

I Am Loaded 341

Chapter 341: Just Let Me See Your Sword And This Will Be Behind Us

“Were you looking for us?”

Xu Xiaoshou pointed at his nose and met eyes with the three swordsmen who had already walked in front of him.

Gu Qingyi frowned.

He thought, ‘Was this rascal...’ He was the rascal whom he had bumped into at the door of Plenty Gold Company on that particular day. This was the rascal who did not know his own depth.

He checked Xu Xiaoshou before and had confirmed that he was incapable of sword cognition. Somehow, he had managed to come into contact with ghost beasts too.

From a logical standpoint, he did not want to engage with this man for long.

Somehow, his subconscious had drawn himself to this man, and he had found himself in front of Xu Xiaoshou.

Gu Qingyi hesitated but asked his questions regardless. “Was there anyone else around before you?”

“Anyone?”

Xu Xiaoshou had known their intention before they arrived. In terms of sword cognition, they must have been attracted by his Sword Observation Manual to have congregated there.

However, with that knowledge, these guys had instantly removed Xu Xiaoshou from the list of potential destructors.

This was a rare sight.

“There are many people who have passed by here. Who are you looking for?”

He fixed his gaze on the leader of the three men. However, his Perception had locked on the sword that was held in the man’s arm.

The sword was none other than a famed sword.

Back then, he had been in a rush. He had to deal with Jiao Tangtang, which left him little time to observe the man’s famed sword.

Now, he was able to inspect the sword in detail. Xu Xiaoshou was blown away by how spectacular the sword of the 21 Famed Swords was.

The sword was an ancient sword with a greyish white body. It was a sword of with a cold nature. Using Perception, Xu Xiaoshou was able to tell the temperature of the sword.

If the grey sheath was removed, it would unveil the true blade of the famed sword. The sight of the sheath alone brought Xu Xiaoshou an unexplainable chill of evil.

He was certain about the feeling. There was no doubt that the feeling was evil. It was indeed a peculiar feeling and one that Xu Xiaoshou could not describe with clarity.

This was all that he could think of as he observed the sword from where he was. The word evil replayed constantly in his mind.

One was able to feel an eerie sense of unease in the deepest part of the heart simply by observing the scabbard of the greyish white and icy ancient sword.

To prevent himself from falling deeper into the spiral of the famed sword, Xu Xiaoshou turned away from it.

“Are you done looking?”

Gu Qingyi stared into Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes and waited for him to regain his awareness before he spoke.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned.

The leader of the three was more powerful than he had initially thought.

No one had caught him in the act of using Perception to spy and pry on other’s items or abilities.

The young man before him had senses that were very sharp and sensitive. He had been able to pick up his ability to pry.

“Ha-ha.” Xu Xiaoshou was not intimidated by him just yet.

After all, he was a swordsman in training. Seeing a famed sword was akin to a man spotting a beautiful woman. It was hard to avert his gaze from it.

Gu Qingsan, who stood at the back, sighed. He was not carrying a sword with him. “Again?” He walked toward Xu Xiaoshou. “Don’t bother hiding. Just draw your sword.”

“Draw?” Xu Xiaoshou was surprised. Why?”

“Ha, you fraud. You’ve been staring so hard. Aren’t you planning to steal it?” Gu Qingsan sneered.

“Steal the sword?”

Xu Xiaoshou was amused by their words. He was no thief or a womanizer. He would never do anything like that.

“You must have persecutory delusion illness. When did I say I was taking your sword?”

Gu Qingsan stared at Xu Xiaoshou blankly. After a period of silence, he still did not understand what Xu Xiaoshou meant.

“Second brother, what is this illness he’s talking about. What does it mean?”

The second brother bowed his head and furrowed his brow in thought. He was pondering about that just now as well.

After a while, Gu Qinger sighed.

“Eldest brother, what is he talking about? I’m a little slow and did not understand a single thing!”

“Yeah, same here. Please explain eldest brother.” Gu Qingsan’s eyes were shimmering with expectation.

He had always seen his eldest brother as an individual capable of anything and loved to watch the eldest brother offer explanations in a cool and composed manner.

Gu Qingyi paused dramatically and fell into deep thought. After a moment, his face had darkened.

“You guys!”

He held in his anger as he remembered the presence of an outsider and stop his curses in time.

The two of them had totally gone off on a tangent from what they were there to discuss.

The important part of the man’s words was the illness, yet the two were relentlessly hung up on it.

Xu Xiaoshou watched the three fools engage in their talk and fell silent.

He always met competition in the most unexpected way possible.

These people were not exactly the brightest or the fastest when it came to responding and retorting to arguments or coming up with comebacks.

He had almost not reacted in time and gave the two an explanation about the illness.

If he attempted to join in the explanation, he would be roped into talking with these simpletons as well. He would become the fourth fool.

‘After all, I’m Xu Xiaoshou,’ he thought. ‘I am above quarreling with these three fools.’

Stopping his train of thoughts there, Xu Xiaoshou inhaled deeply and turned back into his room. He closed his door with a slam.

Bang!

The room door that lacked barrier protection was destroyed by a push.

Shocked, Xu Xiaoshou turned around and locked eyes with Gu Qingsan. His hands were still stretched out. The door panel was in his hands.

The atmosphere tensed immediately.

Xu Xiaoshou’s face fell.

He had tried hard to save the door panel, but who would have thought it would be removed like him just like that?

He was at his limit.

Xu Xiaoshou’s expressions twisted as he frowned so hard that his eyebrows were fully straightened. He exhaled heavily.

“Hm?”

'What are you trying to do by pushing open my door?' he thought. 'You are strangers.'

Even if the protective barrier on the door was broken, it was still rude to directly open someone's door in an inn."

Gu Qingsan understood the meaning of Xu Xiaoshou's response. Immediately, his face flushed red.

"Um, I didn't do it on purpose. I didn't think that the door did not have barrier protections..."

Xu Xiaoshou laughed sarcastically. "Not on purpose? So was it with intention then?"

"Right, I did do it with intent— Wait, intention?" Gu Qingsan paused and hurriedly corrected his words.

"No, no, not with intention. It was just a..."

"An accident?"

"Yes! An accident?"

"I don't care what you did, we don't even know each other. How dare you tear my door down like this!"

Xu Xiaoshou yelled with rage, "Just because I didn't answer your question and you are the owner of two famed swords and have more in numbers, do you think you can just take my door down and do whatever you want to me?"

"Gulp!"

Gu Qingsan's face froze. Almost as if a cat got his tongue, he stood there with his face red and his ears smoking in embarrassment. He mumbled something under his breath.

He struggled with his words before deciding to give up. Gu Qingsan turned toward his second elder brother.

Gu Qinger inhaled deeply and was about to speak when Xu Xiaoshou stepped up and spoke before he could.

"Explain what?"

"You didn't break this door, right?"

"If you didn't do it, why are you talking? Just because your friend could not answer, do you need to do it for him?"

"Is this a round-robin? Are all of you planning to torture me with your argument?"

Gu Qinger looked at Xu Xiaoshou with disdain. This was only a door panel. The young man's anger seemed severely inappropriate and misplaced.

In fact, he was so angry at Xu Xiaoshou's explosion that he could not swallow his words down and opened his mouth to retaliate.

"Cough, cough."

The sword-bearer sighed deeply. "Our apologies brethren, we entered too abruptly..."

“Abrupt?” Xu Xiaoshou raised his voice and pointed to the door panel in Gu Qingsan’s hands.

“Is this an abrupt visit?”

“If I rammed into your room while you were sleeping at night and then said sorry for the sudden visit, would you accept it?”

Gu Qingyi watched his rage rise in silence.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

“Brethren you are not wrong, but...”

“But?” Xu Xiaoshou was amused by his own display of rage. “But what?”

“Of course, I’m not wrong. Out of nowhere, someone knocked my door panel off. Do you think I can just accept this with a few words?”

Gu Qingyi, on the other hand, had suddenly realized what Xu Xiaoshou wanted and spoke immediately. “If brethren would like any reparations, please let us know. We will pay and go, and we promise we will never show up in front of you again.”

