddenly understood why Fu Xing could fly so far.

"Kid, do you have a Master Physique?"

He managed to suppress his anger. One can only imagine how terrifying this discovery was.

Across the continents, Innate Level Physiques were already rare.

A Master Physique...

To tell the truth, after he left the Holy Palace and bade farewell to Old Man Sang and Demi-Saint Infernal, he had never seen another Master Physique again.

How old was this kid?

How had he already reached heights that ordinary people could not achieve in their lifetime?

Xu Xiaoshou watched the shock in President Shi Ti's eyes and nodded helplessly.

Though he did not want to expose himself, his Master Physique was a result of the Passive Skill Strengthen. As long as he did not come into physical contact with anyone, his level would remain undetected.

However, at this moment, apart from inching closer to Shi Ti, Xu Xiaoshou did not dare to take any other actions.

If he made his escape now, he would become easy prey for Sovereign State Spiritual Cultivators.

As long as Shi Ti could still keep his wits with him, that would be for the best.

If he could not keep his wits, it would just take one person to be killed there for the matter to blow out of proportion.

Shi Ti could not die.

Yes, the puppet child in Xu Xiaoshou arms was almost breaking out of his control.

Under an actual covert attack, it was still unknown who would emerge victoriously.

He obviously would not allow such accidents to happen. He spoke a few words with Shi Ti and watched him calm down again. Seeing that he had regained his senses, Xu Xiaoshou let him go.

"Mr. President, this was an accident..."

When Xu Xiaoshou mentioned the cauldron explosion, Shi Ti could no longer hold back his emotions.

He immediately wanted to avoid the topic. After beating around the bush unsuccessfully, he guessed that he could no longer evade it. He immediately started speaking.

"President, you must be aware of the power of this Infernal Heavenly Flames. It is completely normal if I can't control it."

"You will be affected..."

Xu Xiaoshou thought, 'This was really beyond my control.'

He did not dare to say that out loud. Moreover, he had already told the old man to stay away in the first place. Since Shi Ti did not believe him, what could he have done?

He dared not say that either.

When the words left his mouth, they did not sound right. Xu Xiaoshou plastered a contrite expression on his face.

“Although this explosion was indeed a little too strong, it also revealed that the various protective measures of the Pill Pagoda are rather lacking...”

Shi Ti’s face grew darker and darker. Xu Xiaoshou’s voice became smaller and smaller. Finally, he muttered his suggestions softly, “Prevention is better than cure. It would do good to repair the Pill Pagoda...”

“You shut up!” Shi Ti hollered.

He had acknowledged all kinds of explosions at this point. Investigating the cause was only a matter of time, and restoration was another issue to be dealt with.

But a Master Physique, the apprentice of Elder Sang, and the strange power...

At this moment, Shi Ti only wanted to resolve the mystery shrouding the young man in front of him. However, with the chaotic aftermath of the Pill Pagoda, his heart was numb from the events. He was unable to collect his thoughts properly.

Xu Xiaoshou observed his silence and grew nervous. He attempted to break the ice again.

“President, there are three chances for the examination. I still have left...”

“You shut up!”

Shi Ti roared again. Now the young man had brought up the examination. He felt that not only was his body was going to collapse, but his soul also was in turmoil.

How could anyone sit for a tenth-grade or a ninth-grade examination and blow up the Pill Pagoda like that?

If he were to let him use up his three chances, wouldn’t the Pill Pagoda completely disintegrate?

Should he pass the ninth grade and then proceed with the eighth grade with his three chances...

Then wouldn’t Shi Ti lie dead on the ground before him in the end?

The old president was so angry that what little left of his beard almost fell off. He waved his hand.

“Get lost!”

“Where should I go?” Xu Xiaoshou was at a loss.

“I don’t care where you go! Just leave the Pill Pagoda! Go back to the Spirit Palace or go to another city for the examination, but never come to the Magic Pill Technicians Association in Tiansang City ever again.”

Xu Xiao was flustered.

How did it escalate to this?

Could the Magic Pill Technicians Association refuse entry of new alchemists?

If the headquarters knew what Shi Ti did, would he not be punished?

Xu Xiaoshou wanted to ask Shi Ti this but did not have the guts to do so.

He looked at the door and pleaded, "Am I really disqualified from taking the exam? Can you give me a chance? I'm extremely confident now that I just finished upgrading..."

"Get lost!"

Shi Ti roared thunderously and flared his nostrils.

Xu Xiaoshou was stricken with bitterness. He thought of his gamble and accumulated favors, but...

He dared not bring that up.

He had nothing to fear when he faced peers like Fu Xing because he could always rely on the elders to judge the events.

But he was now facing the old president. Moreover, this was a fuming president.

"Then, let me get my junior sister so we can leave together," Xu Xiaoshou said.

Swoosh!

In the next second, he watched the surrounding scenery rewind rapidly. He felt his body being sent flying backward.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

His heart was cold from the injustice in the world. He fell steadily onto the ground. He squatted and thought deeply.

The outside world was cruel. He had only caused one cauldron explosion and was not given even half a chance.

It was better in the Spirit Palace.

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly thought of Elder Sang.

Though he caused so many explosions in the Spiritual Library Division in the past, Elder Sang helped him shoulder the responsibility. His teacher had even sent back the law enforcement officers who came to arrest the offender.

He never thought that this lousy old man was any good before, but now that he recalled the past events, he felt a slight warmth in his heart.

And Ye Xiaotian...

He almost blasted Tianxuan Gate, but he was still very friendly with him.

Although occasionally his temper was short, at least he never chased him away.

"Sniff sniff..."

Xu Xiaoshou was touched.

It was not until he got out of the Spirit Palace and experienced the coldness of the society outside that he missed the kindness of the elders in the Spirit Palace.

“President Shi Ti, alas, though he appears gentle and kind-hearted, in terms of temperament, he is no match for the dean and the elders!”

Xu Xiaoshou sighed ruefully. From the corner of his eye, he suddenly caught sight of the Pill Pagoda swaying precariously. He instantly lowered his head.

Pooh!

‘Just now, I did not see anything.’

Chapter 312: My Dream is Shattered

After being kicked out of the Pill Pagoda, Xu Xiaoshou naturally lost his precious alchemist examination qualification.

He squatted on the ground and drew circles, feeling very distressed.

President Shi Ti’s good-natured character was also evident at this moment. With Yun He’s guarantee, he has witnessed Xu Xiaoshou’s pure flame control skills.

He also believed that although this kid was unruly and capable of mass destruction, he still had the tenth-grade alchemy ability.

Therefore, Xu Xiaoshou received an alchemist badge.

“Tenth-grade...”

The young man looked at the magnificent purple badge on his hand bitterly.

There was a silver-white alchemy cauldron on it, which looked like a normal alchemy cauldron yet more pretentious-looking than his small bathtub.

Beneath it were 10 floating white clouds.

Yes, they were indeed floating.

The alchemist badge has been forged with special craftsmanship. It was impossible to replicate, and it would create an impression at first glance.

If one were to observe closely, one could even vaguely see the effect of white clouds.

In addition to the badge, if one successfully advanced to an alchemist, they would receive an honorable mention from the association and other special rewards.

It included the exclusive selection of alchemy cauldrons, the designated Innate Pill formula, and the white robe and purple robe that represented the noble status of alchemists.

Xu Xiaoshou received none of that.

According to President Shi Ti, if he were to punish him for the damages caused, he would have to pay with these things and more. Perhaps he would even have his underwear taken away.

Xu Xiaoshou was doubtful about that.

His net worth was still rather sizeable.

Simply repairing the outer wall of the Pill Pagoda and some damaged barriers would not cost him too many spirit crystals.

Unexpectedly, Shi Ti controlled his impulse after his outburst. Not only did he not punish Xu Xiaoshou, but also he even gave him the badge as a gift.

“Is it because of Elder Sang?”

Xu Xiaoshou firmly believed that was the only reason he could calm the anger of the old president.

Perhaps, it was that letter with contents unknown to him...

‘I’m really curious what was written in it. D*mn junior sister won’t let me take a peek!’

Putting his thoughts aside, Xu Xiaoshou wiped away the circles on the ground. He got up and stretched.

Overall, his Magic Pill Technicians Association examination journey was nowhere near perfect.

According to his plan, he would at least be able to receive the ninth-grade alchemist badge.

If he upgraded his Cooking Expert skill twice, even the eighth grade would not be a problem.

Who knew? Perhaps he could even attempt to conquer the seventh grade.

That way, he could achieve the noble peak of Innate Stage alchemist starting from nothing in just one day.

His junior sister would certainly not believe it.

But she would have to believe it.

Perhaps in the future, his Passive Points would no longer be contributed by Cursed Passive Points but instead filled with Admiration and Respect.

The many old men in the court, including President Shi Ti, would also see him in a new light, maybe even praise his genius and suck up to him.

