

I Am Loaded 331

Chapter 331: The Cangqing Sword

The battle was sparked by those two sentences.

Qiu Xuan and Liu Qing launched from the left and right sides.

They were the Ying Yang guardians of the City Lord's Mansion. They had over decades of teamwork with Chong Dong, so they had to respond diligently in this situation.

The two lurched out to attack before Chong Dong could finish talking. In that instant, Chong Dong's finger had been severed.

In a battle between Sovereigns, this distance was hardly worth a sweat.

They gathered the rules of the Way of the Heavens and transformed.

Qiu Xuan retrieved a black snake spear, and Liu Qing summoned an outrageously huge ax from the sky. The two instantly appeared before the scruffy-looking man.

"High Sun Strike · Thorn Shadow!"

The onlooking crowd was riled up. This was Qiu Xuan's famous spiritual technique. At its peak, it was able to tear through a dimension of a void and pierce the energy centers of three great Sovereigns.

That was the battle that officially hailed Qiu Xuan as a God of War, and it was the battle that solidified his status as one of the core pillars of the City Lord's Mansion.

However, only a portion of the masses was watching the spear. The majority of the attention was given to the attractive Liu Qing, who wielded three axes that were large enough to cover the sky.

"Is that the new guardian Liu?"

"Wow, so violent!"

"This technique... It must be a Sovereign spiritual technique too, right? Does anyone recognize it?"

"It severs human limbs!"

The knowledgeable voice suddenly went mute. Before he could explain, the crowd watched as one of Liu Qing's hammers slammed down and split open all the void in the way.

The explosion was massive. Black energy seeped out in a spherical form from the center of the exploded spiritual source into the surrounding area. It was quick to explode as well.

Yuan Sandao clapped the back of his hands, and he wielded his large sword for the attack.

He held on and hoped to use the remaining waves of the bounded domain to conceal his attack. To his surprise, he heard a plain raspy spoke from the center of the explosion.

"Easy peasy."

The elder felt his pupils shrunk as he watched the black energy be torn apart. Two beams of vertical Sword Aura revealed themselves amidst the black energy.

The two pillars of Sword Aura seemed like two giant swords headed into the sky as they sliced through the cloud layers above and pierced into the hell below.

The appearance of the two swords immediately caught the attention of the onlooking masses. The swords flew into the heavens.

It was accompanied by a deafening and piercing hum. For many who were on the lower level, the impact caused their ears to bleed immediately. The worse could be said for the ordinary person who was experiencing pain like never before.

They realized that the remaining waves of the battle's impact were out of the question. Even the sounds of it were too much for the masses. Yet, many persevered to watch the battle.

"So, is this a battle between Sovereigns?"

The opportunity to witness a showdown between Sovereigns was once in a lifetime. No one was willing to give up on this opportunity to observe.

It mattered little whether they would go deaf. Any problem, even bankruptcy, could be solved with an elixir.

Weighing the significance between the outcomes was as easy as a piece of cake.

Hence, the crowd covered their ears as tight as possible and waited for the next battle development. Concentration was written all over their faces as they set their sights on the battle. All of them proclaimed being awed and stunned.

In the center of the black energy, Qiu Xuan fought valiantly with his spear in his hand. It was truly a sight to behold.

His body was filled with nourishment from the spiritual source. If he were to increase his intake a bit more, his figure would be akin to a majestic golden statue that could overwhelm Tiansang City.

Liu Qing, who was wielding the ax, was no less of a sight. The graceful figure had intricately and perfectly complemented and been accentuated by the attacks from the giant ax.

Without any extra movement, the sharp blade of the ax was able to cut through the void.

However, this was not the true shocking sight. The unbelievable sight to witness was how the two of them were completely held down by the Sword Aura.

The two endless pillars of white Sword Aura had trapped and encapsulated the two from head to toe.

In that instant, the fearless and out-of-control void stiletto emerged and sliced through the bodies of the two.

Blood splashed haphazardly, painting the void a sheet of red.

"Darn!"

Chong Dong shrank back in fear. He was lucky to have stopped his steps in time. If not, he would have ended up in front of the scruffy-looking man.

He was unsure if he would be able to resist this level of suppression if he got too close.

Since he did not have any knowledge about when this type of skill emerged, nor was he aware of how long it took to cultivate this skill, it gripped him with fear. It was a skill he had never encountered.

Gulp.

He swallowed his saliva and exchanged spiritual senses with Yuan Sandao.

His mouth felt dry as he recalled his previous command of "Sovereigns! Attack!"

He changed his words. "This is beyond the powers of a Sovereign. Please move carefully."

Qiu Xuan and Liu Qing were enraged. They could have been able to stomach the physical pain, but the added betrayal from their teammate was unbearable.

The scruffy-looking man turned to Yuan Sandao with a smile. "I don't plan on hurting anyone. If there are no questions, I guess I will see you again."

Elder Yuan could not hold back any longer. "Who are you?" he asked.

The definitive Sword Aura was all too familiar to Yuan Sandao. In his mind, he immediately recalled a myth. He shook off his thoughts. The person in mind had already passed. It was impossible. However, there was no one else that could fit this profile.

The blade Yuan Sandao's hands turned lightly, but he hesitated.

The Eastern Region spanned many lands. Many great individuals had cultivated in the Ancient Sword Technique, and certain individuals had cultivated to this present level. The Burial Sword Tomb and Fringe Moon Immortal City combined had less than a few dozen individuals.

There were a few visitors from Burial Sword Tomb. However, if it was regarding White Cave, they would not have sent someone of this caliber for it.

'Fourth Sword was invisible. Moreover, they were all related to each other...'

He had a realization. 'Yes, the people from Burial Sword Tomb had come, but those from Fringe Moon Immortal City had not!'

The others might not have known the details about Fringe Moon Immortal City, but Yuan Sandao had clear knowledge of the place.

After the fall of the Eighth Sword Deity, the next in line was a rising master of the way of the sword. He was associated with the creation of the way and the anonymous head disciple in Bazhun'an's olden days.

"Are you from Fringe Moon Immortal City?" Yuan Sandao asked.

The scruffy-looking man walked past the standing figures of the other two men and shook his head with a smile as a reply to the elder's question.

“You’re wrong.”

“Second question.”

“Are you at Cutting Path or Higher Void?” Chong Dong held up a tough front, but he was shivering on the inside. He was terrified.

He was someone even Yuan Sandao feared.

Chong Dong started to regret his previous rash actions. It was true that an aggressive front was not always to his benefit. There was a chance that the man really had the intention of eliminating him.

The scruffy-looking man glanced toward Chong Dong. A spark of killer intent flickered in his pupils.

No one had survived after pointing a finger at him.

In the face of such a character, it was needless to say that on top of the previous kill intent, he was more than willing to banish this man from his line of sight.

“You don’t have the right to ask.”

Chong Dong hesitated. He was about to speak when the man raised his voice and shouted, “Be gone!”

The sky instantly changed. Wind and storm clouds were pulling together chaotically.

The cangqing sword manifested from the void. It was capable of taking down stars from the sky. It slowly rotated itself into position.

“Watch out!”

Yuan Sandao yelled as he sprinted to defend Chong Dong.

He could not defend himself against an attack of this scale, and less could be said for Chong Dong. However, he was too late.

Everyone’s vision started to slow down. The figure of Chong Dong evading the attack had slowed down too.

Yuan Sandao was included. Every step he lifted seemed to take billions of years before it hit the ground.

‘Time rule’

In that moment, fear clutched Yuan Sandao’s heart. The fear was overwhelming like a tsunami washing out the mountains.

Every lifeform had slowed down, but the cangqing sword levitating above the head of the scruffy-looking man did not reduce in speed.

The man moved the fourth finger that he had hidden within his wide robe sleeves.

There was a sound of an exhale.

A half-moon chopped down. From far away, there was a sound of a void hole being destroyed. It sounded as if the realm of the gods had crumbled.

Afterward, a tearing sound was heard.

Chong Dong had been sliced into two.

Chapter 332: Eighth Sword Deity?

Thud!

Thud!

The two halves of the corpse hit the ground with a loud impact.

The onlooking masses erupted into cheers during the punch by Xu Xiaoshou that cleared a 10-mile void. Now, they were dead silent as they witnessed the swing of the blade by the scruffy-looking man.

Everyone present was stunned. They were in disbelief over the godly powers of the sword.

The sword must have been crafted by the God of Pottery Kun Wu, equipped with the power to cut through the nine heavens, slice through the clouds, and sever the rivers and lakes.

Chong Dong was not the only victim of the sword.

The long black line of vacuum that had sliced through Chong Dong extended to the edge of the sky. It seemed to extend endlessly into space.

“A sword that has cut into eternity... There is nothing more powerful than this!”

As a voice was finally heard in the masses, the onlooking people began to explode with excitement and noise.

The swordsman in the crowd watched as their own swords flew away from their hands. It was as if they were returning to their rightful owner. All of them headed straight for the scruffy-looking man in the center of the battlefield.

A legend that was recalled in the hearts of the onlookers.

Many gripped their fists tight as they remembered. Their faces were red as they did.

The legend said that in the Northern Region, located within the place of convergence for swordsmen, there was a god.

The powers of the said god were one in a million. There were thousands of legends and myths on Shengshen Continent. However, the legend of this particular god left a deep mark on the continent.

“A sword from the North, the sword of the god, drunkard of the yellow springs and walker of the sky...”

A voice from the masses subconsciously recited this sentence from the legend.

The swordsmen in the crowd turned toward the voice angrily.

“Are you joking?”

“Eighth Sword Deity cannot be compared to this one move!”

“But he struck down a Sovereign!”

“It’s just Commander Chong! It’s nothing impressive!”

“How is this anyway related to the Eighth Sword Deity?”

“First of all, the Deity has already fallen. How dare you relate this weak move to Bazhun’an!”

“This is absurd!”