Gu Qinger and Gu Qingsan were shocked.

It was the first time they had seen their brother, who had always been calm and composed, use such an inferior tone to say those words.

The two were truly disgusted by the man in front of them.

Xu Xiaoshou paused and took the door panel from Gu Qingsan’s hands. He threw the door panel on the ground and hit his shoulders lightly.

“Actually, I’m not that selfish. It’s just a door panel.”

He smiled warmly and said, “You know what they say, only brothers go into the same house.”

“Since you are in my house, you are therefore my brothers.”

“It was too harsh of me to ask for any reparations.”

“As your brother, I feel bad asking anything from you. How about this...”

He turned toward Gu Qingyi with a polite smile. “Just let me see your sword, and this will be behind us.”

Chapter 342: Master Swordsman of The Eight Earthworms

“Huh?”

The three stared at Xu Xiaoshou in disbelief

Were all the theatrics just to look at the famed sword?

Gu Qingyi squinted and suppressed the anger in his heart.

Since it was their party that was at fault, no matter how disrespectful Xu Xiaoshou was, he should not have lost his temper

However, this suggestion was brewing the rage within him.

To him, one's personal sword was akin to one's beloved partner.

If anyone attempted to ask one to give up their beloved partner, especially to someone they had just met on the street, for their partner to be held and touched by the person, they would be furious.

In this case, for the person to remove the sword's sheath and admire the sword with great detail...

How could anyone allow this to happen?

Gu Qingyi held back his anger and replied with a calm voice: "We can repay you in other ways, but this suggestion I'm afraid I have to refuse."

Xu Xiaoshou was confused.

"Can't I just look?"

"I'm not stealing or snatching it, or will I be doing any sword-swallowing technique. Don't worry. Just let me see."

Gu Qingyi remained silent.

Cursed, Passive Points, +1

"Aren't you taking this too far rascal?" Gu Qingsan could not bite back his words and yelled at Xu Xiaoshou.

The personal sword of an ancient swordsman was not something that anyone could simply pick up and look at.

Xu Xiaoshou was naturally shocked by the sudden scolding. His anger instantly returned to him.

"Taking this too far?"

"I was just asking. Is that not okay?"

"You broke my door, and I let it go. All I wanted was to look at the sword as reparations..."

"But you said no?"

"Then, whatever!"

"Leave, get out of here. It's not like I need to look at it..."

Xu Xiaoshou's attitude was fueling the rage within Gu Qingsan. What did he mean by simply looking at the sword?

It was obvious to him that Xu Xiaoshou was insulting the three of him. He moved forward. His body was inches away from Xu Xiaoshou.

"Brethren, no!"

Gu Qinger called out immediately. The eldest was about to stop Gu Qingsan as well. Gu Qingsan stopped in his tracks.

“What? Do you want to fight?”

Xu Xiaoshou was amused. He did not expect an incident about the door panel to escalate into the state that it was right now.

He was more taken aback by the other’s anger. All he wanted to do was to look at the sword.

He wondered if he had committed some kind of taboo in the way of the sword. Was he not allowed to look at a sword?

Xu Xiaoshou was confused. When he had asked Su Qianqian to look at her famed sword, he had asked casually as he did. She gave it to him without anyway question. There should not be any taboo about this.

Even if there was a taboo, the other party had torn down his door, and they were in the wrong from the beginning.

Xu Xiaoshou laughed in his mind. In times like this, those were simply insignificant excuses.

Young people often fight over bizarre issues. To stop someone who was about to be engaged in a fight was impossible.

Any confrontation between two parties would not end without an exercise of hostility.

Gu Qingsan was not afraid. He charged toward Xu Xiaoshou.

The eldest disciple could swallow his pride and maintain his composure. However, as the younger disciples, they felt responsible to defend the honor of their brother.

“Fight? You’re just at the Innate Stage, do you think you can win?”

Gu Qinger, who was behind Gu Qingsan, had spoken. He had already expected how the fight would go down once he finished his words.

Gu Qingyi remained silent.

Suddenly, it occurred to him that whenever there was an appearance of sword cognition, he could see the image of the unreasonable man before him.

Moreover, Xu Xiaoshou was the only one in the place. Could it be that the sword cognition belonged to him?

The idea may have sounded far-fetched, but he kept his hopes up. He hoped that he could use this fight with the younger disciple to confirm his suspicions.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the two in the back, who did not seem to interfere or hold Gu Qingsan back. He felt angrier than ever.

‘These people must think they have the advantage in numbers,’ he thought angrily.

“Innate Stage?”

He sneered, “You haven’t been beaten by an Innate Stage, have you? Also, is your head made of steel? Why are you so close? Do you want to hit me?”

The words triggered Gu Qingsan once again. He glanced over to the leader, who seemed to not hold him back, and took it as a sign that he was right to stand out.

With this, he felt that he had some support in his actions and replied, “Hit you? Do you think that I don’t dare to do it?”

“Oh? Do you dare? Do it! Or are you all talk but no action? What’s the point of what you said?” Xu Xiaoshou snorted.

“Ho, you! If I hit you, aren’t you afraid that you will crumble on the spot?” Gu Qingsan retorted.

“Ho? What do you mean ho? All that thunder just for a few drops of rain? So, you really just don’t dare, huh?”

Gu Qingsan’s eyes were red from all the provocation. He replied with rage, “Don’t dare? You say I don’t dare?”

“Yeah! You don’t dare to do it! Do it! Hit me! Do it!”

“I...”

Gu Qingsan could no longer hold back. With a yell, he ran forward and bumped his head into Xu Xiaoshou’s forehead.

Boom!

The sudden noise scared the two who were standing at the back.

It was a simple knock on the head and nothing else. they wondered what could have caused the sound.

Before they could pursue the matter, Gu Qingsan, who had just knocked into Xu Xiaoshou’s head, bruised immediately and was sent flying.

Suspected, Passive Points +1

He had crashed to the floor. He had an expression of disbelief.

“What happened?”

Gu Qingsan could not believe that he was the one who flew.

With such a close distance, and Xu Xiaoshou not activating his spiritual source, Gu Qingshan should have been the winner.

If it was a battle of physical bodies colliding. He should have had the upper hand in terms of his body, which was sculpted by the grueling training of multiple Sword Wills. He was as sturdy and sharp as the blade of a spiritual sword.

Gu Qingsan was sure that even with his Supreme Sword Body on its own, it was capable of sending an ordinary Spiritual Cultivator into the clouds.

Therefore, he was thoroughly shocked that he was the one who fell.

Upon receiving the flood of suspicion in his notifications, Xu Xiaoshou was so amused that he could have jumped up and down.

‘The guy really is a meathead,’ he thought.

It was his first time witnessing someone use his physical body to knock him down. He had to be the fool of the century.

His level of foolishness was the equivalent of more than ten Zhou Tianshens.

If Xu Xiaoshou could award him with the title of being the biggest fool of all, he would. There was no one else like him.

Though Xu Xiaoshou was having fun on the inside, he maintained his cold expression to the two who were reluctant to approach him.

“What? The younger one is down, so is it your turn now?”

“It’s like I said, right? You’re all just taking turns. Now that you have run out of saliva, are you using your bodies?”

“Come, care to continue?”

The two stopped dead in their tracks. They were unsure whether to move or remain where they were standing.

Gu Qingsan, who had been knocked to the floor, was deeply enraged.

“I’m not done yet!”

He roared and straightened his body. The chilling presence he carried exploded in that split second.

Objects in the room began to shake and vibrate at high speed. It was almost as if they were about to take flight into the air.

The spiritual swords of the swordsman, about ten in total with an exception for the two famed swords, had levitated into midair.

All of them congregated from all directions toward Gu Qingsan.

“Master swordsman’s Sword Will?”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned.

Were the fools before him actually at the Master Stage Sword Will?

‘This is absurd,’ he thought.

Even within the Tiansang Spirit Palace and all of his peers, Su Qianqian was the only master swordsman that he knew of.