This way, he could seize this opportunity to join forces with the higher-ups in Tiansang City and gain a foothold in this city, further establishing his influence.

In the future, it could also lay the foundation for him to break ties with the Spirit Palace and escape from Elder Sang’s devilish claws.

After that, he could use this as a springboard and easily establish his brand, Xiaoshou’s Trademark Magic Pills.

Then, he could surpass Tiansang City, and even Tiansang County, and finally conquer the greater world.

“Sigh.”

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly sighed softly, interrupting his dream of a beautiful future.

What a pity.

It was all for nothing.

No matter how glorious the picture he painted was, fate was beyond his control.

Who would have known that he would be banished like this?

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the gate of the Pill Pagoda with a dark expression dark like someone with a grudge.

He did not put away the badge. Instead, he pinned it to his chest.

A tenth-grade alchemist was also an alchemist and still noble.

He puffed out his chest and walked around in front of the Pill Pagoda. With his considerable experience being at the epicenter of explosions, he was completely free of dust.

He exuded a gentlemanly grace and suaveness.

Wandering around like this, he immediately attracted the attention of many passersby.

“How ostentatious! Who is this tenth-grade alchemist?”

“He’s quite a looker. But what a pity about his mindset. Even if he is only a tenth-grade alchemist, he is already so arrogant! What could his future hold?”

“Indeed, all the alchemists I have met are humble, polite, and responsive to requests. They act low-key and never show off.”

“This is the first time I have seen one with such an exaggerated demeanor!”

“Yeah, but it makes sense. No matter how noble a profession, there will always be some that slip through the cracks.”

“...”

Hearing their comments, Xu Xiaoshou stopped in his steps. His face turned puce.

What was the matter? In the stories he read, as long as they were alchemists, weren’t all of them arrogant?

He merely imitated their attitude. Why were so many people displeased?

Was it possible that the alchemists in this world were relatively humble and dared not express themselves?

When he thought of the alchemy profession, he likened it to sitting down for 10 days to a fortnight. He guessed that those who could reach accomplishments in this field would most certainly be boring old farts.

Just look at the old guys on the seventh floor of the Pill Pagoda... Would these people be arrogant?

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he had been misled.

He quietly took off the badge on his chest, wanting to be a low-key person again, but he caught sight of the Information Bar in his mind.

Begrudged, Passive Points +121.

Invited Jealousy, Passive Points, +133.

Envied, Passive Points +166.

“...”

Uh!

‘I daresay, everyone is simply green with envy!’

Xu Xiaoshou was happy again and decided to leave his badge on.

With the Passive Points increasing by a few hundred points this time, even if the king of heaven appeared before him, he would not take it off.

...

“The little girl is taking a long time on her examination!”

After wandering around for half the day and gaining several thousand Passive Points, Xu Xiaoshou still did not see any sign of Mu Zixi.

Indeed, he had been kicked out and disqualified from participating in the examination, but Mu Zixi did nothing wrong. Hence, she could continue with the exam.

The Pill Pagoda did not only have alchemy rooms on the seventh floor. At this time, his junior sister and Vice Commander Fu of the City Guards were still likely hard at work inside.

In his boredom, Xu Xiaoshou stopped walking.

At this moment, a figure suddenly rushed out of the Pill Pagoda.

“Fu Xing?”

Hearing the sound, Fu Xing instantly located Xu Xiaoshou and rushed over so quickly that he seemed to be flying toward him.

“Big Brother, Big Brother Shou!”

“I am so glad that you are still here. I thought that you were gone!”

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned dark. “What do you mean by gone? If you can’t say anything nice, you should be quiet.”

“Hehe.”

Fu Xing forced a smile and touched the back of his head. When he was about to speak, Xu Xiaoshou reached out his hand and gestured at him to stop.

“Do not ask. If you must ask, the answer is I don’t know, and I cannot teach!”

Xu Xiaoshou knew why he was so eager, but even the incomplete version of the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword knowledge was proprietary to the Spiritual Library Division.

He also had no idea where Elder Sang had obtained the complete version of the skill. Its value was evident and far surpassed his wildest imaginations.

Xu Xiaoshou could not possibly teach this skill to others. After all, he had a good grip of what he should or should not do.

Chapter 313: I'm Here to Give Big Brother Shou a Golden Opportunity!

Fu Xing did not mind at all.

If Xu Xiaoshou were so easily persuaded, there would be no need for him to communicate with this guy in person. Moreover, they also would not exchange more than 10 words.

As the young master of the City Lord's Mansion, he was talented in spiritual cultivation and swordsmanship.

Not only was he proficient in the way of manipulation, but he also knew how to accomplish his own objectives by dealing with people.

As long as he could speak and the other party was not mute, he was sure he would be able to dig out 10 Sections of the Finger Sword.

"Big Brother, Big Brother Shou, you have misunderstood me. I didn't come to ask for 10 Sections of the Finger Sword," Fu Xing said with a smile plastered on his face.

Xu Xiaoshou could not help taking a step back and asking, "If it's not for the finger sword, then what do you want? If you do not want my money, do you intend to take my virtue?"

Fu Xing was speechless.

His virtue?

Was he that kind of person?

"No, I'm not interested in Big Brother Shou... Well, to be honest, perhaps I am a little interested..."

Fu Xing touched his chin and suddenly noticed that Xu Xiaoshou's expression was frozen. He hurriedly explained, "No, no, no, Big Brother Shou misunderstood, I didn't mean that."

Xu Xiaoshou wrapped his arms around his chest and stared at him vigilantly. "Then, what do you mean?"

"That is..."

Fu Xing twitched the corner of his mouth and decided to abandon the topic.

This guy... He was almost side-tracked again, but business first.

"I'm here to give you a golden opportunity," Fu Xing said seriously.

"A golden opportunity?"

Xu Xiaoshou frowned. He reached out and probed Fu Xing's forehead with his hand. "Are you serious?"

Fu Xing said with a smile, "Naturally, I am serious."

"His temperature seems fine..."

Xu Xiaoshou murmured, suddenly pointing at the cracked seventh floor of the Pill Pagoda. He asked, "Do you believe that the Pill Pagoda will drop an alchemy cauldron for no reason?"

Fu Xing was taken aback.

The conversation had veered.

'As long as Big Brother Shou starts a topic, I must continue it!'

"I believe it!"

Fu Xing answered firmly.

If he were asked this question last time, he would not believe it. He had changed his mind after witnessing such a tremendous blast.

Let alone an alchemy cauldron, if a person dropped from the Pill Pagoda, he would believe it.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded and asked, "Do you believe that there is a Sovereign Pill in this alchemy cauldron?"

Fu Xing wasn't sure what to say.

He hesitated this time.

Was it possible?

"I don't believe it."

Even if he were to flatter him, he had to understand the problem and the approach clearly. Otherwise, misplaced flattery could rub him up the wrong way.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded indifferently. This answer was within his expectations.

He waved his hand and said, "You also do not believe that good fortune will rain on you, yet you still come to me with an enticement."

"A golden opportunity?"

"No one would offer a reward for nothing. I think you just want to kill me so you can inherit my finger sword!"

Fu Xing's face turned green.

He did not expect that Xu Xiaoshou would be able to manipulate the conversation in this way. With a mournful look, he explained, "Big Brother, you really misunderstood me. The opportunity I came here to give you is only good, not bad."

Xu Xiaoshou scoffed.

“Do you believe that the Sovereign Pill that falls from the sky is absolutely pure and poison-free?”

Fu Xing was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Fu Xing was about to cry in despair. “Big Brother, I am really not a Sovereign Pill, I am...”

“I never said that you were a magic pill!”

“I...” Fu Xing felt his chest hurting and forced himself to play along. He acknowledged that his level was no match for Xu Xiaoshou’s, and he had been led astray again.

“Big Brother, do you know about White Cave?”

He decided to get straight to the point.

He realized that if he were to bait the young man in front of him, he would be the one to suffer in the end.

“White Cave?”

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked this time.

The most recent time this term appeared was during his last conversation with Elder Sang.

From the moment he met Elder Sang during the Windcloud Competition in the Outer Yard of Tiansang Spirit Palace, he had been engulfed in the vortex of major events.

He was sinking in deeper and deeper. In his last conversation with Elder Sang, he inferred that the center of this vortex was the White Cave.

The invasion of the masked man, the trap Elder Sang had laid, the shocking change of Tianxuan Gate, the grey mist figure and the ghost beast, the past sword of the Eighth Sword Deity...

From just hearing their names, these were all major shocking events. Eventually, they all pointed in the same direction.

“White Cave...”

Xu Xiaoshou whispered and frowned.

To be honest, when he deduced those things, the horror in his heart was no less than Elder Sang’s shock at him.

He admittedly did not reveal too much about what he knew, even if he knew that White Cave was a place of great doom and peril and that Elder Sang might just send him there.