“Ridiculous!”

“What a clown!”

“...”

The poor owner of the voice had become the target of public humiliation.

The Eighth Sword Deity was a household legend in the Northern Region.

The Deity was a religion for the swordsman and had been worshipped as a god.

Therefore, a god couldn’t descend into the world so suddenly and deliver such a weak attack with the blade.

Chong Dong was only a Sovereign. In ordinary times, he would have been a great figure among the people, but he remained unrivaled to the image of the divine in the minds of the people. The assertion was simply absurd.

The owner of the voice felt wronged. He knew that he would become a target if he spoke out, but he was not able to hold back the comment.

He was a fan of the Eighth Sword Deity, and he had a good knowledge of the famous techniques of the Deity.

“Say whatever you want, but if you look at that sword closely, does it not resemble the great buddha chop of the Eighth Sword Deity?”

The comment silenced the crowd.

It was only a while later that another voice chimed in. “It does resemble it...”

“No, it does not!”

Another angry voice rang through the crowd.

“You talk as if you have the right to. All your superficial knowledge of the great buddha chop is from hearsay!”

“Is it accurate to compare it to what you’ve read in the transcript of spiritual techniques?”

“Can the great buddha chop be so weak?”

“Also, how many times have there been others who copied spiritual techniques?”

“At least a few hundred thousand. Not everything is related to the Eighth Sword Deity you fool!”

“Wait, where is the buddha in this technique? Where is the illusion of the great buddha?”

“There’s no doubt this is a stolen and copied spiritual technique!”

The atmosphere was tense. It seemed as though they were about to start a fight.

Fortunately, there were a few in the City Guards who did not train with swords and maintained their composure. They were the ones who held back their aggressive comrades and prevented any fights between the City Guards and civilians ending in bloodshed.

Yuan Sandao fell silent as well.

It was true that there were many transcripts of the giant buddha chop, and one did not have to be Bazhun’an to be able to execute the actual technique.

To Yuan Sandao’s knowledge, the spiritual technique was passed down within the bloodlines of the Fringe Moon Immortal City.

Hence, those who were capable of even executing a half-form of the great buddha chop did not require any personal connections with the Bazhun’an.

However, this would have been enough evidence to prove that the man who stood before him might have been from the Fringe Moon Immortal City. At the very least, he had a strong connection to the bloodline in Fringe Moon Immortal City.

However, this had brought up the question of why he had answered “wrong” to his initial question. Truthfully speaking, Yuan Sandao had not expected an honest reply from the beginning.

Slam!

Suddenly, a purple box fell out of Chong Dong’s halved body.

As the box fell, it opened with another slam. A ray of light illusion manifested in the form of Chong Dong.

Yuan Sandao strode forward and blocked the path of the scruffy-looking man.

The man only lifted his eyebrow slightly and remained where he was. His gaze was fixed calmly on the purple box.

Following the light illusion was a wave of sparkles. A purple wormhole appeared and absorbed the corpse of Chong Dong, which was scattered to its sides.

In a split second, there was a loud hum as if there was a law in the Way of the Heavens that had been forcefully changed. The stray clouds gathered, and the sky turned pitch black.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck. It was followed by roaring thunder, however, the lightning failed to find its target.

As the dark clouds finally retreated, the wormhole reappeared. It dropped a new Chong Dong.

His body had been fully recovered. Even the finger that had been cut off was fixed up with a new one.

The laws of time and space had been redefined. The box had retrieved a new and shiny Chong Dong from a different time in the past to replace the current one.

However, his memories remained with him.

The newly rebirthed Chong Dong was pale as a ghost. His hands and legs lacked the strength to hold him up. He had collapsed upon his appearance.

Yuan Sandao retracted his sword and caught Chong Dong with his arms.

“The jewel of Beta Ursae?”

The eyes of the scruffy-looking man widened in surprise as he asked, “How did you get your hands on Dao Qiongcang’s tianji box, little fella?”

Yuan Sandao felt his pupils shake. The very mention of Dao Qiongcang sent chills into his heart.

Dao Qiongcang was notorious. Not even Kui Leihan or Bazhun’an or even spirits were on the same level as Dao Qiongcang.

He was one of the three spearheads of The Ten High Nobles of The Central Region, the current Hallmaster of the Holy Divine Palace and the first tianji warlock of Shengshen Continent.

The name of the Hallmaster of the Holy Divine Palace was not to be uttered in vain or by ordinary men. Even for Spiritual Cultivators, they would refer to Dao Qiongcang as the Hallmaster and not his full name, yet the man before him had casually said it without much thought.

The mystery of the man had only grown. There were many questions in Yuan Sandao’s mind. ‘Was he from the same era as Dao Qiongcang? Have they fought? Do they have any unknown special relationship?’

Yuan Sandao inhaled deeply. His heart was heavy.

He knew that with the present circumstances, they may have to leave with a bad exit.

Despite the situation, he still had to perform his duties. He reluctantly prepared to ask his third question. “You should know that under the legal code of the continent, the Sovereigns are not to fight normally. They must enter a bounded domain or a half void.”

“Your reckless action here today have caused countless damage to the innocent civilians in Tiansang City, and you cannot be forgiven.”

“If the Holy Divine Palace were to launch an inquiry, even if you exceed the stage of a Sovereign, you would still face the punishment of death.”

Yuan Sandao twisted his blade and posed himself in a guarded position. His next words were calm. “So, my third question is, why did you do it?”

In his mind, there was no reason for someone of his caliber to sabotage himself by fighting within Tiansang City. It was simply foolish. Therefore, there had to be a secret he was guarding.

The scruffy man smiled.

He respected Chong Dong for surviving because of his capabilities, and this event was already wrapped up for him. He had the moral code that he would only kill once.

Letting the issue with Chong Dong go, the man replied to Yuan Sandao's question. "First, I'm not a Sovereign. You saw it yourself. I am just a person at the Acquired Stage, therefore I am not bound by the laws of the continent."

Yuan Sandao felt his lips twitch.

The uncle continued. "Second, I'll explain it again. The damage done to Tiansang City was not my doing."

"If not you, then who?" Yuan Sandao sneered. He thought, 'Are you going to say it was the torn-up corpse next to you?'

"It was him."

The uncle kicked the sack on the floor. "It was his fault. I had nothing to do with it."

Yuan Sandao felt his chest give in.

He had already surveyed the bag. There was nothing in there but a dying person at the Innate Stage. It was otherworldly to imagine that he was able to knock out the earth of Tiansang City.

'Are you playing with me? Hm?' Yuan Sandao thought.

He could not believe the man would shift the blame to those who were unable to speak for themselves. It was utterly ridiculous.

"Then, why are you here?" Yuan Sandao coldly asked.

He was not willing to pick any more battles with the man. At the very least Yuan Sandao, needed to know the reason for the attack in the city.

He doubted the man would make up any excuse to be in Tiansang City, especially one along the lines of being there to rescue the person in the sack. Otherwise, he would be killed by the corpse that laid beside him.

'Ha-ha!' He laughed to himself.

Yuan Sandao was amused by his own line of thinking. If that was the case, this man must believe Yuan Sandao was as illogical and unhinged as he was.

Unexpectedly, the scruffy-looking man kicked the sack and said, "Truth to be told, I am here to save this fella."

Chapter 333: I Understand Your Choice

Yuan Sandao was immediately furious.

He had thought this man's thinking was already ridiculous enough. He had not expected this man to spout even more ridiculous nonsense.

Did this man think that he was just some brainless guy?

“Sir...”

“There’s no need to call me sir. Do you want to attack me?” The man was annoyed and interrupted him.

Yuan Sandao gripped his blade tightly as his gaze flickered.

Attack?

He really wanted to.

Unfortunately, he alone was not enough to take this guy down.

If he could not restrain him and could only drag it into a long fight, Tiansang City would not be able to take it even if he wanted to.

This man could ignore the lives of innocent citizens, but Yuan Sandao was not that ruthless.

‘Just a little longer!’

He had just called the mayor, so he just had to wait for him to arrive.

Based on his spirit-gathering array skills, as long as he was not careless, it should not have been too big of a problem to just trap this person here.

Yuan Sandao was still thinking to himself and did not speak.

The scruffy man saw that he did not react. With a swift movement of his sleeves, the two Sovereigns behind him were sent flying while spewing blood.

“If that is the case, see you next time.”

He dragged his sack and glanced toward Xu Xiaoshou. He continued to tilt his head and looked at the tightly knitted crowd.

“Are you the helper that this young man called for?”

Just outside the space, Xin Gugu, who was already frightened by this man’s abilities, felt his heart skip a beat.

He looked around him and realized that there were no other strong Spiritual Cultivators other than him.

That meant this man’s question was directed at him.

How did he know the relationship between Xu Xiaoshou and him?

Everyone, including Yuan Sandao, traced the man’s eye line and looked toward the crowd.

Under the gaze of so many eyes, Xin Gugu felt his scalp going numb.

If it were ordinary people looking at him, he would still be fine. Unfortunately, he was a demon beast host.

All these Sovereigns were looking at him. There was even a Cutting Path Level cultivator.

Who could remain calm?

Xin Gugu clutched the golden staff in his hand tightly, trying to oppress the energy from it.

“I cannot let them see anything suspicious!”

At this point, along with his plan to get five kills, his initial arrogance was eliminated by the man’s sword.

He was only filled with fear as he cautiously replied, “No, you got the wrong guy.”

Yuan Sandao stared at him for a while, subtly sensing something weird about him but not knowing exactly what it was.

Chong Dong was behind him and warned, “This guy... That’s right. He is that Sovereign with blood energy. He was attracted by the blast earlier on. He must be a helper of these three!”

Upon hearing this, Xin Gugu had the intention to cut his heart out.

This guy was annoying. Why couldn’t he have just stayed dead?

Did he have to speak and add oil to the flames?