It was unbelievable that the person he had viewed as inferior was a master swordsman as well.

Xu Xiaoshou carefully looked over to the two who stood at the side. If the most foolish one of the lot had the potential of a master swordsman, what about those two famed swords...

Xu Xiaoshou felt a sudden drop in his confidence.

However, he was not going to let his lowered confidence get the better of him. He glanced toward the spirit sword that was flying midair and remarked mockingly, "Master swordsman?"

"Others would summon the All Swords to the Master, but you summoned the Eight Earthworms?"

"Retract it immediately. Don't embarrass yourself like this!"

Chapter 343: The Manor

"You!"

Gu Qingsan was so angry that he wanted to strike again.

"That's enough."

Gu Qingyi stopped them in time.

He could no longer watch from the sidelines.

His original intention was only to test the limits of Xu Xiaoshou's skills. If they were to continue, the inn would not allow that.

Once they drew out their swords in battle, it would be hard to stop.

The two sides were just involved in a verbal quarrel, so it was not necessary to let events develop to this degree.

Moreover, the passive defenses that Xu Xiaoshou had displayed were even more self-explanatory. The fact that it could send Gu Qingsan's Supreme Sword Body flying said plenty.

The person before him was a strong physique cultivator.

His rippling muscles were a dead giveaway. Logically speaking, he could not possibly have anything to do with swordsmen.

Sword cognition?

Naturally, it was even more inconceivable.

"I apologize for disturbing you today. This is a little token from our senior brother. I hope you can forgive us."

As Gu Qingyi spoke, he took out a spatial ring and handed it over.

Xu Xiaoshou did not move. After some thought, he did not refute further and accepted the spatial ring.

“Okay, I forgive you.”

“You...”

Gu Qingsan’s temper rose again, but his second senior brother hurriedly held him back.

The elder senior had every intention of settling the dispute, so how could he let his junior brother continue to make a scene?

At the outset, he already felt that this fight was very unnecessary.

“Farewell.”

Gu Qingyi nodded and left with his two junior brothers.

Xu Xiaoshou touched the spatial ring on his hand and got lost in thought as he stared at their backs.

Based on his original intention, they would not break into a fight today.

He had also not expected this senior brother to behave so politely and was surprised by how he reacted.

His motives were similar to Gu Qingyi’s, and he wanted to test the waters to get an idea of their abilities.

He took advantage of them when they were in search of the sword cognition. He intended to test the strength of these three people by making a scene and behaving unreasonably.

Why did these guys with famed swords come, and what were they after? Xu Xiaoshou had an inkling in his heart.

“White Cave?”

He frowned and returned to his room.

As time went by, it seemed that all kinds of news about White Cave were progressively emerging.

He also guessed that Jiao Tangtang and Xin Gugu were also after the White Cave, but their purpose was to search for a ghost beast host body like Mo Mo.

On the other hand, these three swordsmen were clearly after the Fourth Sword.

No matter what they were after, it was clear to him that this was just the beginning.

There was still some time before White Cave was unsealed.

He figured that there would be similar occurrences like this to encounter in the future.

‘This gives me a headache...’

Xu Xiaoshou touched his head and laid on his bed in deep thought. He had the opportunity to see his opponents and witness their abilities even before White Cave unsealed itself.

Master swordsmen, famed swords...

‘No, I must not let Xin Gugu go!’ he secretly promised himself.

...

Tiansang City, Nantian Street...

This was a prosperous area in the city. The people who lived on this street were rich or of noble lineage. They were all the notable figures in Tiansang City.

At the end of Nantian Street was the famous City Lord Mansion.

Xu Xiaoshou had never seen it before, but the number of black-armored City Guards he had seen along the way had already blown him away.

“The security level is really something.” He sighed with a tsk.

Xin Gugu led the way and asked, “Isn’t this what you said? Since it must be concealed but also capable of preventing assassinations, it can only be here.”

“This place is too close to the City Lord Mansion. If anything goes amiss, the City Guards will be able to arrive in time.”

“If a Sovereign Stage attacks, it is likely that someone from the City Lord Mansion will catch them before they can even make a move.”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded in satisfaction.

“Only, it costs plenty of spirit crystals...” Xin Gugu looked up and stole a glance at the young man beside him.

“It’s nothing.”

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand generously. Even if he ran out of money, he was not afraid.

As long as Xin Gugu could stay with him, he was happy to let him set the terms.

“Xu Xiaoshou, what exactly did you buy?” Mu Zixi asked curiously from his side.

Along the way, the number of passersby reduced significantly, but the class of these people had improved by more than one grade.

Everyone they met along the way had bulging bellies, and they looked like they were very well-to-do.

Xu Xiaoshou smiled cheerfully without explaining.

“We are here.”

Very quickly, the three of them stopped.

Before their eyes was a magnificent small manor, complete with shady and lush spirit trees. One could feel the exquisite charm of this place even before setting foot inside.

“From now on, this will be our new home!”

Xu Xiaoshou’s spirited laughter reverberated in the air. He slapped his palm on the girl’s head and lifted his other hand, wanting to slap it too.

It quickly occurred to him that Xin Gugu was a Sovereign Stage, and this action would be rather abrupt. He ended up patting Xin Gugu's shoulder lightly.

"Home?"

Mu Zixi's eyes glittered with meaning. Her face darkened as if she was stirred by emotions unbeknownst to others.

She shook her head quickly and asked in surprise, "Xu Xiaoshou, are you crazy? We are only staying here for a few days, and we will have to return to the Spirit Palace soon. You bought a manor?"

"How much did it cost..."

The little girl's lips parted slightly in disbelief.

"What do you know?"

Xu Xiaoshou flicked her forehead. "This is a necessity for cultivation. Every time I cultivate, I must compensate the inn so much. Can any normal person tolerate this?"

The thought of the money he had spent on compensation still pained him.

That event during the day cost him more than 100,000 spirit crystals.

If that occurred each time he was cultivating, would he end up having to pay millions if he stayed in this city for more than ten days?

That amount was enough to buy a small manor.

Xin Gugu ignored the squabbling pair.

He could not help feeling a little emotional. After all, he had completed the transaction of this new home himself. He was eager to launch the protective barrier with the command token in his hand.

As he walked to the gate, the stupor and disbelief that struck him gradually abated.

Although he had completed this transaction himself, the money came from Xu Xiaoshou's pockets.

It would be more appropriate for the owner to complete the opening ceremony by himself.

"Go on!"

Xu Xiaoshou urged him with an encouraging smile.

Half of the reason behind his purchase of this manor was because of Xin Gugu. This guy needed to do the honors and conduct the opening ceremony himself to develop a stronger sense of belonging.

Xin Gugu raised a brow, but he did not object.

As soon as he imprinted the command token, the Array Guarding Barrier flickered and the door opened wide.

The three of them could barely contain their excitement as they stepped into the compounds.

The manor was vast and expansive. It was as different as day and night when contrasted against the crude facilities in the Spirit Palace.

Spiritual flowers and plants filled the courtyard, each of them teeming with spiritual energy. The species in the garden were extraordinary and rare.

Yet, the most eye-catching ones were the sporadic spirit trees. It seemed that the planting orientation of the spirit trees followed a particular array principle, which harnessed plenty of spiritual strength.

Although not as good as the Inner Yard, the concentration of spiritual energy of the heavens and earth here was much stronger than that in the Outer Yard.

In the blink of an eye, the little girl ran out happily. A moment before, she had complained about Xu Xiaoshou squandering his wealth away. In the next second, she fell in love with this stately manor.

Xin Gugu glanced at his surroundings with contentment. Previously, he had only seen the beautiful scenery of the manor in the jade scroll before he bought it without a second thought.

Now that he was here in person, the lush environment indeed met his liking.

“So, this is a home...”

Xu Xiaoshou also had a broad smile on his face, but his thoughts were elsewhere.

He retrieved a gold gilded invitation card and glanced at the date. The event would partake tomorrow night.

“Xin Gugu.”

“Hmm?” Xin Gugu turned to look at him.