He raised his head and looked at Fu Xing.

“Does the golden opportunity you mentioned have something to do with White Cave?”

Fu Xing nodded, feeling smug in his heart.

Sure enough, anyone who knew the existence of White Cave could not be unmoved, even if it was Xu Xiaoshou.

Xu Xiaoshou had an urge to turn around and leave.

To be honest, if he could avoid the cause and effect of this, he would do his best to stay away.

But he thought of Elder Sang.

That lousy old man did things without explanation to outsiders. It was even more impossible for him to tell others his true thoughts beforehand...

Even if this person was his precious disciple.

Honestly, getting accurate information from him was very difficult.

Xu Xiaoshou estimated that when he was about to enter White Cave, the old man would most likely give him a complete White Cave map and say to him, "It's okay, just have fun."

He would then try his best to detour away from the old man's plans. Ultimately, he would still stupidly fall into the old man's ploy.

Unknowingly and inexplicably, he would still want to complete all the missions by himself.

'How scary!'

At this thought, Xu Xiaoshou's heart shuddered.

This time, he had to take the initiative to approach White Cave to at least find out everything in advance so that he was sufficiently prepared for it.

"Tell me about your golden opportunity," Xu Xiaoshou said calmly.

He was eager for information, but he could not possibly let Fu Xing know. Otherwise, this kid would have the upper hand.

He still recalled that this lad lusted after his 10 Sections of the Finger Sword.

'He took the bait!' Fu Xing watched Xu Xiaoshou's reaction, and he was overjoyed in his heart.

He was well-versed in psychology, so how could he not see that Xu Xiaoshou was very interested in intelligence about White Cave?

Under this guy's pretentiously calm demeanor, he had a strong desire to learn about White Cave.

'As long as he wants it, I can give it to him. In the end, he will give me what I want!'

Fu Xing was overjoyed. On the surface, he remained collected and asked, "Big Brother, how much do you know about White Cave?"

"Not much," Xu Xiaoshou answered directly.

"He-he, then you should at least know about the Fourth Sword that went viral recently, right?"

"I know a thing or two about it."

“Huh...” Fu Xing rubbed his chin thoughtfully and looked at Xu Xiaoshou’s expression. He had guessed that he probably also knew the external news.

“Then, do you know that White Cave should be unsealed within 10 days to a fortnight?”

Chapter 314: The Grand Banquet

Xu Xiaoshou was surprised.

“So early?”

He had thought that in this vacation, he would at least have a one-month break before it would be over.

Fu Xing nodded. “The date is still not confirmed but seeing the frequency of the vibrations of the extradimensional space, it will only be a matter of a few days.”

Xu Xiaoshou acknowledged it and asked, “What does this have to do with that opportunity that you mentioned earlier?”

“Heh heh.”

Fu Xing smiled mysteriously. “Big Brother, you might not know this, but even though White Cave is an extradimensional space, it is under the control of large organizations in the surrounding 12 counties and cities.”

“To enter it, you need a nomination. For those who want to try smuggling in, they are executed on the spot!”

Xu Xiaoshou raised his brows. Was it that serious?

Fu Xing knew what he was thinking and explained, “In the past, there was a highly skilled cultivator that tried to sneak into the extradimensional space, but his entering caused a whole area in the space to collapse.”

“If that was just an ordinary place, it might not have mattered that much. For a place as highly sacred as White Cave, even the Holy Divine Palace has to treat it solemnly with respect!”

“In these unprecedented times, the number of guards keeping watch, no matter whether the red-clothed or the white-clothed, will be doubled in their numbers.”

“At this time, if you want to enter White Cave, you have to have a nomination.”

Fu Xing waved his hand without any regard and continued, “Tiansang Prefecture’s White Cave nominations are decided by Tiansang City.”

“And Tiansang City is controlled by the City Lord’s Mansion!”

At this point, he raised his chin proudly.

Obviously, the Fu family would have the final say in the City Lord’s Mansion.

In short, the White Cave nominations would be decided by the Fu Family.

Upon hearing this, Xu Xiaoshou was a little curious and said, "If I remember correctly, Tiansang Spiritual Palace also has some White Cave nominations!"

The Spirit Palace was the most prestigious educational organization and respected by every prefecture.

It was half-controlled by the Holy Divine Palace, affiliated to the Central Region's Holy Palace, and an entity that was totally above normal organizations.

To put it to comparison in terms of status and power, it far exceeded the various famed families of each prefecture, and even that of the City Lord's Mansion.

Of course, the Spiritual Palace did not need to compete. No matter how much they did, they could only be as large as the landmass of a prefecture.

Each Spiritual Palace, as long as it could be established, would automatically contain the top talents of that prefecture and, hence, would not need to compete that much.

Fu Xing smiled and said, "Due to the extradimensional space's opening, each Spiritual Palace would naturally have some quotas."

"The quotas they hold will be given to the top talents in the Spiritual Palace..."

Xu Xiaoshou said, "Oh" in a higher pitch, causing Fu Xing to panic.

"Of course, I'm not saying that you will not make it. What I'm saying is that you are still so young and have lots of growth potential. Even if you do not get it now, you will eventually do so."

"Besides, don't you still have me?"

Xu Xiaoshou could sense what he was hinting at and asked, "Do you want to gift me a nomination to White Cave?"

"Uh!"

Fu Xing smiled wryly. "This gift...I do not have that much of a control, but what I am saying is..."

He straightened his face and looked into the distance with a serious face as if having some deep thought.

"In the days before the extradimensional space opens, according to past rules and tradition, the City Lord's Mansion will organize a large banquet."

"During the banquet, there will be a competition for the younger generation of cultivators, as well as Tiansang prefecture's indirect ranking of the various cities and organizations."

"In short, whoever becomes outstanding during the banquet, it will mean that within Tiansang prefecture... Well, not just within Tiansang prefecture, but including the other regions... Anyway, this person will possess the capabilities to step out and explore!"

Fu Xing's eyes were bright and filled with ambition.

He did not mention how different this year's banquet would be.

Compared to the banquets before the opening of other extradimensional spaces, this year, because it was White Cave, not just organizations from Tiansang prefecture would be there. Even those from outside the prefecture were arriving one by one.

To the families and organizations originating from Tiansang prefecture, this was naturally extremely bad news.

After all, the cake was only so big. The more people there were with stronger abilities, naturally, more of the cake would be given out to them.

But to the younger generation, this banquet was a chance for them to become known.

If they could defeat those who came from outside the prefecture, that would be such an amazing and exciting feat for them.

Fu Xing's idol was the Eighth Sword Deity. Within him flowed the proud ideal of crushing all his opponents beneath his feet.

But now it seemed like it might not be impossible.

At least from those younger cultivators he had seen visit the City Lord's Mansion, there was only a handful that was stronger than him.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Fu Xing weirdly as he saw him start to become more excited by his own words.

"In the end, you still did not say what this banquet has got to do with White Cave's quotas."

Fu Xing was stunned for a moment. He then smiled awkwardly.

"Big Brother, I forgot to say. The banquet naturally has its own procedures, but its main purpose is to decide who should be nominated to take up the White Cave quotas that the City Lord's Mansion has!"

Xu Xiaoshou nodded his head lightly.

Even if Fu Xing had not said that he had already guessed it.

He had guessed that this banquet's original purpose was to distribute the quotas for entering the extradimensional space.

Under the infighting between each organization during the banquet, it eventually caused the banquet's nature to be slightly changed.

Ultimately, to find out the White Cave's secret, this banquet was extremely important.

Xu Xiaoshou asked, "Based on what you had said, since the quotas will be distributed according to abilities and there will be competitions, are these quotas all obtained through fighting?"

"What is the competition like?"

"It would not be good for all the Sovereigns to start fighting for real within the banquet!"

Xu Xiaoshou thought of Ye Xiaotian and Elder Sang. If this level of battle were to occur...

A Hand of Ripping Heaven and another Dragon Melting Realm would be enough to destroy Tiansang City, not to mention the City Lord's Mansion.

"Unless... Is it arm wrestling?"

Fu Xing suddenly felt faint.

'Asking Sovereigns to arm wrestle?'

'What are you thinking? No wonder you are Big Brother Shou!'

"Sovereigns naturally cannot participate."

Fu Xing said confidently, "The region has already ruled that if these high-leveled cultivators were to battle, they would have to fight in their own realms or up in the sky. Otherwise, there would be millions of casualties."

"As such, the battles that occur during the banquet are usually between the younger generation of each organization. There will be simultaneous competitions for Master Stage cultivators, alchemists, and swordsmen taking place."

"The nominations will naturally go to the winners."

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated. "So..."

"So, even if I cannot give you a nomination directly, I can make use of my status as prince of the City Lord's Mansion to cordially invite you to the banquet!"