When he rushed over earlier, he had exposed a little bit of his scent. But...

‘My identity should not have been exposed completely!’

Xin Gugu’s attention was all on Yuan Sandao.

He was not afraid of the man since he seemed to be somehow related to Xu Xiaoshou.

As for Yuan Sandao, he couldn’t help but be wary of him.

He was someone from a righteous organization. If he knew Xin Gugu’s true identity, he did not need to even take any action himself.

As long as he shouted, “There is a ghost beast host body here,” in less than two days, Jiao Tangtang and he would forever be left on the cold hard ground of Tiansang City.

The legendary beast control artifact in his hand shook a little, hiding his scent completely.

Yuan Sandao still had some subtle suspicions, but a majority of his attention was still on the scruffy man. Hence, he did not think much about it.

The scruffy man walked toward Xin Gugu and said, “Little fella, you are not performing your duty as a guard very well!”

“He is almost dead, yet you still have not arrived. If not for me appearing, wouldn’t this young man here have been dead due to your lateness?”

“Guard?” A hint of anger flashed across Xin Gugu’s eyes.

Was he being compared to a guard?

It was Xu Xiaoshou who had pleaded for him to come save him. He was definitely not his guard.

Just as he was about to rebut, the man had already walked in front of him. He patted his shoulder and quietly asked, “You are from Xu Yue Grey Palace, right?”

Xin Gugu's mind went blank.

'How is this possible?'

Even if the man had seen through him as a ghost beast host body, how could he have known his relationship to Xu Yue Grey Palace?

Could this guy read people's minds?

His eyes widened as he turned abruptly toward Yuan Sandao, only to see that the old man was indifferent.

He immediately realized that the man's last sentence had been communicated using telepathy.

Phew!

Xin Gugu let out a sigh of relief. Before he could relax, the scruffy man's husky voice rang again.

"It has been very tiring living like a rat, right?"

"Do you want to expose you to uprightly roam this world without any worries? Do you want to live your life and not fear the scrutiny of others anymore?"

The man's voice was filled with temptation. Under the horrified look of Xin Gugu, he continued. "As long as you give me a nod, I can expose your identity."

"You will then be able to enjoy at least one day of freedom."

"Even though the duration is short, life is all about living it interestingly and not about the length. What do you say?"

Xin Gugu's pupils were wildly darting around.

'This guy has to be a demon!'

'I have no grudges with you. Even if you know my identity, based on my relationship with Xu Xiaoshou, aren't we all on the same boat?'

'What good would exposing me do you?'

At that moment, the impulsive desire in his heart shot up.

However, before his mocking laughter sounded, the vision of that one powerful sword move that could slice the deities flashed in his mind. Xin Gugu's body went cold immediately.

This was an evil demon who could instantly slice someone into half on the spot with just his fingers.

'He is even crueler than me!'

'I cannot be careless!'

Xin Gugu grabbed the golden staff, trying as hard as possible to control the laughter that could cost him his life. He slowly shook his head.

"No, I don't want to"

“Life is better when it is longer and not just a short bloom.”

The man was amused and smiled. “Are you afraid?”

Xin Gugu was speechless.

He really wanted to beat this guy up with his staff.

This guy talked just as badly as Xu Xiaoshou.

“If you are really afraid, then you should know that what I am about to say to you is definitely not a joke,” the man suddenly said.

Xin Gugu’s heart dropped a little. “What are you going to say?”

“I said earlier that you are a guard who came late. For coming late, you shall be punished.”

“For the next few days... Uh, let’s just say a year...”

“You will follow this young man for a year. Afterward, you will get your freedom.”

Xin Gugu was shocked.

‘Are you dreaming?’

He almost said it out loud but managed to change his words at the last second. “That is not possible!”

“I have my own missions. One year? Who are you kidding?”

“I don’t have the time!”

“The fact that I already came here this time to save him is already good enough on my part!”

The man nodded without saying anything much.

“I understand your choice.”

He turned and looked at Yuan Sandao while pointing at Xin Gugu. “Old man, you didn’t see anything wrong. This is indeed a ghost beast host body.”

Chapter 334: You, Go Save The People

Xin Gugu felt like his head was about to explode from the rage.

‘You!’

‘Why must he be the way he is?’ Xin Gugu thought.

‘There is room for negotiations!’

‘Business is not done like this,’ he thought. “And this is beyond business. There is life and death involved in the process!”

It was out of line to reveal Xin Gugu’s identity because they disagreed.

‘He’s going to let me die here,’ he thought.

Xin Gugu's eyes were red with fury.

In other circumstances, such as being in the midst of battle, to have his identity revealed was tolerable.

In that case, Xin Gugu had an excuse to take the enemy down with him.

However, for the scruffy man to reveal him in this situation was displaying his cards before Xin Gugu tried to play them. He felt like it was a joke.

As the man finished his words, Xin Gugu could almost see the shell-shocked face of Yuan Sandao. He could also see a memory that he had buried in the depths of his mind. It was something he was unwilling to recollect.

"Red Coat!"

Xin Gugu was overwhelmed with rage. His blood energy dispelled into the air around him. He predicted that a huge unavoidable battle was about to start.

Even if he died, he swore he would bring the disgusting scruffy-looking man down into hell with him.

With a fling of his staff, the killing intent that filled the air begun to explode.

The instant he launched his attack, the onlookers flipped over and fell from their horses. The ones with a weak heart fell immediately because of the attack and exploded on the spot.

"Die! All of you!"

Xin Gugu roared as he waved his staff violently. The ground started to vibrate and cracked. Black blood water was rising to the surface.

The earth in the 10-mile radius had turned into nothing but red.

It looked as if they were in the depths of hell.

The masses had delved into madness. Many were running for their lives, yelling, crying, and groaning in pain.

The battlefield was filled with a terrible mixture of sounds.

Xin Gugu withdrew the staff and realized he had passed through the man in front of him. Despite standing so close to him, the person in front of him was no longer the terrible person he had seen. Was he a phantom?

...

"Have you realized anything?"

The figure of the man started to fall apart. Rays of bright sword light peaked out from behind the pieces.

His voice sounded like it had traveled from the heavens. It was a voice that transcended the dimensions of the universe. It was otherworldly.

"You saw the future because of your choice!"

“I already gave you the best option, but you chose death.”

“Wake up rascal! You don’t have a right to reject me.”

With a clear slap on his face, Xin Gugu woke up from the dream. His cheeks still hurt from the slap.

He shook his head and repositioned his vision only to make the shocking discovery that nothing had changed.

Xu Xiaoshou remained on the ground. Yuan Sandao still stood in the distance, and the onlooking crowd was still bustling with anticipation. More importantly, the ground was not overflowing with blood.

‘Was I mistaken?’

Xin Gugu focused his vision. His mind was blank.

‘That is impossible,’ he thought. ‘It was not a mistake. This must be the man’s creation.’ He had not known that the man had the ability to influence the cognition and thoughts of others.

There was also a possibility that the man had awakened the ability to travel through time and viewed the future of his actions. Had he appeared before him as a time traveler?

His body was covered with cold sweat. The sweat gave Xin Gugu chills. He suddenly felt his strength leave him as he clutched onto the golden staff tightly with a pant.

“You...”

“How did you do that?”

There was a possibility for both methods. Therefore, he had underestimated the man’s abilities.

He feared that even Yuan Sandao was still caught under the immense pressure of Xin Gugu’s knowledge.

‘I see you have this trick hidden up your sleeves, Old Man!’

Xin Gugu felt a mess of emotions in his heart. He watched the man and was unsure about how to react.

“How did you do that?”

The sides of the scruffy-looking man’s mouth lifted. He was on the edge of a smirk. He hummed and paused as if he wanted to hold something back.

Cough.

With a small cough, he calmly turned around with his hands behind his back.

“You don’t need to know how I did it.”

“You should definitely reconsider my proposal to you!”

Xin Gugu gritted his teeth, but he was unwilling to accept. “My time is tight. I can’t accompany this fella and stay by his side for a whole year.”

“Sure.”

Unexpectedly, the man changed his mind. "Actually, as long as he needs you, you can't be late, that's all."

Xin Gugu was kind of surprised. He suddenly recalled the cough just now. He frowned and tried to ask for more explanation. "I have my own duties. I could only help him as much as I can in my spare time..."

"All you need to do is block the attacks from the Sovereigns and those above his level. It should not take much time." The man continued to pace about.

Xin Gugu raised his eyebrow. The man was asking a bit too much. "How many times?"

"The number of attacks is not limited!" The man rejected Xin Gugu's proposal.

The man laughed.

"What's wrong? I had already given in."

The scruffy man stilled his footsteps and turned around slowly. His gaze shifted to Xin Gugu. He stared at him mercilessly. "You at most can say one more word to me."

"Of course, the cost of it is, death."

"..."

'Are you joking? He's just Xu Xiaoshou, yet he expects me to beck at his every call. Are you crazy? I have already seen through your messed-up acts. If it was not for that sword attack just now, I wouldn't have even bothered with you, you nutjob!'

Xin Gugu maintained a calm and composed expression, but he was cursing the man to no end in his heart.

"Good."

The uncle laughed coldly and lifted his sack up.

He peeked at the Sovereign at the far end and said, "I'll pass the sack to you."

"Pass it to me?"

Xin Gugu tilted his head in confusion, but he did not have the courage to question it.

"Pass what to me?"

"This rascal is a ticking timebomb. There are four Sovereigns ahead watching me. Do you want me to hold him?"

"How do you expect me to carry him?"

Xin Gugu was filled with questions and resignation, but he did not dare to voice them. Besides, the scruffy-looking man was not interested in offering any explanation.

Step by step, he dragged the sack toward where Yuan Sandao was standing. The scruffy-looking man asked with a smile, "How's the delay going? Has backup arrived yet?"

Yuan Sandao touched the blade of his sword. He sensed that something amiss.