Xu Xiaoshou waved the invitation card in his hand and asked, “Do you want to enter the City Lord Mansion for fun? If everything goes well, it should be entertaining.”

Chapter 344: The Man Targeted by Xu Xiaoshou

“City Lord Mansion?”

Xin Gugu was taken aback.

These official ruling forces terrified him.

The City Lord Mansion was under the jurisdiction of Divine Hall. If a ghost beast host body like him went there, would he not be walking to his deathbed?

“That’s right, we’re going to the City Lord Mansion.” Xu Xiaoshou had his mind made up. “Not only are we going, but you may have to create a scene too.”

“Are you kidding me?”

Xin Gugu looked horrified.

Even if he was courting death, was it necessary to jump around and goad others before his death? Was he afraid that his death would not be tragic enough?

“It’s like this...”

Xu Xiaoshou attempted to calm his agitated emotions and said earnestly, “I have an enemy. If he does not die, I will have trouble sleeping and eating.”

“You have also seen it yourself. Last time, there was a strong Sovereign Stage cultivator who wanted to kill me, and he was only a killer.”

“If the mastermind behind the scenes is not dead, this type of killer will only continue coming after me in the future.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at him and waited for a response.

Now that Xin Gugu was by his side, he wanted to see to what extent he would go for him.

Xin Gugu was silent for a while and asked, “Who is your enemy?”

“The head of the Zhang family, Zhang Taiying.”

“How did you get involved with this guy?” Xin Gugu was aghast.

Xu Xiaoshou sighed bleakly and waved his hand. “It’s not worth discussing.”

“...”

Xin Gugu was reticent. If it were Zhang Taiying alone, he had nothing to fear of.

He had reservations about the Zhang family that Zhang Taiying belonged to. As far as he knew, there must be over one Sovereign Stage.

If it were outside the city, it would still be all right. No matter how many strong Sovereign Stage cultivators charged at him, he had nothing to be afraid of.

But this was within the city. He only had to be held back, and his opponent could gather reinforcements quickly.

He would be in the center of the barrage of attacks.

“Can’t you do it?” Xu Xiaoshou asked hopefully.

“It’s not inconceivable, but mainly...” Xin Gugu considered it and said after a long time. “It’s troublesome.”

“If there is not an excellent opportunity to kill with one blow, I will certainly not attack.”

“But if the commotion provokes those important figures, even I may not escape.”

“With you being closely implicated...” Xin Gugu glanced at Xu Xiaoshou. “It is even more futile to flee!”

Xu Xiaoshou smiled optimistically.

Based on what Xin Gugu said, it meant that he could make a move.

In that instance, what was he afraid of?

It did not matter if the opportunity failed to arise, but at least he had to create it.

By just waiting, how could there be a chance to kill the Sovereign Stage?

Did he really think that he was the Child of Destiny and the world revolved around him?

Xu Xiaoshou never thought that he would be the child of destiny. After all, he had been at the mercy of the big bosses in this world for so long.

The child of destiny?

He was more likely to be the child of destiny's grandson.

The kind who had led a tragic life.

"Since you can take action, things would be much easier."

He clapped his hands and said nonchalantly, "You don't have to worry about anything else. All you need to do is attend a banquet dinner with me, and perhaps an opportunity will arise."

"Must I go?" Xin Gugu hesitated.

"Yes!"

Xu Xiaoshou said confidently, "Don't be afraid. You can conceal your breath so well that even I can't feel it. As long as you don't mess around, no one will discover you."

He thought of Mo Mo.

The girl wandered around under the eyelids of Ye Xiaotian and Qiao Qianzhi so many times, but no one had discovered her.

Xin Gugu was at the Sovereign Stage already. As long as he did not behave indiscriminately, there would be no issues at all.

Ghost beast host body... If there was nothing to it, how could it even become a ghost beast host body in the first place?

Xin Gugu hesitated for a while and finally nodded and agreed.

Although he had his concerns, he dared not disobey the scruffy-looking man's words.

Since he had decided to stay with Xu Xiaoshou for a while, he would try to keep him satisfied.

As for being discovered...

To tell the truth, he was just wary of the minuscule possibility.

After all, he remained hidden even under the scrutiny of Yuan Sandao and the other four people that day. He was not afraid of this banquet dinner.

The only possibility left was...

"The banquet wouldn't have any men from the Red Coat or others in attendance, right?" Xin Gugu asked.

“It should be rather unlikely.”

Xu Xiaoshou felt that this City Lord Mansion’s banquet dinner was not such a huge affair.

He was confident the man would not attend.

The man’s presence that day was presumably just to search for him.

As for Red Coat...

Which Red Coat would be so bored to attend a banquet dinner at the City Lord Mansion?

The theme of this banquet was not to catch ghost beasts but to allocate places for the White Cave mission.

From his point of view, the strongest person in this banquet dinner could only be the City Lord.

“That’s right.”

Xu Xiaoshou thought for a bit and suddenly recalled something. “If I am caught in the bounded domain of a Sovereign Stage, will I be under its control to the extent that I cannot even take out my belongings in the spatial ring?”

Xin Gugu returned to his senses, nodded, and asked, “Yes, but why do you ask this question?”

“So, that’s how it is...”

Xu Xiaoshou had a sudden realization.

On the day Red Dog controlled him, his first instinct was to call upon Aje. However, Aje did not react at all.

In other words, unless the other party relinquished control while he was in the Sovereign Stage bounded domain, he would be forcibly separated from his spatial ring.

Therefore, he had to equip himself better before going against the Sovereign Stage in the future. He must have the things he needed ready on hand before the battle.

For the first time, Xu Xiaoshou realized that a spatial ring was not omnipotent. It was this kind of minor oversight that could cause grave consequences.

If Aje could come out on that day, he would have one more combat power. Though his abilities alone were insufficient, he could collaborate with Aje to finish the fight.

“If the spatial ring can be controlled...” Xu Xiaoshou inclined his head as he considered his options. Suddenly, his eyes flashed. “What about Yuan Mansion?”

“Can Yuan Mansion also be forcibly controlled?”

Xin Gugu was taken aback. Though he had heard of Yuan Mansion, he did not have this item. How could Xu Xiaoshou have it?

“If it were Yuan Mansion, it cannot be controlled.”

“You must know that the predecessor of this is an extradimensional space. Even if it were the weakest extradimensional space, it still commands the power of the Order of the Great Path in it. That power is far more superior compared to what any ordinary Sovereign Stage can comprehend.”

“Unless that Sovereign Stage is an unparalleled prodigy who can defy all the rules of your Yuan Mansion space, he can’t possibly control Yuan Mansion.”

Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes flashed suddenly.

‘What a shame!’

He had missed out on the greatest treasure he possessed.

He had to abandon the spatial ring and use Yuan Mansion instead.

He slapped Xin Gugu on the shoulder gleefully and said, “That’s it. It’s all settled now. Go take a good rest!”

Following that, he chose a room at random and entered it.

“How unfathomable.”

Xin Gugu frowned and paused for a long time before he picked up his Golden Staff.

There was a flash of excitement in his eyes. Since no one was around, he hurriedly rushed to the private room that belonged to him.

...

The room was enormous.

The design of this manor was top-notch. It was worthy of its price tag of several million spirit crystals.

Xu Xiaoshou entered the door and opened the protective barrier immediately.

“The quality seems fine.”

He nodded to himself with satisfaction. He took out Yuan Mansion from the spatial ring in front of his chest without any problem.

After obtaining this from Elder Qiao, he had only entered it once.

He placed some idle things into it and promptly forgot about its existence.

As for why he did not use Yuan Mansion but continued to use the spatial ring..

He was ashamed to say it, but the value of these two gadgets was about the same. Xu Xiaoshou did not need too much space then, and he did not even know that Sovereign Stage could control spaces.

After all, the spatial ring in front of his chest was the first spatial ring reward he had earned from the group match in the Windcloud Competition. It held great significance to him, so Xu Xiaoshou did not change it.

Now, it would no longer do to keep it.