Chapter 315: This Muggle

Fu Xing smiled, retrieved a gold gilded invitation card from his spatial ring, and handed it over.

"I won't talk about anything else. Just based on the strange spiritual technique that big brother used to send me flying, it seemed to be applied splendidly. I am sure it can play an unexpected role."

"Moreover, Big Brother, your art of alchemy... Even I can tell that you have substance, let alone Mr. President."

"Although it's a bit confounding, the protective barrier of the City Lord's Mansion would be dozens of times stronger than the almost defenseless existence of the Pill Pagoda!"

"Feel free to... I can't say you should feel free to..."

With a slip of his tongue, Fu Xing nearly said, "Feel free to test our defenses." After giving it some thought, he was concerned to give this lad a free rein.

What if the defenses of the City Lord's Mansion could not withstand his attack?

When this thought flickered across his mind, Fu Xing instantly discarded it.

That was impossible.

In Tiansang County, the level of protection cast on the City Lord's Mansion was almost the highest available.

Apart from the Palace Guarding Array in Tiansang Spirit Palace, there was no way to find other spirit arrays comparable to the City Lord's Mansion.

'An Invitation to the Night Banquet...'

Xu Xiaoshou took the gold gilded invitation card and rubbed it lightly. He felt its matte material, which complemented well with the delicately luxurious texture.

He estimated that the cost of producing this alone was exceptionally high.

He opened it. From within, there was a cloud of spiritual mist. Under the mist, there were no words but only a red seal.

"City Lord Mansion!"

On one side, there was also a smaller symbol with the words "Young Master" engraved on it.

"Tsk, this is something..."

Originally, Xu Xiaoshou was already keen on this banquet dinner.

Now that he saw this extravagant invitation card, he could already imagine the scale of this banquet dinner.

He immediately asked, "Did you mention that those aristocratic families in Tiansang County would be sending people over?"

Xu Xiaoshou had no interest in the families, except for the Zhang family.

Or rather, he was very interested in the head of the Zhang family, Zhang Taiying.

Since he had slain the two murderers sent, it was only appropriate to see the mastermind.

Fu Xing said, "Naturally, he will be attending. By then, the heads of the four major families in Tiansang County will be there, let alone other small families. Who dares not come if they want to progress upward?"

When he said that, he suddenly frowned and added, "Oh, the heads of the three major families."

Xu Xiaoshou's thoughts were consumed by "banquet dinner" and "White Cave." He paid no attention to this snippet of information.

According to Fu Xing, if the forces in all the big and small cities in Tiansang County gathered, how many people would that be?

Those people could not possibly come with ordinary guards.

Even if the Master Spiritual Cultivators were to make their presence, the guards must at least be Innate to correspond, right?

In that case, how many Spiritual Cultivators would be present at that time?

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the vicinity of the Pill Pagoda.

The explosion attracted many Spiritual Cultivators. Though, if he kept count, there were not many of them.

After all, each time he put on a display, it only amounted to more than 100 Passive Points. That indicated that except for ordinary people, the density of Spiritual Cultivators was not great.

But the banquet dinner would be different.

If he were to follow Fu Xing's advice and parade around wearing his alchemist badge, how many Passive Points would that be?

Hundreds? Thousands?

Could the City Lord's Mansion accommodate so many people?

Thinking of this, Xu Xiaoshou became curious and asked, "How big is your house? I feel like it can accommodate hundreds of people!"

"A few hundred?"

Fu Xing almost raised his brows when he heard that. Was he being sarcastic?

He glanced at Xu Xiaoshou's expression carefully. When he realized that he was not kidding, a strange look crossed his face immediately.

"I'll keep you in suspense. When you come, you will find out for yourself."

Fu Xing spoke with a smile and murmured unconsciously.

"Hundreds..."

"Hmph!"

Now Xu Xiaoshou was curious. He glanced at the Information Bar.

Belittled, Passive Points +1.

This kid...

Was it possible that the City Lord's Mansion belonging to his family was so big that it could accommodate thousands of people dining at the same time?

Banquet dinner...

It was rather impressive.

Xu Xiaoshou did not ask further. While chatting with Young Master Fu, they walked to a nearby restaurant.

Fu Xing was very talkative.

When Xu Xiaoshou rendered him speechless previously, it must have been difficult for this naturally talkative guy.

Fu Xing was very knowledgeable and well-versed in subjects including astronomy, geography, the art of spiritual cultivation, swordsmanship, arrays, and the Great Path. He had studied almost all of them, and his understanding of these subjects was not superficial but extensive.

The only area that he lacked was the art of alchemy.

It seemed that the art of alchemy had skipped him entirely and passed on to his sister. However, Fu Yinhong was not proficient in other subjects besides alchemy. She must have snatched this ability when they were in the womb.

Although, Fu Xing still had the upper hand in all other subjects.

In addition, this guy had a very handsome face.

Xu Xiaoshou tsked and sighed. Ever since he came into this world, this was the most relatively perfect specimen of a person he had ever seen.

He had a good temper, high EQ, adequate IQ, and the support of the City Lord behind him, but he was not arrogant or haughty. Most importantly, he was also good-looking.

He felt that if he were a woman, he would inevitably be attracted to him.

After a hearty meal of delicious dishes and wine, the two parted ways in delight.

Xu Xiaoshou did not wait long this time before his little junior sister walked out of the Pill Pagoda.

Seeing this little girl jumping in joy and her ponytails fluttering, Xu Xiaoshou knew that her achievements were considerable.

“You took a long time. How many grades did you sit for?”

“Ninth grade!” Mu Zixi exclaimed excitedly. “I have only recently condensed my Spiritual Cultivation Pills, so I had no confidence at all.”

“However, at the critical moment, I was successful during my third attempt!”

“Although it is still unstable, there was one top-grade pill. That’s a top-grade Spiritual Cultivation Pill...”

The little girl was ecstatic. She grabbed Xu Xiaoshou’s hand and jumped up and down.

When her excitement died down, she suddenly blushed and let go of him. She immediately handed over a badge.

Xu Xiaoshou took a closer look and could not help but feel a tinge of jealousy.

There were nine clouds...

“Damn, there is one less cloud than my badge. How about this, I’ll give you my badge, and you lend me this for two days.”

Mu Zixi replied, “Huh?”

What was going on?

That was the badge that she had earned through her abilities and hard work. She had not even worn it yet or touched it enough to warm it.

Did he want to take it away like that?

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

As Xu Xiaoshou spoke, he pinned the nine clouds badge on his chest. He took off the other tenth-grade badge filled with clouds and patted the girl's left chest.

Uh!

Something seemed off. Was there more material?

Mu Zixi's face instantly burned red, and her curse was interrupted.

The air was still. Xu Xiaoshou looked mortified. He usually had a lot to say and could go on for a long time. But now, he was utterly speechless.

Should he withdraw his hand or leave it there?

"Ahem, don't get me wrong. Come, I will help you put it on..."

Mu Zixi blushed but did not say anything. When she reached out to take off the badge on Xu Xiaoshou's chest, he quickly avoided her.

"Xu Xiaoshou, return my badge to me!"

"What are you doing?" Xu Xiaoshou regained his usual wretchedness once he was at a safe distance from her. "I'm your senior brother. Why can't I wear your badge?"

"The president said that this badge mustn't be used indiscriminately or given to others!"

"If I say so, then it's fine! Whose words do you trust?"

"The president, of course!"

"Oh, so you are so obedient toward the president's words. Then why don't you be his junior sister instead? Don't look for me anymore. Hurry up and go. I will keep this badge for you first."

Mu Zixi was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at her pouting face and found himself amused.

The young girl's face was bouncy with collagen and saturated with vitality. This time, her face was apple red.

The corners of her mouth turned down, and her eyebrows creased. It seemed like her tears would fall out at the very next second.

It was too heart-wrenching to watch.

Xu Xiaoshou reached out and passed her the packed cooked food in his hand, “Hey, don’t be sad. Your senior brother is very caring. See, I have even bought you dinner!”

Gurgle...

Mu Zixi’s stomach started to growl. Her tiny face was full of shock.

“Xu Xiaoshou, have you eaten already?”

“Yes, what’s the matter?”

Mu Zixi was speechless once again.

The little girl’s small fists clenched so tightly that her bones were almost crushed. She was so mad that she stamped her feet twice in anger.

‘This muggle[1]...’

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

[1] The term muggle originated from Harry Potter, which loosely refers to ordinary non-magical people who stubbornly refuse to believe in all magical things.

Chapter 316: Xiaoshou Engages in Spiritual Array

Abundant Spiritual Inn...

That was the name of the subsequent inn that Xu Xiaoshou found after the Plenty Gold Inn.

The environment was beautiful, the service was attentive, and its protective barrier tough.

It was about the same quality as the Plenty Gold Inn, but it could have better Feng Shui.

There had been some small shocks one after another in the past few days. Fortunately, the big blasts did not occur.