The man had been in discussion with someone else for a while, yet the City Lord had not rushed to the scene yet.

Additionally, there was no backup sent for Yuan Sandao, not even any updates or letters about the current situation.

“Did something happen?”

Yuan Sandao narrowed his eyes, which were full of the intention to strike the man down.

He could not wait any longer.

It did not matter that the City Lord had not arrived yet. He was ready to take the man down on his own.

“Don’t be so hasty.”

The scruffy-looking man had not yet reached out. He had simply cast his vision downward, yet Yuan Sandao felt like he was trapped by an invisible pair of hands.

He turned to the man and said with a sneer, “You hurt men and destroyed Tiansang City. You will not escape today.”

The man replied calmly, “Save this talk for later.”

He stopped his words and looked out. The sun had set from the faraway mountains. He shifted his vision in the direction of the City Lord Mansion.

“Your people are still not here yet, but mine have almost arrived.”

Yuan Sandao gripped his blade tighter. The three Sovereigns behind him reacted in shock.

As if it was on the scruffy-looking man’s command, a loud explosion came from the direction of the City Lord Mansion.

Bang!

A ray of black shadow cut through the sky and the earth and landed. It was like a colossal godly hammer had struck down. The light and the dark were separated, and the chaos began to unravel itself.

The City Lord Mansion vibrated and instantly exploded.

Every onlooker looked petrified in response to the explosion.

“This...”

The scruffy-looking man dragged the sack and took a step in preparation for departure.

“Go save the people.”

Chapter 335: Sword Observation Manual

It seemed that things had finally settled down.

The heroes had regrouped at the Abundant Spiritual Inn.

Whoosh!

Xu Xiaoshou jerked awake and sat upright in the bed.

He felt like he had awakened from a long dream. In his dream, he had met a man who was a perverted individual. He was almost killed by this man.

Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes slowly.

Bang!

Mu Zixi, who was gently nursing him with a hot towel, immediately experienced a rush of blood to her head and jumped back.

As her body collided with the bedboard, her small body flung and was almost caught inside the wall.

Splash!

Simultaneously, a basin of boiling water hit the side of the bed frame. Half of the water had been splashed onto Xu Xiaoshou's bed.

Unfortunately, the other half of the water had landed squarely on Xin Gugu, who was fast asleep and drooling beside the bed.

'A wave?'

Xin Gugu was rudely awakened by the hot water.

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

Insulted, Passive Points, +1.

Xu Xiaoshou's expression was full of confusion and shock. He gazed at the two, who looked as though they were contemplating life. He turned to see the familiar room in the inn.

He truly did not have a clue about what was going on.

"Huh?"

Xin Gugu waved his hand and pushed himself up against the bed. "Are you awake?"

"What happened?"

Though he asked the question, Xu Xiaoshou was trying to remember what happened on his own.

His memory was still intact. He could recall how he was supposed to be angered to death by the scruffy-looking man.

It was the kind of anger that was unstoppable, yet he had been unwilling to die.

From the looks of his current state, he seemed very alive and well.

Therefore, the man might have saved Xu Xiaoshou after all.

It was also possible that Xin Gugu had arrived in time and turned the tides of events by saving him from the scruffy-looking man.

“Honestly, so much happened when you were out cold...”

Xin Gugu’s cheeks were bright red from the burns. He held his face carefully and tried to calm down.

He recollected the orders of the scruffy-looking man and about the shocking slaying of the City Lord Mansion and held in his anger.

The scruffy-looking man was terrifying.

He had even struck out at the City Lord Mansion, which the man had eliminated. Its destruction had forced Yuan Sandao to immediately retreat for safety.

It was no longer a scheme for battle but pure suppression from a stronger power.

Tiansang City was no match for someone on this man’s level.

The more important issue at hand was that the scruffy-looking man had taken a liking to Xu Xiaoshou.

Xin Gugu never thought that his mission to seek out and protect Greedy the Cat Spirit would land him into the position of being a bodyguard for Xu Xiaoshou.

However, Xin Gugu could not express his bitterness out loud. Instead, he sighed and said, “Those things were not important. All you need to know is that I saved you.”

“You saved me?” Xu Xiaoshou asked.

“Correct. If I had not arrived on time and fought five people to suppress those Sovereigns, the man and the City Guards would have torn you apart.”

Xu Xiaoshou was more confused than ever.

He did not fully believe what Xin Gugu had just said. ‘Xin Gugu must be joking,’ he thought. The City Lord Mansion being destroyed and Xin Gugu fighting five people seemed impossible.

Xu Xiaoshou thought about the finger move by the scruffy-looking man. He was unsure if Xin Gugu would have been able to handle the attack.

Before Xu Xiaoshou could ask anything else, a teeth-gritting voice came from the wallboards.

“Xu... Xiao... Shou!”

He turned toward the voice. Mu Zixi was holding her head in pain. She cursed rapidly as she walked over.

Xu Xiaoshou had a headache. “How many times did I tell you to keep your spiritual source protection open?”

Mu Zixi relaxed her clenched fist and remained quiet. Her logical side agreed with Xu Xiaoshou’s statement as she thought, ‘It’s true. He has mentioned this to me before.’

However, this was not enough to quell her anger. She was fuming.

The girl stared at Xu Xiaoshou. Her eyes were full of unreconciled fury. Her heart was full of anger.

All she wanted to do was to clean his face with a towel. Instead, she was attacked and suffered great pain.

'The human world is truly not worth my time,' she thought.

"I was changing your towel, but you sneakily attacked me!"

"Sorry, it was not intentional..."

Xu Xiaoshou had no idea why he had done what he had. He motioned Mu Zixi to go closer with a wave of his hand.

Mu Zixi stopped in her footsteps. "What?"

"Come here."

The young girl had an uneasy feeling in her heart. However, since she was injured while trying to take care of others, she rationalized there was nothing worse that could happen.

She stepped forward courageously.

"Here, let me see where you are injured." Xu Xiaoshou tapped the mattress and gestured for her to sit down.

"Here!"

Mu Zixi pointed to a wound on her forehead. It was roughly the size of three fingernails. Her face was twisted with anger.

Looking at the big wound he had caused, Xu Xiaoshou felt extremely embarrassed.

He inched closer and held her head up. "Here, I'll blow on it. That will make it better. Be good, OK?"

Mu Zixi was stunned.

Her pupils enlarged as she thought, 'Do you think I'm a child? Is he messing around?'

Hoo!

Suddenly, a gust of life force exited with Xu Xiaoshou's exhale.

As Xu Xiaoshou exhaled, Mu Zixi felt her ponytails float upward. The pores on her body eased. Her face was flushed red. She almost groaned.

She quickly remembered there were others around her and held in her expression.

She decided on a softer hard exhale from her nose as an alternative. Her body spasmed.

"You..."

"Shameless!"

The young girl blushed the moment her wound healed to its original appearance and took off quickly after speaking.

Xu Xiaoshou watched her disappearing figure. He had many questions in his head.

'Shameless?'

'How was I shameless?'

To Xu Xiaoshou, this was the best healing method. Greedy the Cat Spirit would have loved this method. It was a shame it did not have access to it.

He turned to look at Xin Gugu, who was beside him.

Xin Gugu had a displeased expression.

He almost had drawn the staff that was in his hand.

Fortunately, life was precious. He could not attack just anybody.

After a while, Xin Gugu finally squeezed out a few words. "You know there are other people like me here, right?"

Xu Xiaoshou was more confused than ever.

"Did I do something shameless?"

Xin Gugu did not reply.

Cursed, Passive Points, +1.

Xin Gugu felt like his body had taken a million hits. The thirst for revenge after he was scalded was abandoned immediately. He stood up and was prepared to leave.

"Wait."

Xu Xiaoshou called after him in a hurry.

He could not let Xin Gugu leave before he was able to clarify the questions and doubts that were in his mind.

"How long have I slept?"

Xin Gugu replied with annoyance, "A day."

"One day..." Xu Xiaoshou lowered his head and tried to remember. After a while, he spoke up again. "Nothing really happened while I was out, right?"

"There was..."

Xin Gugu nodded. "I already told you."

Xu Xiaoshou fell silent. He did not believe that Xin Gugu was able to defeat them one to five.

The scruffy-looking man was a tough opponent. Xu Xiaoshou supposed that Xin Gugu was not able to offer him a clear story. Hence, he decided to stop pursuing the matter.

It was fortunate enough for him that Red Dog had been thoroughly defeated.

“Then, how did I get here? Do you know this place?”

Xu Xiaoshou posed another question. He was not convinced that Xin Gugu was able to locate him and subsequently locate his room in the inn.

“The girl brought me here.” Xin Gugu nodded in the direction of the door.

“Mu Zixi?”

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked. “How did you meet her?”

Xin Gugu laughed.

“She ran out to see why the half of Tiansang City had exploded. Is that not OK?”

“On the other hand, we want to know something from you too. How did you get yourself into the middle of a battle between Sovereigns?”

Xu Xiaoshou was silent.

At this moment, he recalled his Passive Fist. Even a bounded domain had not managed to obstruct it. He assumed that it had harmed a large number of innocent civilians.

He had not given the attack much thought. When he was in that state, the top priority was keeping himself alive.

Therefore, he had not considered the repercussions of his actions or his attacks on the others around him.

Once he had returned to reality, Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes met with Xin Gugu’s. His eyes were filled with curiosity, but Xu Xiaoshou shook his head.

“No, you don’t want to know.”

Even if Xu Xiaoshou said it, Xin Gugu would not believe him.

Xin Gugu was speechless.

He did not say anything else and walked out of the door.

He had finished his quota of speaking with Xu Xiaoshou for the day.

Xu Xiaoshou watched the two figures disappear from his sight and returned to his thoughts.

Lifting up his blanket, he got up from the bed and stretched his hands and his legs.

His body was in perfect form.

‘Not a single injury from the attack...’