Chapter 345: Exploding Alchemy Method of the Higher Level

Yuan Mansion had acknowledged the identity of the master.

Xu Xiaoshou felt a telepathic connection as the spiritual senses established.

He mouthed a silent “Enter,” and his body had vanished from the room.

Snap.

A stone from Yuan Mansion landed on the floor. It transformed into a spot of light and confined itself in the void.

...

The surrounding air was full of dense spiritual energy.

The life force of this world was almost the equivalent to the Senluo Woods of the Tianxuan Gate.

It could be due to the underdeveloped opening of the Chaos Space. The density of the life force that had encompassed the space was still in an overwhelming abundance.

Despite there only being a few days between Xu Xiaoshou’s last visit to Yuan Mansion, he could not help but feel a strange sense of unfamiliarity.

He looked around his surroundings.

The same plains of nothingness greeted him.

Despite the immense life force that filled the spaces between heaven and earth, no vegetation grew on this land.

A few days ago, this space was only slightly bigger than Xu Xiaoshou’s space ring.

Elder Qiao only had a short span of time to work with, thus he had not restored all of the space in Yuan Mansion yet.

One could even go as far as to say that it would be impossible for him to fully restore Yuan Mansion to its former state.

The only possible method was solely to inject Spirit Mark of Life into Yuan Mansion. By depending on its majestic stream of lifeforce to continuously replenish the space, it could slowly move toward its awakening.

“It is bigger than before.”

Xu Xiaoshou mumbled as he sat his behind down on the floor.

In his previous visit, the space was equivalent to three of four rooms at best. Now, it had enough space to accommodate a house.

Though the space was still surrounded by a thick veil of chaotic grey mist, his naked eye could observe improvements, which was surprising enough for him.

“Elder Qiao said that one should avoid contact with the chaotic grey mist as much as possible. It can be gently pushed to ensure the Spirit Mark of Life does not clash with the inhabitable space.”

Xu Xiaoshou turned to the Spirit Mark of Life that was suspended midair in the habitable space.

The item had been enchanted with an additional array, and it was working tirelessly without a break.

If one could collect the continuous life energy it emitted, simply two or three days’ worth of them was capable of turning an ordinary human elderly back into a child.

Yuan Mansion was well-lit despite not having a sun. Therefore, there was no passage of night and day within the space.

The light was brought to the space by the Order of the Great Path that came with the creation of the space and occurred naturally.

When the mark had fully recovered the space, not only would day and night be restored but also the change of seasons would be possible within the world.

All of that was hope for the future. The current muted and premature state of the space was incapable of that.

The barren land his feet were on felt sturdy with every step.

“If it wasn’t for the flaws present in the law of the Way of the Heavens here, it could satisfy all of my cultivation needs.”

“It’s a shame that the space is imperfect. It could only be a temporary shelter for now.”

Xu Xiaoshou’s train of thoughts stopped, and a lightbulb went off in his head.

“It’s flaws aside, the space is big enough now. In the future, I could use it as a testing ground for attacks.”

His eyes shined with anticipation. If he could test and practice his moves here, he would not require as much sensing and sentiments.

All he had required was a space for him to freely exercise his power without bringing any trouble in his way.

Yuan Mansion had fully satisfied all of his requirements.

“In that case, all the processes that do not require sense and sentiment could be shifted to Yuan Mansion to be processed, like...”

“Alchemy!”

Xu Xiaoshou felt a rush of excitement.

He always had a complicated relationship with alchemy.

Even if he was practicing in a Pill Pagoda, it was not able to withstand the destructive side effects of his alchemy process. Therefore, Yuan Mansion was all the more unable to withstand the effects.

He wondered if he could send the explosions and uncontrollable powers into the chaos when things go south.

The worst-case scenario was to turn the chaos upside down with the explosion.

But that did not matter much due to the nature of the chaos. A few more explosions would not have any damaging impact.

'Atomic form?' Xu Xiaoshou thought.

He laughed immediately after. That was impossible.

Moreover, Xu Xiaoshou had another idea.

'If I were to practice alchemy here, operating 10 cauldrons at once, if it all failed, could I transport them into the real world and toss them at my enemies in the most crucial times?'

His eyes lit up again.

'The idea is pure evil and pure genius,' he thought.

Yuan Mansion was similar to the space ring.

The space was big enough to accommodate a person, even with the flaws indicated in the Order of the Great Path. That only accounted for a small space, and that space was constantly being renewed.

Alchemy would be possible within these spaces.

Xu Xiaoshou decided to attempt his idea.

Pulling out his personal alchemy cauldron immediately, Xu Xiaoshou started a pot of the simplest Red Gold Pill.

The process of extraction for medical substances went by in a flash. Before compressing the pill, he stood up suddenly and chanted something silently. His body immediately disappeared from Yuan Mansion.

"Hum!"

The alchemy cauldron jerked aggressively, but its condition stabilized quickly.

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes were shining with excitement as he returned to his room.

His idea was entirely plausible.

He could operate it all on his own in the real world. It was the same as summoning an object from the space ring. He could perfectly operate the small tub within Yuan Mansion.

Even if it took a bit of spiritual sense to maintain the process of the Boiling Soup method, he was able to ensure the elixirs did not lose their medicinal properties.

Moreover, the quality of the elixirs would increase under the backflow of the repeated process of alchemy.

Xu Xiaoshou was aware that to accomplish this, he had to have a good grasp of the time needed for the process.

The elixirs would be turned into dust if they spent long spent in the backflow.

If he were to cook slowly with a light flame, the Boiling Soup method would require close to half a day, and that would be no problem at all.

Xu Xiaoshou knew that the longer it was kept boiling, the bigger the explosion would be when he would attempt to compress the pill.

If he was able to cultivate 10 elixirs at once, and then be at the home of Zhang Taiying...

Excitement filled him again as he thought through his plan. Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly pushed his door open and called for Xin Gugu.

...

“What do you want?”

Annoyance was written all over Xin Gugu’s face. Xu Xiaoshou had disrupted his beauty sleep.

Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes were beaming with golden light. “Can you help me get a few alchemy cauldrons now? Get those that are thick but easy to cause a cauldron explosion as well.”

“Huh?”

Xin Gugu stared at him with large eyes. “What you mean by thick but easy to explode?”

He reached out to touch Xu Xiaoshou’s head. “Are you feeling unwell again?”

“Oi! Don’t interrupt me!”

Xu Xiaoshou smacked Xin Gugu’s hand out of the way. He summoned a chestnut from his tub.

“Of course, it doesn’t have to strictly be thick and easy to explode. It just needs to be the kind that can withstand the heat of my flames and can easily explode.”

He summoned his Infernal Heavenly Flames. The melting heat gave Xin Gugu quite a scare the moment it was summoned.

“An alchemy cauldron to withstand this?” Xin Gugu hesitated. “Are you sure you need an alchemy cauldron?”

His words gave Xu Xiaoshou an epiphany.

“Right, just like you said, it doesn’t have to be an alchemy cauldron!”

“An alchemy cauldron is used to increase the success rates of an alchemy pill making. I’m not using it to make pills, so why bother using an alchemy cauldron?”

Xu Xiaoshou added determinedly, “Buy spiritual weapons, the protective spiritual energy ones that have a heat-resistant array. It doesn’t have to be of good quality. As long as it can last half a day, it’s good!”

There was a sudden feeling of unease in Xin Gugu's heart.

If Xu Xiaoshou was not planning to practice alchemy, why did he require an alchemy cauldron? Xin Gugu was unsure what Xu Xiaoshou's real intentions were.

However, it was understandable for one who had not witnessed the power of Xu Xiaoshou's destructive alchemy to leave the comfort of their personal assumptions.

But he did not pursue the matter further. Instead, he asked, "Sure, how many do you need?"

"Ten for now. I can only operate that many cauldrons of elixirs at once..."

Xu Xiaoshou paused. He felt that he had made a mistake of some kind.

Ten was the limit for him to maintain the success rates of his alchemy attempts. Therefore, he had set ten as the maximum he could go for.

However, his goal at the present was not the success rate of alchemy attempts.