Buzz...

The protective barrier of a VIP room on the second floor trembled again, suddenly alarming the servant who was fidgeting on the first floor. After finding that there was no motion afterward, he returned to sit down.

Only, it was just like sitting on pins and needles.

“When is this guest with the surname Xu leaving?”

The servant was extremely anxious.

Seven days ago, he welcomed two Plenty Gold VIPs, a male, and a female. They had directly asked for two executive suites.

They stayed without any issue for two days before heading out. However, everything had changed upon their return.

The little girl’s room was still okay, just like any regular room.

But that guy...

He invited too many problems.

Every two hours, the protective barrier experienced three to four blasts. The servant had no clue how the young man could trigger so many outbursts in the room alone.

He also did not see him inviting anyone into his room.

The servant was very distressed. After the heaviest blast, the protective barrier nearly shattered. Even the guest in the next room complained.

But this young man was loaded.

He brushed it off, saying, "It's okay, I will pay for it," extinguishing the servant's thoughts of chasing this god of destruction away.

The blasts that occurred from time to time in the past five days made him almost suspect that the previous explosion of the Pill Pagoda was related to this person.

After all, the timing was impeccable.

As soon as they went out, the Pill Pagoda exploded.

This matter was still widely circulated and discussed.

The servant rested his head on his hands while wondering when this god of destruction would leave. Ironically, he also hoped that this god of wealth could spend more time here.

'Well, if it was not for my livelihood, who would want to be in such a dilemma?'

He sighed and suddenly saw three young men dressed as swordsmen walking in from the door. His eyes lit up.

"Hey..."

"Three Sirs, here please."

...

In the room...

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes were bloodshot. He was staring closely at the two palm-sized array wheels on his hands and a carving knife in his hand.

He laid on the ground without caring for his image. There were fragments of the array wheel beside him, and there was a scorched smell in the air.

Within close sight, there was a thick ancient book. Its pages were turned until they were wrinkled.

It was stacked up. A few large characters were written on the cover.

"Spiritual Array 101: From Beginner to Professional (Li Seven)."

Yes, he was now interested in the art of spiritual array.

Strictly speaking, this new interest of his originated seven days ago.

At that time, when he saw the terrifying array wheel in the spatial ring of the killer Li Seven, he had already thought of a once-and-for-all battle plan.

That kind of plan was very Xu Xiaoshou.

He just needed to make the array wheel in advance so he could use it in battle. Who would be able to withstand it when he casually threw it out then?

As for the issue of the spiritual array costing more spirit crystals than Spiritual Cultivation Pills...

Xu Xiaoshou smirked to himself.

On the day Xu Xiaoshou received his alchemist badge, he had already pawned his stolen goods loot at a reasonable price. He directly obtained the Supreme Gold Card from the Plenty Gold Company.

People with this card were said to be worth tens of millions.

Were 10 million spirit crystals a lot?

Though it sounded like a fortune, it was not the case.

The spatial ring from Xiao Sixteen alone was worth tens of millions.

This guy did not have any side hustles and was a traditional Spiritual Cultivator.

Yet, as a killer, his spatial ring contained almost all major categories of spiritual techniques in the world. It went without saying how they came into his possession.

Xu Xiaoshou saw Innate, Master, and even a Sovereign Stage assassination spiritual technique.

If the spiritual techniques were sold, they could fetch more than 10 million spirit crystals.

Xu Xiaoshou did not have the energy to engage in these dealings and left everything to the Plenty Gold Company to handle. After all, he...

Had no use for those items.

When he sold the spatial ring, his net worth directly increased from a millionaire to a multimillionaire.

Zhang Xinxiong's spatial ring was relatively worthless in comparison.

The kind of guy who had strong family ties and was not a lone ranger could not bring so many spiritual techniques with him.

What he learned and used was sourced from the Zhang family.

That spatial ring could not fetch much, and the same went for Li Seven's ring.

All the valuable things were already in Xu Xiaoshou's possession.

Spiritual array...

This was an expensive profession. To seriously speak of it, it was more costly than Spiritual Cultivation Pills.

Alchemy merely required spiritual herbs and techniques. Techniques could be learned, and spiritual herbs plucked. Decades and centuries-old spiritual ingredients would suffice for the average practitioner.

If there were herbs that were thousands and tens of thousands of years old, then they would be priceless.

It was not the same for spiritual arrays.

To even make the lowest level array wheel for a spiritual array, it was necessary to use the Qingming Celestial Rock.

This celestial rock was extremely precious. Without a geological vein that formed tens of thousands of years ago, it could not be mined at all.

It had the function of gathering spiritual energy and reinforcing the seal of spiritual veins.

It was the most suitable material for making array wheels.

Of course, this material used to seal spiritual energy was hard and resilient. But if it exploded, its power was by no means less than that of an ordinary cauldron explosion.

“Boom!”

An explosion sounded, which directly blasted Xu Xiaoshou’s face with black soot.

Although the shattered pieces hit his face, they all fell to the ground.

With the top blocked by a human face, the airwaves could only spread laterally from all around, violently pelting the walls.

Suddenly, the barrier in the room flickered again.

“Damn it! I don’t have the Spirit-gathering Array Expert! With my strength, I can’t even carve a tenth-grade spiritual array!”

Xu Xiaoshou cursed and put down the carving knife in his hand. He got up and cracked his knuckles, making loud snapping sounds.

He did not start learning the art of spiritual arrays just because he was idle.

And it certainly was not because his lazy streak disappeared. He felt motivated to work on himself.

The main reason was that...

“The previous Cooking Expert ability appeared in the process of alchemy. That broken system may need to sense that it is going to develop in that direction before it can point me to a new path...”

“Spiritual array ...”

Xu Xiaoshou muttered to himself. He had never engaged in this before, or rather, his prior experience with it was sending it into explosions.

It was too difficult to get the Spirit-gathering Array Expert ability based on the probability of the system draw alone. He could not get it last time and only got the Toughness ability.

Therefore, he had to use external factors to stimulate it.

As long as he made even a little progress in this subject matter, the system would be able to detect it. Who knew? It might just produce a Spirit-gathering Array Expert ability one day.

That way, he could rely on Passive Points to upgrade his mastery of this subject.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the broken pieces of the array wheel on the ground. His head throbbed.

“It’s just a Minor Spirit-gathering Array, yet it is so difficult to achieve. If I were to make an array wheel that can seal the Great Fireball by myself, who knows how many years that would take?”

He laid on his back on the big bed. At the spur of the moment, he was struck with a whim.

‘Again?’

Xu Xiaoshou frowned. This was the 18th whim that manifested in these five days.

The deadly warning function that came with the skill Perception had proven to be truthful and effective in previous battles.

Only at that time, he was sneezing.

This time...

Xu Xiaoshou clutched his chest with a morose expression.

‘Who wants to kill me?’

He viewed the Information Bar. As expected, the message displayed on it for the 18th time.

Watched, Passive Points +1.

Chapter 317: Sister, Please Watch Your Words

The Eighth Palace...

In the endless wilderness, a few desolate weeds sparsely adorned the barren ground, tenacious yet helplessly swaying to the wind.

In the afterglow of the setting sun, a few wisps of smoke curled up, adding some life to the dead silence.

This was a small town.

Well, it was originally.

It could no longer be called a town because the average population that settled there all year was estimated to be less than 50 households.

At best, it was considered a poor little village.

Although scarcely populated in the past, this village had seen better days.

The past Spiritual Cultivators were countless beyond measure, each with their respective unique abilities, saying the least.

It was because those who came to this place stayed on forever.

Among the ordinary people who did not qualify to live in the city, the Eighth Palace was the most famous among tens of counties nearby.

There was no other reason than that there was an extradimensional space there.

It was called White Cave.

...

Bump!

A golden staff wedged to the ground. Xin Gugu stroked his hair back and raised his head with his eyes facing the sun.

Under the gray sky, only one large wild goose was flying south.

"Is that White Cave?" he asked.

Jiao Tangtang held a gray geomantic compass in her hands. She nodded her beautiful face. Her expression was serious.

"Correct."

"The sect sent us over this time. Naturally, the main mission is to find a ghost beast host body for Greedy the Cat Spirit. I didn't have high hopes originally, but Xu Xiaoshou appeared out of nowhere."

Jiao Tangtang shook her head. She did not continue the conversation about that guy but said, "In fact, the second task is what we should complete."

"What is it?" Xin Gugu was curious.

He had always known that although Greedy the Cat Spirit was important, it was only a side quest to this mission. Even if they could not find a good ghost beast host body, they would not face punishment upon their return.

When assigned to Jiao Tangtang, she did indeed accept the mission.

Even he did not fully know the contents of this secret mission.

Jiao Tangtang glanced at him, her eyes glinting dangerously, and asked, "Do you want to hear about it?"