Xu Xiaoshou was amazed by his body. All the intense injuries he had sustained had healed in just one day.

If Red Dog had known about this, he would have come back from the dead out of sheer anger.

It was at this moment he felt a presence of energy within his own body. The energy was foreign and did not belong to him.

“Sword Aura?”

The ray of white Sword Aura was resting on top of his energy center.

‘No,’ he thought. “This does not qualify as Sword Aura.”

It was similar to the ordinary power of thought he had mastered on the Black Cliff.

There was still a difference between the two.

In comparison to the ordinary power of thought, the energy was far ahead in power and had completely left the boundary of the ordinary.

“Sword Cognition?”

Xu Xiaoshou uttered this phrase bluntly as if he had been possessed by an unknown entity.

His brain immediately cramped as knowledge that did not belong to him began to flood his mind. He felt as if he had figured out the tenth level of Sword Technique Expertise.

The waves of knowledge had struck him so powerfully that Xu Xiaoshou had to hold on for his dear life.

Xu Xiaoshou collapsed onto the floor. It had taken him half a day to fully recover his consciousness.

The massive amount of knowledge in his mind and transformed itself into an ancient-looking and thick book.

Three characters were written boldly on the cover:

“Sword Observation Manual.”

Chapter 336: The Sword Worship Technique

“Sword Observation Manual?”

It only took Xu Xiaoshou one glance at the thick book to immediately realize that this was the last straw that had crushed him.

At that time, the scruffy-looking man had chucked the thick ancient book in front of him and uttered some nonsense. His words sent Xu Xiaoshou into such a fit that he had promptly fainted.

“Is this a spiritual technique?”

Xu Xiaoshou gazed at this ancient book with a strange look on his face.

He thought of Elder Sang.

Every time that old man asked him to learn a new thing, he never resorted to encouragement and reward. Instead, he always coerced him into it.

In this situation, it could not be a good thing if he was required to learn it himself.

Infernal Heavens required Infernal Fire Seed.

The prerequisite for Infernal Heavenly Flames-White Flames and Dragon Melting Realm was the Advanced Infernal Fire Seed.

He had not even encountered the latter and had no intention of finding out how to get this big Fire Seed.

Now, this man also embraced Elder Sang's method.

"This Sword Observation Manual... Can it be a good thing?"

Xu Xiaoshou was a little puzzled. Allowing this content to reside in his mind did not seem to be a good idea.

His spiritual senses reached out to it.

There was a buzzing sound. Xu Xiaoshou suddenly felt a strong tug on his soul. His entire being was sucked into a mysterious black hole.

Everything was black.

It was an endless blackness that was darker than night.

It was lonely and remote, yet desolate and drowning in adversity. The infinite ocean of darkness was immersive as if it originated from the eternal conception of ancient times.

Xu Xiaoshou was astonished.

"Is this an illusion?"

It was very similar to the unusual illusion that formed when he launched the Expertise Passive Skill.

Was it possible that this Sword Observation Manual was as strong as Expertise Passive Skill, so much that it was almost invincible?

"You came."

A hoarse voice sounded from behind.

Xu Xiaoshou instantly turned around.

He saw the first ray of white in the endless darkness.

That was sword energy.

Or rather, it was sword cognition.

Experiencing the slightly familiar aura on it, Xu Xiaoshou was extremely sure that this was the Sword Cognition in his energy center.

However...

What about the sound?

“Who are you? And where are you?” Xu Xiaoshou yelled.

The voice slightly resembled the man’s, but it was not identical.

Even though it was also hoarse, it was not that rough and unpleasant. By just hearing this voice, Xu Xiaoshou could sense a majestic nobility to it.

‘How extraordinary!’

Hum—

The sword cognition trembled in response. It swayed and wavered for some time before a white figure gradually appeared.

The white light lit up. It was rather blinding in this endless darkness.

Even so, the figure dressed in white was still very vague. His facial features were not distinguishable to the eye.

One thing was unmistakable, which were the many swords the figure possessed.

That was right.

Above this streak of white light, the figure had two gigantic swords strapped to his back in an “X” fashion. One was purple, and the other was gold.

In addition, there were two sabers on his waist: one black and the other cyan.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked by the awe-inspiring Sword Intent originating from this figure.

Just as he just wanted to ask questions, the voice spoke again.

“Watch closely.”

“I will only perform one sword.”

Xu Xiaoshou was confused.

He did not even know what was going on, but the matter-of-fact tone brought him to a realization.

The energy within this flickering guy might not have been enough to hold a conversation with him. If he was not mistaken, this guy was a sealed and preserved memory reel.

It was akin to...

A video?

After the white-clothed man finished speaking, he did not perform any movement of drawing out his swords. Instead, he put his hands directly on top of his head.

It seemed that he was about to pull out something from the top of his head.

Xu Xiaoshou had a curious expression on his face.

Didn't he say that he would draw the sword?

Even if he said that he would perform one sword, he had four swords strapped to his body. If he did not intend to use those, what show was he putting on now?

Was it possible that he would draw a sword from the top of his head?

In the next second, Xu Xiaoshou had to eat his words. He was unprepared for the scene before him and sent into absolute shock.

He only saw the man dressed in white lift his hands from the top of his head. The movement, however, shook all corners of the world.

In the next instant, the space shattered. Time seemed to slow down. Xu Xiaoshou felt that even his breathing stopped, and the seconds felt like years.

The terrifying Order of the Great Path emerged plainly under the gesture of these two hands and then shattered.

An infinite white sword cognition rose from the heavens and the earth. Like moths attracted to light, the sword cognition rushed towards the man who had both arms raised.

Indeed, this man had summoned the white sword hilt formed by half of the sword cognition from the top of his head.

Keng—

A lilting sword cry resounded through the sky, obliterating Xu Xiaoshou's spirits to fragments.

The sword hilt of this sword was barely visible. It had been drawn out to only half of its grip. Even so, the power was already too much for the earth to bear, and the surroundings disintegrated into pieces.

Boom!

The darkness receded, welcoming the light again.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the familiar surroundings around him and collapsed to the ground with a dull thud. He was back in the inn room.

"Was that what he meant by one sword? Only one sword?"

"Even a tenth of the sword was not drawn out yet!"

"Powerful!"

"How powerful!"

"What kind of sword technique was that..."

Even if he has mastered the Sword Technique Expertise, Xu Xiaoshou still could not help admiring this sword technique after seeing it.

Such divine Sword Intent of ancient times coupled with stately heroic movements...

How magnificent would it be if he performed the sword movement himself and pulled it from his head?
Xu Xiaoshou found that vision hard to imagine.

As for performing an actual strike...

He did not even dare to think about it any further.

He was afraid that after that sword, even this part of the universe would no longer exist.

“It is far too terrifying!”

Xu Xiaoshou breathed out a sigh of relief. When he was relaxed again, he realized that cracks ran down the entire length of his body.

The broken cracks on his body were constantly oozing blood. Furthermore, there was the familiar sword cognition entangling him.

Though the wounds were recovering, the recovery speed was slow. It was unusually snail-paced.

His Eternal Vitality had already reached the Master Stage, so how could his recovery speed be so slow?

Xu Xiaoshou’s body could withstand even the swift cuts dealt by Red Dog under extreme duress.

“Wait a minute...”

Was that swordsman not a phantom?

Did everything in his illusion affect reality?

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked again.

He felt as if he could manipulate the sword cognition on his body.

With a thought order, he removed the foreign objects entrenched in his wounds.

They shrunk back above his energy center, resuming the docile appearance he saw in the beginning.

As soon as they disappeared, the wound healed quickly.

“Is this the Sword Cognition that the man bestowed me?”

Xu Xiaoshou felt it was the only possibility.

If his guess was correct, this sword cognition was included in the Sword Observation Manual and transmitted into his body.

In this case, the phantom in the sword cognition should naturally be the man.

‘Is he that strong?’

Xu Xiaoshou wondered.

The memory of the man killing a Sovereign Stage with only two fingers resurfaced. Although it was most remarkable, it was nowhere close to the impact of the sword drawn from the top of the head of the white figure just now.

Xu Xiaoshou could not restrain his inner curiosity anymore.

He opened the Sword Observation Manual in his mind.

When he turned over the first page, it did not mention any obscure sword technique. Instead, there were a few lines of small words.

“Do you wish to learn the Sword Worship Technique that you just saw?”

“Do you wish to have the esteemed honor of One Sword from the East?”

“Do you wish to reach the pinnacle of this world with your saber and cut away the infinite shackles from the impoverished heaven?”

“Open me!”

“Do not hesitate, for here is an opportunity not to be missed. This moment will never come again!”

This feeling was deeply familiar. Until this point, one abominable character has made an appearance in Xu Xiaoshou’s mind.

This tone belonged to none other than the scruffy-looking man.

His face contorted in a grimace. Although he wanted to slam this cursed book shut, his curiosity got the better of him.

‘What the hell?’

‘Is this so amazing?’

Xu Xiaoshou’s mind was racing. Thinking that uncle was not there now, and no one was watching him, he decided to continue reading.

“Listen up! Once you choose to open this book, you will never be able to look back.”

“Now, you have three seconds to consider whether you wish to flip to the next page or not.”

“Of course, I warmly offer a kind suggestion. If you choose not to proceed, the Sword Cognition in your body will probably explode.”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned.

“What the hell...”

He immediately sank to his energy center. He saw the Sword Cognition had begun to expand and seemed to be ready to explode any second.

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned green. So, was this thing a time bomb?

“I have been conned!”

Chapter 337: The Sword Cognition Transcends Generations!

“I’ll flip to the next page!”

Xu Xiaoshou did not dare to risk his life and agreed without hesitation.

He had witnessed firsthand the formidable power of the man’s two fingers and also seen the destruction that the Sword Worship Technique attack brought.

If he were to let this sword cognition explode in his energy center, he feared that his body would not be intact in his death.