Xu Xiaoshou was aiming for the exploding part of the Exploding Alchemy method.

He waved his hand. "Actually, make that a hundred."

Chapter 346: A Plan for the Sovereigns

Xu Xiaoshou took the time while Xin Gugu was gone to embark on another journey Yuan Mansion.

The alchemy cauldron bubbled beside him while his surroundings remained quiet.

Xu Xiaoshou came to a sudden realization that he could use the space as a private avenue for deep thoughts and analysis.

The biggest current threat for him at the moment was Zhang Taiying.

Although the two had not met in person, he was the first enemy that Xu Xiaoshou was determined to eliminate.

In the past, he was used to taking a passive stance and accepting the various attacks made by the enemy.

His traveling schedule was packed, and it was hard for him to squeeze out any time to stir trouble in the waters of the enemies.

The only exceptions were attempts of assassination. However, Xu Xiaoshou knew he would not be slain easily, so his sense of fight or flight was not too intense.

However, Zhang Taiyin was different.

The man was a walking nightmare.

The grief of losing his child had motivated him to make the first strike. He did it by sending Red Dog.

Red Dog was able to drive Xu Xiaoshou to the edge of his mortality, even when Xu Xiaoshou was in his strongest battle state.

For Xu Xiaoshou, who had marginally tasted what it felt to cross over the threshold of the gates of hell, he did not wish to go any closer to that taste ever again.

He was terrified.

Therefore, Zhang Taiyin had to be eliminated.

Xu Xiaoshou had to actively attack him this time.

However, there was a question of how he would execute this attack. His target was the head of the battle force of the Four Big Families and the head of the Zhang family. Additionally, he was a big name who had an undefeatable status in Tiansang Prefecture. He had to ensure his attack would eliminate Zhang Taiyin in one shot.

This was truly a problem that required deep thought.

If an outsider were to know that a small fry of Origin Court was in the midst of planning an assassination of a Sovereign, they would have a good laugh about it.

However, Xu Xiaoshou was serious and dedicated to coming up with the perfect plan.

First, he was not an ordinary individual of the Innate Stage.

He knew that with the combination of his body in a state of full combat power and the support from various powerful Passive Skills, he would be unstoppable to an ordinary individual of the Master Stage. He did not even have to activate the Double Awakening Skill.

Li Seven had tested this hypothesis for him.

‘In other words, in the fundamental state, my combat powers were on par with an ordinary individual of the Master Stage.’

‘Judging from the state of Red Dog after I’ve activated Berserk Giant and Exploding Posture, I doubt an ordinary individual of the Master Stage could withstand an attack like that.’

Nevertheless, these thoughts remained assumptions.

When he met Li Seven, he was only a Heavenly Image State of the Master Stage.

The Master Stage consisted of three states: Heavenly Image, Ying Yang, and Star Worship.

The states increase ascendingly in power.

The potential arrival of strongmen of the Ying Yang State, as well as various attacks that Xu Xiaoshou was not familiar with—such as those that remained unused array wheels in Li Seven’s spatial ring—all posed a threat.

Although, Xu Xiaoshou could clinch an underdog victory if he maneuvered and used his abilities well.

Regardless, he would be backed into a corner.

‘Hence, Zhang Taiying must be eliminated!’

Xu Xiaoshou returned to his thoughts.

He figured he did not stand much of a chance if the head of the Zhang family remained within his heavily guarded place of residence.

Unfortunately, the banquet at the City Lord Mansion would take place the next night.

Per the agreements within Tiansang Prefecture, Zhang Taiying would be attending the banquet.

‘How many men will he bring with him?’

‘Will he be accompanied by any Sovereigns?’

Xu Xiaoshou did not have any confidence in his guesses. No matter how detailed his assumptions were, they remained assumptions.

If there were any possibility of the worst-case scenario, he would have placed himself in mortal danger.

‘The most important part is how to make Zhang Taiying attend the banquet alone.’

Xu Xiaoshou’s lips curled up.

His idea and a plan were born at the moment when Xin Gugu decided to stay by his side.

What if there was an attack by a group of small fries on the Zhang family while the head of the household was away for the banquet in the City Lord Mansion?

If the Zhang family was placed in some life-threatening danger, what would Zhang Taiying choose to do? Would he divert the majority of his energy to the low-risk City Lord Mansion?

Would he leave the excessive energy to protect the Zhang family while attending the banquet on his own?

This was a question that was not easy to answer. Hence, Xu Xiaoshou did not need to think much about it.

‘Now, the question is how will I retreat after an attack on the Zhang family?’

He was not entirely awake this morning. Fortunately, Xin Gugu’s words had enlightened him about the greatest power and benefit of Yuan Mansion

Xu Xiaoshou was filled with certainty and confidence about his plan.

He would throw tens of alchemy cauldron toward the mansion of the Zhang family and let them explore freely.

If he fled inside the Yuan Mansion after he had finished his part, he doubted anyone would be able to notice his presence.

In the event of an accident, he would immediately call for Xin Gugu and Aje before seeking shelter in the Yuan Mansion. No one would win against the two great Sovereigns.

He could always run away and avoid all the potential skirmishes and fights.

The power of the Sovereigns had enabled them to act recklessly and in an unbridled manner. This was clearly evident with Red Dog and his attacks.

In a city that was as big as Tiansang City, he still charged brazenly in and murdered others.

It was fair to say that Red Dog was executed in the end, but that was due to the sudden appearance of the scruffy-looking man.

If there had been no disruptions, there was a great possibility that Red Dog would have simply left Tiansang City after he had taken out Xu Xiaoshou.

'Maybe escaping is not the best plan right now. This plan still poses many risks.'

Xu Xiaoshou could not afford to be careless.

His opponent was the Zhang family, which was known to be one of the four big names in Tiansang City. Therefore, there would be many elements of surprise when facing them.

Xu Xiaoshou's identity was not hidden, and he did not have the charisma and power to take on Tiansang City on his own.

Thus, he had to consider every aspect of this cautiously and use any hidden loopholes that would be beneficial to him. The ideal result was to eliminate the Zhang family with one hit and escape immediately after.

'So, this question has changed again. If I enter Yuan Mansion, could the Sovereigns track me down through checking the marks of the void I've left behind via the Great Path skill?'

Xu Xiaoshou thought about Ye Xiaotian.

He thought about that day when Lei Shuanxing brought Luo Leilei, broke the transmission jade, and disappeared from his line of sight.

The terrifying white-haired child disciple, for an unexplainable reason, was able to strike a final fatal blow through the fragments of the void onto the two.

If Xu Xiaoshou had not witnessed this scene, he would not have been able to imagine the power of an entity that had reached the Sovereign Stage.

Therefore, he had no choice but to put more effort into the execution of his plan.

'Ye Xiaotian had the nature of space attributes. Therefore, all of this is possible. Will this be the same for other more ordinary Sovereigns?'

'Or rather, this assumption could be tested when Xin Gugu gets back!'

Xu Xiaoshou had made up his mind.

There was a fundamental difference between being active and being passive.

Xu Xiaoshou was slothful. If he was not able to sense that there was danger to his life, he would not flinch or be bothered. Even when he knew there were enemies around, he enjoyed going with the flow.

However, if he had to use his brain for problems...

It was like Feng Kong and Shao Yi from the Outer Yard Court, as well as the grey mist figure of the Tianxuan Gate. He would engage in a long-distance seesaw-like battle.

Even if he was leagues apart from his opponent, Xu Xiaoshou was determined to let them know that he was not a floormat that could be walked over.

It was exactly as Cen Qiaofu had shockingly remarked then.

The man was like a lazy porcupine.

He was calm and gentle when he was unbothered. However, at the slightest provocation, he would have left one with a face of blood if one did not have a body of steel.

‘No, this is not enough...’

Though Xu Xiaoshou was certain he had the winning cards in this battle, he was unable to relax since it was a Sovereign he was facing.

To ensure his plan was flawless, he sent his spiritual senses into Yuan Mansion and took a glance at the Red Interface he had not inspected in a while.