"Of course." Xin Gugu nodded emphatically. "I have already come this far. How can I still betray you? We siblings must work on this mission together!"

Jiao Tangtang's lips curled into a sneer.

“So, you are aware of the term betrayal.”

However, knowing Xin Gugu’s character, she did not mind too much. After her statement, her gaze fell on the geomantic compass again.

“I will not hide this mission from you because it is indeed very likely that I will not be able to complete it by myself.”

Xin Gugu had a look of surprise in his eyes. Jiao Tangtang was one of the rare gems amongst their peers who could hold back her murderous nature.

Given her abilities, how she could not settle it?

Xin Gugu looked forward to it even more and urged, “What is the mission?”

“Finding a person!”

“Who are you looking for?”

Jiao Tangtang glanced toward the abyss and declared firmly, “Feng Yujin, Elder Feng!”

Xin Gugu looked at her gravely. His eyes were finally showing confusion.

“Who is that?”

“Hehe, obviously you wouldn’t know who it is, kid!” Jiao Tangtang chuckled, “When people were conquering the five domains of the continent, you were still screaming and crying in your diapers!”

“...”

Xin Gugu’s complexion darkened suddenly. A threatening smile formed on his mouth.

“Har har har. What! Did! You! Say!”

Bang!

A long white leg swept across and collided directly with his head. A gush of blood sprayed out from Xin Gugu’s neck.

“I was talking to you, you piece of trash!”

Jiao Tangtang glanced at the bloodstains on her calf with a look of disgust evident in her eyes.

“Can’t you control your strength? How disgusting!”

“Ahh!”

Xin Gugu hugged his head and squatted down, yelling loudly.

From his swollen temples and the distorted expression on his face, it was evident the amount of pain he was in.

After a long time suppressing the pain, the man picked up his staff and stood up.

His face twisted in ferocity.

“Large Woman, how many times have I told you not to deal a blow to the head? It hurts terribly...”

Bang!

Jiao Tangtang swept one leg across again and launched into another kick. This time, the effects were symmetrical. He was red on both sides of his head.

“Large Woman?” she sneered as she stuck out her heaving chest, “Although I like your prefix very much...”

“But it’s called Big Sister!”

“Sniff...” Xin Gugu cradled his head in his hands and sobbed, “Big Sister...”

Buzz...

At this moment, there was a vibration coming from Jiao Tangtang’s chest.

She frowned and reached to take out a jade scroll from her robes.

“What happened?”

Xin Gugu immediately looked up with curiosity.

“Does it not hurt anymore? Are you no longer pretending?” Jiao Tangtang rolled her eyes and extended her foot menacingly.

“Hey, don’t mess around! Your communication jade scroll!” Xin Gugu dodged quickly.

Jiao Tangtang snorted coldly and looked at the communication jade scroll in her hand again.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

That day, they respected the Greedy the Cat Spirit’s choice and chose Xu Xiaoshou as the ghost beast host body. Whether it was successful or whether it could create good fortune, no one knew.

But it was a fact that the price was a communication jade scroll.

Deep down, Jiao Tangtang did not want to answer this communication jade scroll.

She did not like talking to that young man...

Well, she could not exactly say that either.

Perhaps she just did not enjoy having to swallow the words on the tip of her tongue when she talked to him since he rendered her speechless every time.

After all, no ordinary person would like that.

But she had to answer it because Greedy the Cat Spirit was there. If there was nothing urgent, he probably would not look for her.

Was it possible that something happened to Greedy the Cat Spirit?

“Toot.”

She answered the jade scroll.

“Moxi Moxi?” A deep magnetic voice came from the other side, “Is this Miss Jiao Tangtang?”

Jiao Tangtang’s mouth twitched. “Yes.”

She did not beat around the bush and got to the point. “What is wrong with Greedy the Cat Spirit?”

Xu Xiaoshou’s voice rang again, “Greedy the Cat Spirit is fine. I just wanted to find you.”

Jiao Tangtang was speechless.

This guy... Could he not?

Was he so idle?

He had so much free time and did not spend it on cultivation. Did he think that she gave him this communication jade scroll to answer his life problems and cure his boredom?

Her temper flared, and she instantly hung up the jade scroll.

Xin Gugu raised his eyes. “What’s the matter? What did you say?”

“It’s nothing. That guy is too idle!”

As Jiao Tangtang spoke, she was about to reinsert the jade scroll back into her chest, but the jade scroll vibrated again.

Hum—

“Answer it?” Xin Gugu watched her in amusement.

This guy was gifted. After only a few words, he could already drive her up the wall.

That was indeed impressive.

If he could find an opportunity to learn from him, would he impart this skill?

“If you’re not answering it, may I?” Xin Gugu asked, extending his hand.

Jiao Tangtang gave him a sideways glance but paid no attention to him. She pressed the receive button on the jade scroll and hollered.

“Xu Xiaoshou! If you have nothing serious, don’t call this—”

Just then, a pitiful squeal interrupted her from the other end.

“Meow! Hiss!”

Was this...

A cat meowing?

Jiao Tangtang’s face turned green. How much pain did the cat endure for it to cry like this?

Was Greedy the Cat Spirit being abused?

At this time, the woman's murderous intent surged to the sky. Beside her, Xin Gugu was taken by surprise as well.

She coldly asked, "Xu Xiaoshou, do you have a death wish?"

On the other end, Xu Xiaoshou remained cool as a cucumber. He was not affected by her emotions at all, and his voice was level and even.

"Sister, please watch your words."

"The cat is in my hands. If you dare to hang up on me in the future, you may never hear this meow again!"

Chapter 318: I Need Reinforcements

In the inn...

"Here, I'll return the cat to you."

Xu Xiaoshou let out a breath, and the little guy in his hand swooned.

He handed the cat back to the servant and waved him out of the room.

The servant took the cat and walked out of the door. His face was full of disbelief.

What was this supposed to mean?

If he was not absorbed in his hobby of causing explosions, was he interested in pinching cats?

'What a barbaric and strange fetish. Indeed, there are all kinds of fish in the sea.'

He felt sorry for the cat and stroked it with his hand gently.

This was the fortune cat in their store. Though he had expected many possibilities, he could not have known that this customer with the surname Xu would ask him to bring the cat over only to pinch it.

Who could think of that?

'What a lunatic!'

"Woo..."

As a result, when he touched the cat, it suddenly screeched. The servant suddenly retracted his hand in fright.

He fixed his eyes on the cat.

It did not seem to be in pain. It looked as though it was comfortable.

The servant was confused.

...

Xu Xiaoshou was listening to the violent heaves on the phone. One could imagine how worked up Jiao Tangtang was at this moment.

He smiled, "Sister, don't hang up the phone. I have something I need your help with."

"Then speak. What's the matter?"

Listening to her curt tone, he could tell that she was trying to calm herself down. Xu Xiaoshou smiled and said, "That's right, let's speak nicely. Don't be so irritable!"

"Don't run in circles. If you want to fart[1]..."

On the other end of the phone, she stopped herself in time.

Xu Xiaoshou curled his lips and said, "I need you to help me kill someone."

"Hmm?"

Jiao Tangtang's pitch rose. She glanced at Xin Gugu who was beside her and asked, "Kill someone? Are you sure you want to use this favor now?"

Given this communication jade scroll, it was equivalent to a favor.

Jiao Tangtang could not possibly do his bidding instantly when summoned. If Xu Xiaoshou activated this favor now, this communication jade scroll would only play the role of a communication device in the future.

'Kill someone...'

Beside her, Xin Gugu's eyes lit up. He licked his lips excitedly. He was looking forward to this task.

"Correct."

Xu Xiaoshou affirmed, "I don't just want you to kill someone, but I also need both of you to come right now!"

Jiao Tangtang asked, "On such short notice? What mess have you gotten to that you need us to wipe your ass now?"

"It's a matter of life and death!"

Xu Xiaoshou was not joking. His tone became serious.

He glanced at the Information Bar.

The Watched notification appeared more frequently.

It was very ominous.

The feeling of his heart clenching in fear was very uncomfortable.

He knew that someone was spying on him, and the strength of the person was formidable.

Even when it was Li Seven, Xiao Sixteen, and the others, he had never felt that way before.

Moreover, those two guys were at the Master Stage.

What did this indicate?

Xu Xiaoshou's heart sank. He thought of what Li Seven said before he died.

He knew that these people's words were not credible, but what if they were true?

'Three Incenses...'

'The early-stage of Sovereign killer...'

Xu Xiaoshou admitted that if what Li Seven had said was just an empty threat before his death, he succeeded. Xu Xiaoshou was convinced of it now.

At least he was suppressed at this time, although he was still fearful and panicked.

And if it were true...

Xu Xiaoshou panicked even more.

Even if there was Aje, he did not have the confidence to go take on Sovereign Stage cultivators at this moment.

Could he face Xiao Qixiu, Ye Xiaotian, and others with his Innate cultivation stage?