The spiritual senses in his mind turned the pages of the ancient book automatically with a flick.

Before Xu Xiaoshou could see the content clearly, it suddenly broke apart. It shattered into starlight before integrating with his Yuan Mansion.

Enlightenment was born from the depths of the spiritual altar.

Xu Xiaoshou’s expression changed suddenly.

As he expected, this Sword Observation Manual was a spiritual technique cultivation method.

The existence of the spiritual technique cultivation method was equivalent to Xu Xiaoshou’s Breathing Technique.

The higher its level, the faster the cultivation speed of the Spiritual Cultivator would be.

Unlike other cultivation methods, this Sword Observation Manual also was the most fundamental spiritual technique used to build a strong foundation.

But its function was quite different from the cultivation method of ordinary spiritual techniques.

There was no mention of spiritual energy cultivation at all. Instead, it colorfully introduced a swordsman method from ancient times.

“The Ancient Sword Technique?”

Xu Xiaoshou lightly spat out those words, somewhat unexpected it.

He had heard of the Ancient Sword Technique.

His pure sword intent battle route was one of the paths in the Ancient Sword Technique.

He did not understand this before talking to the masked man and looking up information from the classics. Xu Xiaoshou later learned that this Ancient Sword Technique had its moment of glory back in ancient times.

At that time, spiritual energy did not exist in the heavens and earth.

As for Spiritual Cultivators, one could not even catch a glimpse of their shadows.

At that time, the so-called swordsmen were genuine swordsmen befitting of their name.

They repaired swords, understood swords, and even slept with their beloved swords until they developed an emotional connection with their swords. This bond resulted in the birth of spiritual intelligence in their sword.

It was an arduous journey. Once cultivated, its power was tremendously terrifying.

One could tell by observing Xu Xiaoshou's 10 Sections of the Finger Sword and the battle between the scruffy-looking man's Acquired Stage against four Sovereign Stages.

The downfall of the genuine ancient swordsman was due to the Ancient Sword Technique, which by consensus was too difficult to practice.

After the rise of spiritual energy, the Ancient Sword Technique was abandoned by the times. Only a few cultivated it.

People were interested in manipulating spiritual energy and pursuing powerful spiritual techniques. They could achieve an effect almost equivalent to the Ancient Sword Technique through spiritual strength.

It was only natural that they would opt for the easier road.

Even so, the powerful Ancient Sword Technique faced extinction because it was exceedingly difficult to cultivate. However, this did not mean that one could not do it.

On the contrary...

If two opponents had the same cultivation level, the one who understood the sword intent and cultivated the Ancient Sword Technique could instantly kill the other.

That was the power of the Ancient Sword Technique.

What surprised Xu Xiaoshou was not the detailed introduction of the Ancient Sword Technique in the Sword Observation Manual.

It was because this ancient book documented far more knowledge than merely the Ancient Sword Technique.

The introduction turned out to be the *pièce de résistance* of the Ancient Sword Technique. It was accumulated over thousands of years and then condensed into a crux through thousands of Great Paths, thus producing this discovery—a nugget of wisdom that transcended generations.

“Sword cognition!”

Xu Xiaoshou looked a little intimidated.

According to this classic, the tremendous power of the sword cognition had far exceeded his imagination.

The scruffy-looking man only used a tiny sliver of the sword cognition to launch his phenomenal strike.

The Sword Observation Manual turned out to be an Ancient Sword Technique Cultivation Method that claimed to be able to cultivate endless sword cognition.

To speak of it, this could no longer classify as a spiritual technique cultivation method.

It was the essence of the Ancient Sword Technique from ancient times. It was an ultimate cultivation method that gathered, condensed, and distilled the learnings of all predecessors.

“Who created this marvel?”

Xu Xiaoshou was already considerably impressed by the introduction of this cultivation method.

He did not know much about the Ancient Sword Technique.

even so, he knew that sword cognition transcended generations and crossed ages. This discovery did not exist at all in those ancient times.

Even the Ordinary Power of Thought realized by Xu Xiaoshou through 10 Sections of the Finger Sword was a small-scale outcome that transcended generations.

In the past, these things had never existed.

“According to Elder Sang, 10 Sections of the Finger Sword is Bazhun’an. Then, the Eighth Sword Deity would have created it...”

“This Sword Cognition is similar to Ordinary Power of Thought, but the quality is as different as day and night.”

“So, was this also created by the legendary Eighth Sword Deity?”

“Hmm...”

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated for a moment.

First, he could not ignore the fact that the Eighth Sword Deity has met his demise. Moreover, speaking of that man alone...

Could his tattered appearance be connected to the existence of the illustrious and highly revered Eighth Sword Deity?

If they had no relation at all, then where did this guy obtain such a terrifying Sword Observation Manual?

“Are you yet another fan of the Eighth Sword Deity?” Xu Xiaoshou had a surprised look on his face.

Before this, there was the masked man. Now, it was this scruffy-looking man.

What kind of existence did this the Eighth Sword Deity possess?

If any random follower of his was so powerful and terrifying...

Could this world accommodate his existence?

“Perhaps, the masked man is this scruffy-looking man, and these two are Bazhun’an.”

Xu Xiaoshou was fearful of his thoughts.

He shook his head.

“It should not be possible.”

When he saw the man that day, he did consider whether the guy was the masked man.

However, the dissimilarity was unmistakable from his words and behavior. The contrast was too strong.

Although the masked man was terrifying, he always lost his words and was tongue-tied each time he faced Xu Xiaoshou. He could not exasperate Xu Xiaoshou as he did to him.

It was impossible that their previous encounters had changed his character or that he had a split personality disorder.

Besides, that masked guy was only obsessed with abducting Xu Xiaoshou to be a Saint Servant.

He had blacked out that day. If the scruffy-looking man was the masked man, would he not find himself a sack and kidnap him being presented with such a perfect opportunity?

Xu Xiaoshou knew that his way of the sword prowess brought forth by the Sword Technique Expertise was terrifying. If that man truly appreciated his talent, he would not have been able to leave the man's hold on him to return to the inn.

Shaking his head, Xu Xiaoshou stopped these meaningless thoughts.

Although, he was curious as to why the man suddenly appeared and treated him so well.

Maybe, he was simply attractive to others.

Elder Sang was like that, and the masked man was like this. Adding the scruffy-looking man to the list did not seem like an exaggeration.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the Sword Cognition above his energy center.

After the ancient book shattered into starlight, it was calm again. The sword cognition wandered along Xu Xiaoshou's body quietly, seeming to be actively contacting his spiritual source.

“What's going on?”

Xu Xiaoshou had a splitting headache. He wanted to get rid of the sword cognition, but it was not something he could remove.

It was indifferent to his Breathing Technique.

After further observation, he realized that the sword cognition had no intention of causing harm to others. Xu Xiaoshou shifted his focus to the Sword Observation Manual again.

Whoever hung the bell on the tiger's neck had to untie it.

If sword cognition was cultivated, perhaps this sword cognition from the man could be expelled from his body.

Or could it be absorbed?

Chapter 338: Cultivating with Hidden Bitter

Recalling the devastating power of sword cognition, Xu Xiaoshou was tempted.

It was such a strong cultivation method, not a spiritual technique. He thought, 'If you wanted me to learn it, you should have just told me and not do it this way.'

'Did you really have to force me?'

'I am not a fool! I know the value of this thing!'

Xu Xiaoshou thought as he continued to recall the practice method of the Sword Observation Manual.

Just looking at the introduction was enough to make his blood rush in excitement.

However, that changed when he saw the content at the back. Once he saw it, his face turned as dark as charcoal.

"The Sword Observation Manual was named as such because it focused on sword observation!"

"Observing the sharpness of the sword, understanding the true form of the sword, comprehending the way of the sword, breathing as one with the sword, forming oceans with spiritual energy, and transverse it into the sword..."

"The tougher the life of the sword, the higher the probability of cultivating sword cognition. Hence, the best swords to cultivate sword cognition would be the famed swords."

Xu Xiaoshou took a look at it and understood the meaning of these sentences.

The cultivation of the Sword Observation Manual was in essence observing the sword.

If the sword under observation was a famed sword, cultivating sword cognition would be much easier.

What made his face turn pale was not those few lines. It was a line of fine print hidden at the end of the passage.

"Observing the sword, allowing the sword cognition to enter the body, as if knives cutting the flesh, is extremely painful. Please take caution."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

When he read this line, he immediately knew why that scruffy-looking man used this method to force him to learn the Sword Observation Manual.

"Observing the sword is very painful? How painful?"

It was not written inside.

Based on that man's performance, wouldn't this be even more terrifying than Infernal Fire Seed?

At that moment, Xu Xiaoshou wanted to give up the idea of cultivating it.

He was a person good at everything, even at enduring pain, but he was lazy.

With the Breathing Technique to cultivate stably every day, who in the right mind would want to endure the pain of Infernal Fire Seed?

Just because the name contained the word “shou” did not mean endure. Did it mean Xu Xiaoshou had to constantly endure pain?

“Humm...”

As soon as he had that thought, the sword cognition above his energy center shook a little and started to expand.

Xu Xiaoshou almost peed his pants.

“I was kidding. I was kidding. It was just a casual remark. Please do not explode!”

“Let’s all calm down!”

Something magical happened.

This broken thing actually understood his thoughts and regained its silence.

“...”

Xu Xiaoshou’s whole body immediately went soft.

“This f*cking...”

That stupid man had thought of everything.

‘What is going on with me? I have not escaped from Elder Sang’s grasp yet, and now I have fallen to another stupid man’s trap.’

‘Oh, how sorrowful!’

Xu Xiaoshou felt the unjustness of fate.

This feeling of having everything planned for him was something that he did not like, yet it seemed like what he was afraid of most always happened.

He first thought that leaving Tiansang Spiritual Palace would enable him to escape from the cage and gain his freedom.