‘Come at me, Zhang Taiying.’

‘Let us test what is tougher—your life or my will.’

Chapter 347: Master Swordsman [Bonus Chapter]

Passive Points: 66,888.

It had been a few days since the first lottery.

However, in this short time, Xu Xiaoshou had surprisingly accumulated more than 60,000 Passive Points.

Xu Xiaoshou stared at the auspicious string of numbers and could not help but think about the merciless slashing done by Red Dog before his demise.

The 60,000 points were not accumulated in a glorious way.

Some of them were mere points gained in exchange for the pain Xu Xiaoshou underwent as pieces of his flesh were cut off by Red Dog.

If he had a choice, he would never have traded the pain and shame of his physical body being damaged and injured for those Passive Points.

At least, he should have gotten more like 600,000 Passive Points.

His body shivered. Xu Xiaoshou put an end to his nonsensical thoughts.

The attack from Red Dog had nearly sent him into the pits of hell. If he had not managed to barely scrape by, he would have lost all of his combat powers with that one attack.

To be honest, Xu Xiaoshou was not interested in Passive Points gained through life-and-death battles.

However, since the points had already been given to him, he was certainly not going to reject them.

Clearing his head of these thoughts, Xu Xiaoshou returned his attention to the Red Interface at the very end and made up his mind.

'No lottery this time!'

'My Passive Points are too low. If the powerful items I get don't match up with the skill level, it would be useless anyway.'

'Besides, from previous lottery experiences, the 60,000 Passive Points are at best 10 consecutive draws.'

'By rough estimation, it would not be enough to fill a tooth gap!'

'I'm preparing to take Zhang Taiying on now, so the good materials should be used on the blades!'

After the decision had been made and sealed in his heart, Xu Xiaoshou quickly turned his attention to the panel above him.

He had chosen to give up on the lottery and awakening as they were things that had a great probability of failure. Since he had decided to abandon them, he could only turn to rashly raise his current skill levels.

'Which one should I level up?'

Xu Xiaoshou's gaze locked on the Expertise Passive Skill at the bottom of the screen without much hesitation.

Sword Technique Expertise (Innate Level 3).

The Passive Skill technique was temporarily sidelined by Xu Xiaoshou's combat system.

It was not due to it being weak. Rather, it had been sidelined because it was far too strong.

On the long path Xu Xiaoshou had walked, he had been stubbornly and unreasonable using his foundations in the face of the enemies and reliant on Strengthen.

However, in every table-turning situation, Sword Technique Expertise had carried the burden of the battle before anyway awakening of skills.

He had restrained from leveling up the technique because he felt that his progress was too fast.

The logic behind this was not limited to the cultivation leveling. The realization of Sword Will was the same as well.

What would have taken others 10 years or decades but still failed to realize had only taken Xu Xiaoshou a month. He had progressed from nothing to the level of an Innate Stage of Sword Will.

That was not all there was to it.

To reach the Innate Stage of Sword Will was at best a signal to others that Xu Xiaoshou was a prodigy.

However, if he were to press on and push until he had reached the stage of a master swordsman...

As someone who had always considered the worst possible outcome when it came to deliberation, Xu Xiaoshou was unsure about the consequences of that act.

He was afraid that others would capture him for research purposes and take him apart piece by piece to study him.

However, the time was nigh, and Xu Xiaoshou could not wait any longer.

'Half a month or so should have passed since I had reached the Innate Stage of Sword Will at the Windcloud Competition...'

'Or not?'

'Whatever, let's not sweat the details and say it has been half a month!'

'Half a month to reach the Master Stage of Sword Will from the Innate Stage does not seem too much.'

Xu Xiaoshou tilted his head and scratched it slightly.

He thought about Su Qianqian and wondered how long it had taken the girl to reach her current stage.

'Drop it. Don't think about that,' he thought.

He warned himself that if he had kept these thoughts around, he would be afraid to attempt to reach a higher stage.

'Right, Bazhun'an!'

His confidence in reaching a new stage returned the moment he changed his mindset.

'There are geniuses in this world.'

'There is the legend of the Eighth Sword Deity, who became an Innate in three breathes and a sword deity in three years!'

'Even if I took just half a month from Innate Stage to reach Master Stage of Sword Will, I'm still trash when compared to the deity!'

Xu Xiaoshou nodded convincingly.

'Yes, I'm trash!'

He coaxed himself into a state of relaxation with self-reassurance. While doing so, his hand reached out without hesitation to exchange for Skill Points.

Sword Technique Expertise (Innate Level 3).

Sword Technique Expertise (Innate Level 5).

A huge wave of knowledge surged into his mind. Xu Xiaoshou shook his head slightly.

He dared not to press another time. He had limited himself to two levels at a time to prevent his head from exploding with the surge of knowledge.

After he had carefully read and learned the wave of fundamental sword techniques until he had fully ingested and internalized the knowledge, he reached out and continued the next action.

Sword Technique Expertise (Innate Level 7).

...

Sword Technique Expertise (Master Level 1).

As the skill level hit the Master Stage, a chilling presence emerged from Xu Xiaoshou's body and exploded all around.

At this moment, every swordsman on Nantian Street felt a pang of anxiety in their hearts. Their personal swords whistled and suddenly broke out of their sheaths.

All of the swordsmen looked up subconsciously.

In the middle of the endless twilight sky, rays of green and gray had replaced the light of the day.

Those who held up their heads to look witnessed a stray white cloud drifting leisurely at the edge of the sky.

The relaxed state was outside of the boundaries and rules of day and night. It pulled the onlookers into an impeccably beautiful fantasy realm.

In another second, the fantasy realm shattered.

Thousands of swords danced in the void. The Great Path called out, "All Swords to the Master!"

The sound of the vibration was so loud that it shook the air.

The sky-splitting screech of the sword boomed through the courtyard. It had pierced through close to half of Tiansang City.

At the same time, many powerful big names in Tiansang City felt their senses tingle.

Whether it was the City Lord Mansion, the Big Families, or groups who had varied strong powers that were either earned or inherited had collectively turned their complete attention to another direction.

All of them had simultaneously turned toward the direction of Xu Xiaoshou's location.

As Xu Xiaoshou awakened from the fantasy realm, he felt a sense of premonition grip his heart.

He had completely forgotten about the screeches of the sword that was produced as one reached the state of the master swordsman. It was a sign to the world that he, Xu Xiaoshou, had attained the stage of master swordsman.

This was certainly not part of his plan.

He had attained master swordsman to assassinate Zhang Taiying. He was at a loss of what to do. Everyone now had complete knowledge that he had attained the Master Stage.

Not willing to wait a single second, he opened the Mansion as he gained just a grain of consciousness and disappeared inside of it with a whoosh.

Clang! Bang! Clang!

The thousands of swords on the street had lost the target of the master they were returning to. The swords rained down onto the streets in a cacophony of clangs and bangs.

All of the people on the street were too stunned for words.

“What happened?”

“It seemed like someone reached the stage of a master swordsman.”

“Yeah, the state of will definitely belongs to a master swordsman. We haven’t seen this in years, have we?”

“The scene of All Swords to the Master normally appears at the initial attainment as a master swordsman and those who could not contain the state of will. Judging by this...”

“Based on the swords we see, what happened?”

“Could it be that they failed?”

It was not just the people on the street who were confused. Even the well-known strongmen who hoped to visit the newly crowned master swordsman had suddenly lost the direction of the swordsman.

“The presence had completely disappeared.”

...

Back in the Abundant Spiritual Inn...

“Second Elder Brother, who do you think this master swordsman is?” Gu Qingsan asked.

“Elder Brother, I have a hunch that it might be...” Gu Qinger turned to look at the leader of the three.

“No more hunches. Follow me. Let’s check it for ourselves!”

Gu Qingyi gripped his sword and waved for the two brother disciples to follow.

The most suspicious individual around was undoubtedly the man who had a Forged Body.

No matter how hard he thought, it was impossible to separate the man from the two occurrences of sword cognition.

Additionally, his sixth sense had supported this hunch.