'What a joke!'

Even if Xu Xiaoshou had a Master Physique, he could still be defeated with a single sword blow.

Xu Xiaoshou's hand clasped the jade scroll tightly. He paced back and forth, but his tone was very calm.

"Sister, don't ask further. Just come here as soon as possible. I really need you both here right now."

Jiao Tangtang lowered her head and frowned with eyebrows creasing together. She looked thoughtful.

'Head over immediately?'

The distance from Tiansang City to the Eighth Palace was not close at all. They had also spent a lot of effort along the way to get to where they were.

But they had not gone at maximum speed. The time estimate was calculated at a regular walking pace.

But if she were to hurry there, it would require at least half a day on foot.

Besides...

Jiao Tangtang looked at the gray sky. After only standing there for less than an hour, she saw a few extradimensional cracks flash several times.

White Cave was going to be unsealed soon.

She pinched the jade scroll and said, "I can give you one person. However, I also have urgent matters on my side. Both of us can't head over together."

"I can't have both?" Xu Xiaoshou's voice rose. "Bring me the cat!" he commanded.

Jiao Tangtang was so furious that her breath was trembling.

She swore that if this guy were in front of her now, she would land a kick on him and then take Greedy the Cat Spirit back, never letting it suffer anymore.

But...

“I have something urgent here!”

“What urgent matters could you have? Since you are constantly on the go, all I am asking for is for you to come over and do me a favor. You can settle it in a heartbeat.”

Xu Xiaoshou was determined to hold his ground. How could one person be enough?

What if the people from Three Incenses were two Sovereign Stage cultivators?

According to Li Seven, his head was worth a million spirit crystals.

If the bounty were to be divided equally by two people, that would be half a million each.

Wasn't half a million money?

Although he was a multi-millionaire, he also did not ignore the enticement of half a million. He had every reason to be wary of those hungry and thirsty assassins who were bloodthirsty like wolves and tigers.

Jiao Tangtang said in a deep voice, “Xu Xiaoshou, I am not joking with you. I have an urgent task to do right now, so I cannot do as you wish.”

“Look, I will let you have Xin Gugu. He alone can help you handle everything!”

Xu Xiaoshou immediately dismissed it. “I don't believe it!”

Jiao Tangtang smiled, “Didn't you want to kill someone? Who do you want to kill?”

“...”

Xu Xiaoshou was silent. Who was he going to kill?

How could he possibly know?

If he knew the identity of his killer, would he be so terrified?

It was because his enemy was undercover, and he was under the spotlight. If the roles were reversed, he was confident that he could cause panic and terror. What if the unknown killer was Sovereign Stage?

Jiao Tangtang said, “I don't care who you want to kill... Is it a Master? A Sovereign?”

She paused and chuckled.

How could this guy's enemy be Sovereign Stage?

No matter who it was, Jiao Tangtang was still very confident.

“I will let you have Xin Gugu. As long as you are not going against the entire Tiansang City, no matter who you are facing, even if it is Sovereign Stage, he can help you kill them!”

Xu Xiaoshou did not believe it. "Is he so powerful?"

Jiao Tangtang glanced at the man beside her and then looked at the golden staff in his hand. She thought, 'If this guy was let loose, even I couldn't stop him.'

"Yes!"

She acknowledged. "He's powerful."

Xu Xiaoshou asked, "What if my enemy is two Sovereign Stage cultivators?"

"Ha-ha!"

Jiao Tangtang was amused. Two Sovereign Stage cultivators?

This guy was hilarious. Would two Sovereign Stage cultivators go and kill an Innate Stage? He placed himself on a high pedestal.

"That's just two, no big deal," she confirmed calmly.

Xu Xiaoshou was silent again for a long time.

"There are three of them, and they are all at the peak of Sovereign Stage!"

Jiao Tangtang rolled her eyes.

"Don't even mention three. As long as they are at Sovereign Stage and yet to reach the Cutting Path Level, my brother will settle them for you when they attack!"

Next to her, Xin Gugu, who was listening to their conversation, was thrilled. He straightened his golden staff and snatched the communication jade scroll from his sister. His beard and hair danced with the wind, and he raised his eyebrows.

"Xu Xiaoshou... Is this true?"

"Did I hear that you want to kill someone?"

"Tell me the time and place, and give me another ten minutes. I will be there soon!"

"Today, even if the king of heavens was here, I would kill him for you!"

[1] The fart term originated from a Chinese proverb that means one should speak quickly and fart quickly, and not hold it in.

Chapter 319: Uncle, Are You An Assassin?

"Duu."

Xu Xiaoshou ended the call on the jade communication device.

Since he was alone, he did not need to joke around anymore. As soon as it was quiet, his expression turned serious.

No matter how much Xin Gugu tried to reassure him, he could not relax as long he was alone in the room.

'10 minutes?'

'Is Xin Gugu reliable?'

Xu Xiaoshou opened the windows. The sun had started to set, so the sky had turned yellow.

He thought of the stranger who wanted to take his life.

The pressure he was feeling had become increasingly suffocating. It was as if he could collapse in the next second.

This feeling had lasted five days and was getting more intense.

Xu Xiaoshou knew that this could not continue any longer. Even if the assassin could wait, he could not.

The longer this dragged on, the more the assassin would find out about him.

For Xu Xiaoshou, there was bound to be a day when his last line of psychological defense would be broken.

'Today is the day to settle him!'

Xu Xiaoshou bit hard on his teeth with determination.

Bang!

He pushed the door open and walked straight out.

"Xu Xiaoshou?"

Mu Zixi was at the doorstep. She had raised her hand, hesitating whether to knock.

"Hmm?"

Xu Xiaoshou's nervousness had diminished a little. "Do you have something to tell me?"

Mu Zixi hesitated for a while and asked, "Are, are you, going out?"

"What for?"

"For a stroll?"

The young lady twirled her ponytails and lifted her head with her gaze shifting. "Don't you find it boring to always be stuck in the room?"

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned for a moment.

He had not thought of that before. He might be having a lot of fun by himself, but this young lady might not be.

It was already considered good enough if she could alchemize for a whole day. Asking her to do so for five days was too harsh for this active and bubbly girl.

"Now is not a good time."

Nevertheless, he still shook his head and said, "I have a serious matter to settle. I have to head out for a while."

Mu Zixi's eyes lit up. "I want to go with you. You can settle your matter. I will just watch from the side and cheer you on!"

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou thought, 'You really should not take part in this matter. It can only be settled by me alone.'

Whether he could make it back alive was still an unanswered question.

Touching the piece of black rock he was wearing, Xu Xiaoshou hardened his resolve and rejected her.

"No."

"I'm leaving."

The young lady wanted to continue speaking, but Xu Xiaoshou had already left her behind, causing her to stomp the ground in anger.

"@ ¥ %..."

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

Stalked, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou sighed.

He looked back and shoved the sneaky young lady back into the room.

Scolding her now might cause her to have the opposite reaction. Hence, Xu Xiaoshou gently said, "Be a good girl and wait for me to come back into the room. I will take you out to play tomorrow."

"..."

Initially, Mu Zixi wanted to resist. Once she heard such a gentle tone, she was stunned.

Was this person still Xu Xiaoshou?

She glanced at the big palm on her forehead and was speechless.

Xu Xiaoshou took advantage of this lack of reaction by his junior sister and moved away.

Mu Zixi was speechless.

'It's so irritating! I got cheated again!'

'How could Xu Xiaoshou be so gentle?'

"This senior brother is a tyrant!'

She clenched her fists tightly as her eyes widened.

"Tomorrow..."

Dong!

Mu Zixi laid on the big bed and bounced on it with her face looking like she had been wronged.

“Alone again. I don’t want this!”

...

In the evening...

“Selling biscuits... One for one shattered spirit crystal. Two for two shattered crystals...”

“Passersby, come have a look at newly sown spiritual ice silk clothes! They’re definitely clean, pristine, and high quality!”

“Elixirs! Elixirs! Red Gold Pill! Known as a second life for Spiritual Cultivators, it’s usually priced at 99 but is now only 59! As long as you have the spirit crystals, it is yours for the taking!”

“...”

On the street, such shouting and merchandise promotion were heard everywhere. The world of ordinary people and that of Spiritual Cultivators had perfectly integrated in Tiansang City.

Even if the sky was turning dark, the bustling city showed no signs of fatigue.

Everyone was still motivated and working hard for the sake of earning their livelihoods to make ends meet.

Xu Xiaoshou squeezed through the crowd alone.

All the bustle belonged to the other people. In his current world, it had been solemn and grave as soon as he stepped out of that door.

Almost immediately after he stepped out of the inn, the Watched notification did not move anymore.

Different from the other notifications, which eventually got drowned out, once Xu Xiaoshou saw that one notification, he knew that that Watched would not disappear like the rest.