He never thought that the words Elder Sang told him on the night he became his teacher would come true.

This was what it meant to get trapped by a stronger and larger lock right after escaping from a smaller space.

“Red Dog, and the scrap-collecting man... Where is the end of all of this?”

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his fists.

He did not intend to bow down.

If given sufficient time, he was confident that he could break all these chains. Unfortunately, he was lacking time.

“Train!”

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated no longer and set his resolve.

Not only would he learn the Sword Observation Manual, but he would also even pick up Elder Sang's Infernal Heavenly Flames – White Flames and Dragon Melting Realm.

“Isn't it just some pain?”

“Once I endure this period of suffering, it will be all rainbows after the storm!”

The person who made him determined to endure such suffering was not Elder Sang nor that scruffy man. It was Red Dog.

“Sovereign...”

Xu Xiaoshou's faced darkened.

He thought that his enemies would not be at the Sovereign Stage so quickly, but Red Dog's appearance destroyed his wishful thinking.

That man's horrifying vitality and explosive attack power...

Those were what he could not take at this stage of his cultivation.

If not for that man arriving, Red Dog might have killed him.

Thinking of this, Xu Xiaoshou stopped hesitating. He sat down cross-legged and took Hidden Bitter out.

It was a tenth-grade spiritual sword.

Xu Xiaoshou actually had a sword of a higher grade on him that he did not use, which was Cheng Xingchu's spiritual sword.

Because of the introduction of the Sword Observation Manual, the method of observing the sword could benefit the body and the grade of the sword could be increased with the cultivation.

Xu Xiaoshou did not know where the famed swords initially came from.

He now knew.

The mainland's 21 famed swords were all in essence some strong being's sword from the past.

During that era, pure swordsmen did not use the best material to forge their swords.

Although of good quality, those grades of swords were not able to form connections with their owners.

The strongest existences were instead those that had grown with their owners since they were young and formed spiritual connections with them.

Once the sword developed a spirit of its own, it would be able to cultivate as well.

Xu Xiaoshou had finally found a way of upgrading Hidden Bitter without spending any money.

He was actually fine with spending some money and had even thought of re-forging Hidden Bitter.

But Hidden Bitter had already developed some spirit. He was afraid that if he reforged it, the spirit might not be able to endure it and disappear.

That would be equivalent to him directly killing the spirit of the sword.

“Spiritual possession of the sword?”

Xu Xiaoshou was still reluctant to do that sort of thing.

The appearance of the Sword Observation Manual solved this problem.

‘Dang...’

Xu Xiaoshou pulled out the black sword, casually threw the scabbard aside, and mumbled, “Little fella, I have found a way to upgrade you, and that is...”

“Couple cultivation!”

The body of the black sword curved as if frightened and instinctively wanted to fly out.

Xu Xiaoshou was joyful.

It had been a while since he had seen this sword. Now, it seemed that it had even more spirit.

He grabbed hold of this scaredy-cat, accumulated sword cognition onto his fingertip, and gently fondled the body of the sword.

Hidden Bitter shook intensely. This was a form of love that came from its owner. It was something that any spiritual sword would not be able to resist.

It made a sound of excitement as the body of the sword stood straight and tall. It looked proud.

Xu Xiaoshou felt the dirt on his hand and felt a little sorry for it.

This black sword had silently followed him for so long and had endured a lot.

It had been punished harshly when it tried to take over its owner, had been hit explosively by Luo Leilei’s Forbidden Lightning Purgatory, and had even fought many weapons of a much higher grade than itself.

This fella had endured so much pain that it should not have had to at this stage.

To be honest, it being able to survive until now was really something.

Even after all of that, with just one touch from Xu Xiaoshou, it still experienced climax.

How was it possible to not feel sorry for such an existence and not give it the status it deserved?

“Come, let us cultivate!”

“From tonight onward, you are bound to grow stronger.”

Xu Xiaoshou held Hidden Bitter. He put it on his knee, followed the sword observation method of cultivation in the Sword Observation Manual, gathered his power, and looked straight at the sword.

One breath...

Two breaths...

Three breaths...

Hidden Bitter curved in shyness and started to curl up.

Xu Xiaoshou's face turned green. Veins were popping from his forehead.

"We are cultivating, understand?"

"You f*cking lie down properly and don't move around!"

Chapter 339: The Inn Destroyed

A beating had followed the intense scolding.

It finally occurred to Hidden Bitter that this was not playing but a serious matter.

2

Xu Xiaoshou watched as his pants were dragged down by the scabbard of the sword. A pair of fuming eyes stared intensely at it. It was beyond embarrassing for Hidden Bitter. Even if Xu Xiaoshou was its master, he should not have to resort to such ways.

1

Hidden Bitter tried to evade again, but Xu Xiaoshou had learned its tricks. He caught Hidden Bitter's head and the tail and straightened the black sword.

1

Xu Xiaoshou disregarded the resistance from the black sword. Instead, he focused all of his energy on his eyes and look straight ahead.

The technique of sword observation to unlock a sword cognition was not learned through simply looking. If it was that simple, anyone who had picked up a sword and looked at it would be able to cultivate into high-level individuals.

This specific form of spiritual cultivation had one criterion of extreme difficulty, which was psychokinesis.

Psychokinesis was the combination of form and will. Since it hinged on the overlap between the two elements, it posed a challenge for one to actualize.

Coincidentally, Xu Xiaoshou discovered that he had almost mastered the ability of ordinary power of thought. This was an astonishing discovery for him.

In his mind, he pondered if the existence of the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword was a prerequisite for the cultivation of the Sword Observation Manual.

'Is this a coincidence?'

Xu Xiaoshou wondered if he was reading too much into this, but the knowledge that he was able to directly cross over this threshold was comforting for him.

He had arrived at the second threshold of the Sword Observation Technique. If psychokinesis obstructed more than 99 percent of cultivators, the second threshold would have reduced the remaining one percent of them by half.

“Higher knowledge of the way of the sword!”

This was a new concept for him. The technique was really about the understanding of the way of the sword.

In other words, this was Sword Will. If a sword was incapable of cultivating Sword Will, the cultivation of the Sword Observation Technique was out of the question. The innate Sword Will was the passing criteria to the Sword Observation Technique.

However, it was only a passing criterion.

The higher knowledge of the way of the sword was not limited to Sword Will. It was the actual understanding of the fundamentals of the sword. It was the canon of the sword.

Aside from Sword Will, everything else regarding the sword, such as the forms and techniques of the sword and the physical state of the sword, were included in the higher knowledge of the way of the sword.

The immensely comprehensive subject was different for each individual.

Xu Xiaoshou had understood why this was a challenging technique to cultivate.

After all, no one in this world dared to claim their understanding of the way of the sword was the sole truth.

Xu Xiaoshou wondered if the Eighth Sword Deity would have questioned their personal interpretation as well. He dismissed the thought with a clear of his throat. Someone like the Eighth Sword Deity should not have had problems with that.

Despite realizing what an obstacle the Sword Observation Technique was, Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes were glowing with determination. He was not willing to give up.

He had stumbled onto another pleasant discovery. His own Sword Technique Expertise had cleared the second threshold.

He had always thought Sword Technique Expertise was a few self-made sword moves and nothing more. He never thought that there was irreplaceable value in the precious and endless foundational training.

With this foundation, he used the Sword Observation Technique to observe Hidden Bitter. After he had entered the mysterious realm of realization, Xu Xiaoshou learned more about understanding the Sword Technique Expertise.

Perhaps the Passive Skill encompassed the entirety of the sword. Furthermore, he had never expected that his sword techniques and understanding of the sword would subconsciously improve because of an improvement in the Sword Technique Expertise.

“Maybe if I attempted to cultivate the White Cloud Sword Technique, I will be able to master it?”

Xu Xiaoshou had an unreadable expression on his face.

That spiritual technique was challenging to master, and it was a drawback that had bothered him for a long time.

He initially thought that he had to draw a Passive Skill that was under the realization quality type to attain a higher level of realization. With the presence of the Sword Technique Expertise, he now had drastically pulled up his understanding of the sword.

He had been worried about nothing all along.

Once Xu Xiaoshou had this realization, he was less inclined to learn the White Cloud Sword Technique. For spiritual techniques, there was only a slight possibility that it would reach the state of a pure sword technique.

Since he had already embarked on the path of the Ancient Sword Technique, there was no reason for him to give up on the fundamental foundations in pursuit of a specific technique. Moreover, as long as he had the Sword Technique Expertise, it was not necessary to learn any new sword form.

A fisherman would not fear the lack of fish. He had nothing more to worry about.

Over time, Xu Xiaoshou had successfully crossed the two thresholds. The presence of the sword cognition was beginning to feel less and less far for him.

With time, Xu Xiaoshou stared intensely with his drying eyes that were filled with psychokinesis. He had finally seen in the depths of the black sword, the purest elements of its nature.

“Sword cognition?”

A ribbon of white fog arose from the black smoke.

In the next moment, Hidden Bitter jerked violently and started to jump and shake aggressively.

1

It was ecstatic as it jumped. It was almost as if it saw how the ways of heavens had blessed it with powers and saw its limitless growth and future.

The white fog poured out of the black sword. Once the sword had absorbed enough nourishment from the Great Path, it transformed into a razor-sharp blade.

The silver light shone brightly. Under Xu Xiaoshou’s control, the stream of sword cognition returned into the sword form of Hidden Bitter.

1

The sword transformed with a hum. The new sword seemed much brighter and shinier. The scratches on the body of the blade seemed to have been slightly patched up.

The sword was completely renewed like an elder who had returned to the young glory days. The black sword was high-spirited. It let out a yell of excitement and almost severed Xu Xiaoshou's control.

Xu Xiaoshou cursed in his mind and forced the stream of sword cognition away from Hidden Bitter. The sword cognition passed through his left hand and flowed into his body.

1

"Scoff!"