Instead, it was continually being executed.

‘He is watching me!’

Xu Xiaoshou felt his scalp tingle.

As he looked at the crowd around him, he felt some sense of relief.

Sovereigns could not attack without reason.

That was a mainland rule.

This was also the center of Tiansang City with lots of people walking by. The assassin would not risk doing anything there.

If he did, the guards or highly skilled cultivators from Tiansang City were enough to stop him.

Even so, Xu Xiaoshou was still feeling a lack of confidence.

'Ten minutes... There are still 10 minutes before Xin Gugu arrives. I was too rushed. I should have stayed inside for a while longer.'

As he was thinking, Xu Xiaoshou walked through the crowd. At this point, he still did not dare to walk toward a place with fewer people.

To hide this fear, he purposely chose a target destination to walk toward.

It was the Pill Pagoda.

A 10-minute walk was enough for him to reach the Pill Pagoda.

'Once Xin Gugu arrives, I can...'

Dong!

A deep sound could be heard. It was followed by the sound of a figure hitting the ground. The exclamations from the people around woke Xu Xiaoshou up from his thoughts.

He raised his head.

Not far away on the floor was a sloppy-looking man with long hair and a dirty body. He was dragging a big sack behind him, causing him to look like a trash collector.

At this time, he was humming and lying on the ground while holding his chest.

'This is...'

Xu Xiaoshou had an awkward expression. Had he been too deep in thought and bumped into someone?

He was immediately apologetic and wanted to help the man up, but his hands suddenly stopped.

"Are you the assassin?"

His eyes suddenly looked cold as he picked grew alert and his body went cold.

"No, no, I'm not an assassin!"

Xu Xiaoshou had been paying attention to the notification board. If this was the assassin, there should have been a notification of Ambushed appearing.

This was merely a passerby who he had bumped into when he was nervously in deep thought.

"I am sorry."

Xu Xiaoshou helped the man up, not worrying about all the filth.

He pulled the sack on the ground over and wanted to pass it back to the man.

Clang! Clang!

He heard the sound of metal clashing.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned.

It sounded like scrap metal, which suited this uncle's identity. With Xu Xiaoshou's perception, he thought it sounded more like a bunch of weapons.

Xu Xiaoshou decided to be direct again.

"Sir, are you an assassin?"

Chapter 320: Don't Be Nervous, I'm Just Here To Take Your Life

The man looked completely confused.

Apparently, he was someone who had been through a lot. Even if he had been bumped into to the extent that his shoulders bled, he did not make a single sound.

"Young man, you did not look properly while walking. Are you now blaming me?"

"Assassin?"

"Puff!"

He laughed loudly as if amused. He used his hands, which were draped in dirty sleeves, to continually hit his leg. Tears were almost falling from his eyes.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Mocked, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at these two notifications and was instantly relieved.

This system couldn't possibly be fake.

No matter how well this man might have been acting, he could not possibly bluff the system. Did that mean he really was just a passerby?

"Huu..."

Xu Xiaoshou saw him laughing and started to laugh himself.

He was so nervous that he did not realize that from the moment he stepped out of the door, his back was already wet.

"Sorry, I was distracted by my thoughts and bumped into you accidentally."

The sloppy man straightened his sleeves, wiped his tears with the back of his hands, and shook his head.

"Young man, do you know that if I were still young, you would have already been a dead man by now?"

Xu Xiaoshou's eyebrows raised.

He looked at the man's dirty neck. There was a huge scar as if he had been executed. Seeing that, he knew that this person might have been a tough one when he was younger.

Who didn't have a dark, passionate past?

If not for the troubles in life, if not for him being beaten until he was disabled, as a cultivator, he would not have had to give up the way of spiritual cultivation and scavenge for scrap metal.

Xu Xiaoshou eyed him again.

Acquired Stage...

His cultivation had been routed. It could be easily seen that his cultivation had most likely been forcibly dispersed by someone.

His face looked tough. He had ruthless features, but it is too dirty with oil and dirt. It looked as if he had not washed in a long time. There was a strong odor, and his facial features could not be seen clearly.

“I’m leaving.”

Xu Xiaoshou handed him a bottle of Red Gold Pills and did not say anything more as he brushed past him and left.

There was a huge boulder weighing down his heart. If he did not remove it, he would not be in the mood to joke around with any strangers to earn any Passive Points.

The sloppy man hoisted his sack over his shoulders and stared at the Red Gold Pills in his hands for a while before smiling.

He took two steps forward and called out, “You are walking in the wrong direction!”

Xu Xiaoshou had already disappeared in the sea of humans.

“Hai...”

“Young people are always so impulsive...”

...

The 10 minutes felt extremely long. The slow passage of time was wearing him out. The little incident on the street made Xu Xiaoshou even more annoyed.

He rotated his wrists. Sounds of clicking could be heard from his bones.

He paused for a moment.

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly realized something was amiss.

Had he seen a sovereign but been too worried to notice? Was he still himself?

“Aje.”

Xu Xiaoshou squinted his eyes and called out softly.

However, there was no reaction.

Sss...

He was instantly covered in goosebumps from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. Xu Xiaoshou felt chills everywhere.

His face turned green as he stabilized his steps and continued walking forward, trying to make himself seem normal.

'It has already started...'

'No, it started a while ago!'

'That man... No. That's not right. It was not that dirty man. From the moment I stepped out of that door, I had already been tricked!'

'An illusion array?'

Xu Xiaoshou was undecided. He did not believe that this was an illusion array.

No matter how strong an illusion array was, it would trigger the system's Hypnotized notification. This fact had already been confirmed when he was eavesdropping while Rao Yinyin left her bath.

If it was not an illusion array, how could he have been influenced?

Watched, Passive Points +1.

The Information Bar refreshed with a new notification. Xu Xiaoshou understood a little what was happening.

'Sovereign...'

'Power from the heavens?'

He suddenly stopped in his tracks.

At this point, he could already see that the direction he was heading seemed to be the same distance as the way toward the Pill Pagoda. Actually, it was totally different.

He had not managed to realize this at the beginning.

Xu Xiaoshou felt disappointed in himself.

'I was careless!'

'Really careless!'

'I should not have come out during the past 10 minutes!'

'It would have been good even if I had just sat around in the inn. Why did my mind want me to come out?'

'Even if Xin Gugu comes, he still needs time. I already know that this assassin is not ordinary, so why was I still so impulsive?'

Xu Xiaoshou closed his eyes as he felt his heart fall into an abyss.

...

"Don't blame yourself."

A clear voice could be heard coming from the front.

A white-robed man wearing a red mask walked forward.

His arms were crossed in front of his chest. His fingers were slim and pale with neatly trimmed nails. He was spotless and had a refined temperament.

A red command token hung on his waist.

The symbols for the Three Incenses were carved into the token.

There was one red, one purple, and one dull green.

Xu Xiaoshou looked with his eyes wide open as sorrow flashed across his eyes.

“As expected...”

He grabbed his communication jade device immediately and was going to call Jiao Tangtang. However, the man in front of him waved his hand, and the device disintegrated.

“Don’t be nervous. I’m just here to take your life.”

This voice sounded as if it came from the skies freely and simply.

Xu Xiaoshou’s whole face turned green.

At this moment, he suddenly could understand what those guys who were always annoyed by him felt.

“Who are you? A Three Incenses assassin? Do you know Li Seven?” Xu Xiaoshou asked a series of questions.

He needed to stall for time.

This man was too strong.

Just one glance was enough for him to know that he was a being not below the likes of Xiao Qixiu or Ye Xiaotian.

It was not a guess. It was a fact.

He was definitely not weaker than the strongest Spiritual Cultivators back in the Spirit Palace.

An assassin from the Three Incenses, an organization totally of another level, could not be compared to the Dark Street organization that Li Seven came from.

As Xu Xiaoshou looked at him, he felt it was similar to the first time he met Elder Sang.

That willful sense of indifference, not giving a care about anything... It was like someone who was used to being above all and having total authoritative power.

How could he defeat this type of person in his current state?

How could this type of person appeared at this stage in front of him?

Xu Xiaoshou’s heart was filled with despair.

...

"I am Red Dog. That's what everyone calls me."

The white-robed man took a step forward and immediately appeared beside Xu Xiaoshou.

No matter how much the latter tried to retreat, he was always on to him as if he was a leech.

Red Dog was very tall, perhaps half a head taller than Xu Xiaoshou. He bent forward a little and said in his ear, "You are interesting."

He tilted his head as if thinking of words to explain it.

"This is the first time I've heard of an Innate Spiritual Cultivator who was worth so much money. To be honest, the reason I accepted this mission was just to have a look at you."

"But—"

His words stopped abruptly as he put away his curiosity. He indifferently said, "My kill rate does not allow anyone, including you, to cause it to drop from a hundred percent."

"Do you understand what I'm saying?"