Like his finger had been struck by an electrocuted silver needle, blood started to splatter. Before the sudden pain passed, the pain from the needle had penetrated his body out of nowhere.

"Ouch!"

Xu Xiaoshou threw Hidden Bitter to the side as if he was electrocuted. He felt his heart palpitate hard. His fingers felt like they were breaking apart.

1

With a sharp sound, the out-of-control sword cognition transformed into a silver needle and flew out of Xu Xiaoshou's shaking fingers.

A black line emerged in the void and opened. Xu Xiaoshou was hit with a premonition of disaster and reached out to stop the action.

However, he was too late.

Boom!

The barrier of the inn split open instantly. Bright sunlight fell through the ceiling. Xu Xiaoshou was stunned for words.

"This..."

The stream of sword cognition was barely able to be circulated through his body. It was not capable of being called that level of sword cognition. Yet, the soundless attack packed destruction that was the equivalent of the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword.

The only difference between the two was the terrifying noise that accompanied the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword.

The silver needle was a wicked tool of destruction. The needle barely made any sound, yet it mercilessly chopped the inn in half.

"Ah, no! Was the inn hit?"

Bang!

The room exploded within seconds. Xin Gugu gripped his golden staff and prepared for any oncoming attackers.

He had been resting in the nearby rooms. He picked up the familiar presence immediately.

“Is that the Sword Will of the scruffy-looking man?”

It did not matter whether it was or not. The energy came from the direction of Xu Xiaoshou. That could mean an enemy attack.

He flew into Xu Xiaoshou’s room, but all he saw was the young man with an awkward expression.

“What’s going on?” Xin Gugu scanned the room in a panic. He was trying to locate the terrifying scruffy-looking man.

Xu Xiaoshou remained silent.

‘Nothing. I was training,’ he thought, but he held his tongue from saying those words aloud and ignored Xin Gugu. However, with his Perception, he saw the inn owner rush toward the scene of destruction in panic.

“Oh no!” Xu Xiaoshou thought. “We might lose our rooms at the inn!”

His mind started to race. ‘Do I have any good excuse to push this responsibility on something else?’

This was a matter of extreme urgency.

Chapter 340: House Binding Plan

“My dear customer!”

The owner of the inn charged angrily toward them. Before he could let his anger run, Xu Xiaoshou stopped him.

“Say no more. I’ll pay for all the costs.”

“...”

The abrupt statement from the wealthy patron stunned the inn owner. Even Xin Gugu was shocked by Xu Xiaoshou’s words.

“Well... We will need to calculate the losses.”

Xu Xiaoshou briefly glanced at the destruction within the inn.

The protections from the barrier were strong. Even though his sword cognition had broken through his room, he was unsure where the remaining attack was transferred.

At the very least, the other patrons staying at the inn were safe and sound.

It was unfortunate that the hall on the second floor had been split from the center. He would have to pay quite a large amount to cover all of the damage.

He waved his hands and said, “You can rest first. This thing is no big deal.”

The inn owner heaved a deep sigh of relief as he turned around to calculate the payment.

He was in a rush as he was afraid the customer might escape before he properly paid up.

Meanwhile, Xu Xiaoshou felt his head start to ache.

If this were to occur every time he attempted to cultivate, he would have a lifetime worth of damage payments to make.

Xu Xiaoshou thought that rather than continue wasting money to pay for damages, it was more convenient for him to have his own house in the city center. It would greatly reduce the troubles that his cultivation seemed to cause.

Moreover, cultivating in his own residence meant more onlookers would observe him as he cultivated as well.

Additionally, money to purchase a personal estate was not a problem for him. Xu Xiaoshou was greatly motivated by this idea.

“Xin Gugu!”

Xin Gugu turned at the sound of Xu Xiaoshou’s voice. “Hm?”

“Are you free right now?”

“What?” Xin Gugu’s sixth sense sensed that something was amiss.

Xu Xiaoshou replied, “That day you were supposed to save me, you were late. If that man had not appeared, I could be dead right now.”

Xin Gugu stared at Xu Xiaoshou.

Belittled, Passive Points +1.

“Don’t beat around the bush! What do you want?”

Xu Xiaoshou smiled triumphantly. “You see, we really need a house,” he replied. “We need something that gives us the private space to freely cultivate and move, you know what I mean?”

“I’m sure you would need this free space too. I mean, you are...”

Xu Xiaoshou raised an eyebrow. Xin Gugu was a ghost beast host body and needed a space such as this more than Xu Xiaoshou did.

Xin Gugu’s face darkened. Was this an attempt to extort from him? If Xin Gugu had the financial power, he would not have brought them to that inn to begin with.

“I’m broke,” he answered immediately.

Xu Xiaoshou felt wronged. “I’m not asking you to pay. I just wanted you to find a spot that we can use freely in the future.”

“...”

“Is that all?” Xin Gugu replied in surprise.

He watched as the young man in front of him pulled out a prestigious-looking golden card from his robes. Even though Xin Gugu was not in close contact with the wealthy, he could tell this was a VIP-only card from the Plenty Gold Company. It should be worth over a few hundred thousand dollars.

Xin Gugu was stupefied. “Where did you get something like that?”

Xu Xiaoshou lifted his brows. It seemed like Xin Gugu had lived a rather difficult life. He may have faced fearsome features and murdered countless people, but he did not seem to be capable of earning a living. He did not seem to know to loot the possessions of the ones that he had slain.

“Don’t worry too much about where it came from. Here, take it and help me buy a house.”

“Find the good ones from Plenty Gold Company, preferably somewhere a bit more secluded but not too much that we will be assassinated.”

“Just find what you can. No pressure.”

Xu Xiaoshou lightly patted Xin Gugu’s shoulders.

Xin Gugu instantly filled with excitement. He looked forward to spending money on a purchase.

He hummed in agreement and bolted off. He suddenly stopped himself.

‘This is wrong!’

‘Am I becoming this rascal’s maid? How can he assign this type of errand to me? Xin Gugu angrily thought, “An Innate Stage individual asking a Sovereign to run his errands... Is he crazy?”

Xin Gugu decided to turn back. At that moment, he heard Xu Xiaoshou yell one last instruction.

“Remember to save some rooms for you and your sister as well!”

Those words made Xin Gugu hesitate. ‘A yard of my own?’ he thought.

Xin Gugu felt moved. He may have been a Sovereign, but he was relatively on the younger side of the community. His age only permitted him a small rundown room in Xu Yue Grey Palace where the elders assembled.

He was constantly on the move to complete his missions as well. This had given him plenty of money, but he did not have time or the mood to enjoy a life of leisure. Unlike Xu Xiaoshou, he was not carefree and happy-go-lucky in nature. To live a lifestyle similar to him was difficult for Xin Gugu

However, even if he knew he would not stay in it long, the idea of a yard that belonged to him and the image of a happy and warm lifestyle was moving to Xin Gugu regardless.

He clutched the card and determinedly stepped onto the footpath outside the door.

“Nice!”

Xu Xiaoshou raised a clenched fist behind him. For an unknown reason, Xu Xiaoshou felt that something was different this time. After Xin Gugu saved him, he had remained by his side instead of leaving at the

first moment. It was not possible or believable that a Sovereign like Xin Gugu would have the luxury of time to stick around.

By simply looking at the constant state of movement Xin Gugu and Jiao Tangtang on a daily basis, one could tell they were individuals with their destiny instructed to them. Yet, Xin Gugu decided to stay. This greatly confused Xu Xiaoshou.

He wondered if it was his guilt regarding his delay in the rescue mission, so he stayed a while longer to make up for that. Anyhow, Xu Xiaoshou was not oblivious enough to ask him directly. If he had asked, it may be interpreted as an attempt for Xin Gugu to leave, even if that was not his intention.

Xin Gugu was a powerful Sovereign. Though he had not witnessed him in battle, based on the stories told by Jiao Tangtang, Xin Gugu was not a simple character. Therefore, someone like him should not be asked to leave. In fact, he should be convinced to stay for every possible reason.

The destruction of the inn and the proposal to purchase their own personal space were an excellent crossover of fate.

It mattered little if Xu Xiaoshou had bought the house. In the event Xu Xiaoshou had not bought it, he would not be able to stay for long either.

In half a month or less, he would have to return to the Tiansang Spirit Palace and face the music from Elder Sang.

More importantly, the idea of private space was more tempting for a ghost beast host body. If he could use the house Xin Gugu bought as means to bind Xin Gugu to stay, he could take revenge on Red Dog for almost murdering him.

The revenge was closely carved into Xu Xiaoshou's heart. He would not forget it.

Red Dog was only one killer. After the death of Red Dog, there were others, such as Red Cat and Blue Rabbit, who would come after him. As long as the one who was behind all of this remained alive and his warrant was active, he would continue to live a rather intense life.

As Xu Xiaoshou was deep in thought, the house opposite the second floor suddenly pushed out. Three figures emerged from the dust.

"The three swordsmen?"

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. The men walking toward him were the three persons he had bumped into at the doorstep of the Plenty Gold Company.

They had left a deep impression on him since two of the three swordsmen were carrying two of the famed swords out of the 21 famed swords found on the continent.

For people who looked as young as they did to have such thick and dense potentials made the three swordsmen very intimidating individuals.

Gu Qing, the swordsman who appeared to be their leader wiggled his eyebrows as he voiced out in suspicion. His hand was holding his head as he spoke.

“Sword cognition?”

“Sword cognition?”

The two behind him repeated his words like copycats and followed the same head-holding gesture. Their expressions were the exact replica of the man in front of them.

Though it had been only a few days, Xu Xiaoshou was now far away from the clueless youth he was then.

“Sword cognition?”

He was shocked. It did not occur to him that these three persons were able to recognize the concept of sword cognition as well.

At that moment, each individual had located a target on their own. Instantly, the four pairs of eyes locked on each other. Sparks started to fly in the air.