“Perhaps, the physique cultivator is also a swordsman.”

The three rushed toward the room with the door that they had previously broken.

The door had already been repaired, and the barrier had been perfectly fixed up as well.

“Let’s go, my little brother!” Gu Qinger nodded toward the door.

However, Gu Qingsan hesitated.

“Elder Brother and Second Elder Brother, I don’t think that’s a good idea. Since it is someone else’s room, shouldn’t we knock?”

He had grown afraid of the man.

“No can do!”

Gu Qingsan rejected the idea almost immediately. “That fella is good at hiding. If we knock, he will have the chance to deceive us again. The best way is to have the element of surprise and catch him in his act as we breakthrough!”

“That’s true elder brother!” Gu Qinger and Gu Qingsan instantly nodded in agreement.

Gu Qingsan stepped back and allowed for some space between him and the door. He inhaled deeply and straightened a finger.

The fingers made a chilling swish sound as they slashed through.

The room’s door had been cut into pieces instantly by the Sword Aura and collapsed with a loud boom.

The three charged into the room together without much thought.

“Are you still hiding you rascal? We already figured you out...”

“Hm?”

The three immediately stared at the two white figures on the bed and fell silent.

Two people?

The number seemed a little off to the three.

The room was dark, and the bed was shaking slightly. The figures of the bodies seemed more white than usual.

Lying on the bed was an unfamiliar man who was quivering with fear. The unfamiliar woman next to him grabbed her body immediately and let out a shrill scream.

“Ah!”

Chapter 348: Void Solidifying Sword Technique

Xu Xiaoshou returned to Yuan Mansion.

After he had leveled up the Sword Technique Expertise, his mind was full of non-stop knowledge washing through his brain like tides of waves.

The knowledge had not only seeped through his soul but also his appreciation for the way of the sword had been elevated to the highest height after the impact of knowledge.

‘This is...’

The young man slanted his head. His eyes were full of many realizations of the Great Path, but he also had many more questions and things he could not understand.

The Sword Technique Expertise for those at Master Stage greatly differed from those who were Innate Stage.

Though it seemed to be just one step ahead, the overwhelming emotion of experiencing the thousands of swords returning themselves to him gave Xu Xiaoshou a sense of pride. It proclaimed that he was one of all swords in his heart.

The profound meanings of the way of the sword that was once endless and limitless in his mind had immediately condensed into an easily comprehensible knowledge.

Simultaneously, the parts he could not understand in the Sword Observation Manual had also become clear as day.

Even the Sword Worship Technique he was on the watch for in the fantasy realm had seemingly unraveled itself and appeared before his eyes.

However, he had failed in accomplishing the full actualization process.

It was clear that the Sword Will of the Master Stage was not enough to realize a sword technique that was of that terrifying level.

The particular sword technique had accompanied the Sword Observation Manual in its creation. If those who were master swordsmen were incapable of fully realizing the technique, he would obtain an absolute upper hand if he was able to master it, and he would be able to eliminate any master swordsman in his way.

His eyes lit up. Xu Xiaoshou stared into the void.

As he stared into it, he subconsciously activated the sword observation.

All he had learned before reaching the Master Stage of Sword Will was applicable at this very moment. Xu Xiaoshou felt as if he was seeing the world in a new light, and his Sword Will level was rapidly rising with every second.

Although it may have seemed like a normal glance, he had already experienced the essence of sword observation.

It was clear that sword observation was not for the sword alone. It was to observe all of heaven and the earth as well.

The void seemed to change suddenly with that natural gaze from Xu Xiaoshou.

After a wave of the loud and forceful clattering of swords, the space caved in and abruptly transformed into thousands of Sword of the Space.

The body of the swords was delicate. They had a translucent and iridescent appearance and seemed to flicker between existence and nonexistence. They were between the border of space.

If he had not looked in detail, this wonderous scenery of swords that emerged from the heavens and the earth would have seemed to have manifested from eternal nothingness.

As Xu Xiaoshou moved his eyes around, the environment began to change. A strong gust of wind had stirred up in the world.

Whoosh!

The clear chimes of the swords rang. The thousands of swords merged into one entity. It then followed Xu Xiaoshou's gaze and tilted to the side.

Boom!

The majestic surge of Sword Will congregated at one spot. It had struck into the Chaos Space and pushed it outward, leaving behind a mile-long impact.

The chaotic grey mist moved turbulently in the space. Xu Xiaoshou felt like his heart had swelled up and was beating like a stormy sea.

"Void Solidifying Sword Technique?"

He mumbled under his breath. His words were laced with extreme disbelief.

Almost all of the impeccable techniques of the ancient swordsmen were recorded in the Sword Observation Manual, and Void Solidifying Sword Technique was one of them.

According to the manual, for a sword technique of this caliber, even those who were successful master swordsmen would not have been able to actualize this sword technique.

It seemed to be that the author of the Sword Observation Manual must have been a person of madness. He had held strict form to record all forms of techniques by every swordsman in this world as well as a strict criterion to evaluate them.

"Those who do not actualize the Void Solidifying Sword Technique should not call themselves master swordsmen!"

This was quoted verbatim from the ancient text, and it was the opinion of the author of the Sword Observation Manual.

From the perspective of the average person, All Swords to the Master was the technique that had to be realized by extraordinarily strong Master Stage swordsmen. This was achievable by everyone who had attained the Master Stage Sword Will.

Therefore, for the average person, only those who had a physical sword were able to attain the level of All Swords to the Master.

From the perspective of the author of the Sword Observation Manual, this was not enough.

For a master swordsman to active All Swords to the Master, they needed to have a physical sword at hand. If not, they had to borrow other items, such as leaves or gravel.

It was an undesirable process.

Hence, the author concluded that those who were incapable of the Void Solidifying Sword Technique should not falsely claim themselves to be master swordsmen.

Xu Xiaoshou had to suppress himself to remain calm as he traveled along this train of thought.

He was aware that the author was merely stating his or her own opinions.

In ancient times, the Void Solidifying Sword Technique was something that was out of the leagues of the ancient swordsmen.

This point was evident from Gu Qingsan's actions.

He had displayed the master Sword Will before Xu Xiaoshou, yet he was ridiculed as the Master Swordsman of the Eight Earthworms, a scene that had greatly embarrassed him.

However, Xu Xiaoshou was completely different.

He gazed upon the Sword of the Void before him.

"Order!"

As he called out the order, the 10,000 swords of the Sword of the Void moved on his command. They were under Xu Xiaoshou's control be it to fly, strike, or attack.

All of the swords were able to transform in any state that would realize even the craziest ideas from Xu Xiaoshou.

Instantly, the 10,000 swords paused and proceeded to waltz around Xu Xiaoshou.

"Sword-draw Technique!"

Xu Xiaoshou called out lightly.

The void before him shook with a jerk. White Sword Aura emitted from the body of the sword. It moved with great difficulty within the spaces.

From the never-ending silt, it successfully pulled out the Sword of Space. Within a second, the aura of the 10,000 swords called out in the Chaos Space

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The horrifying wave had almost torn a layer of the earth apart.

The chaotic grey mist had been pushed back by more than 10 miles or so. It took an exceptionally long time for it to slowly return to its original position.

'What incredible power!'

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his fist tightly. His face was filled with excitement.

When he only had Hidden Bitter in the past, any of his attempts to use Sword-draw Technique were limited to one form.

However, as his Sword Will had advanced to the Master Stage, he had not only completed this form and the unshackling of the spiritual source, but he also now had the addition of All Things Are Swords and Void Solidifying Sword Technique to be used at any time.

'Are there 10,000 forms of the Sword-draw Technique?'

'How can anyone stand against something so powerful?'

Xu Xiaoshou thought about how Hidden Bitter could only execute a form of Thousand Leaves Style, Sword-draw Technique, and Black Pattern after it had combined with the Black Scabbard.

The form had already become part of the past.

Xu Xiaoshou was able to pull the technique whenever he desired.

“Ow!”

He felt a sudden sense of anxiety in his heart. Xu Xiaoshou held his head and shook it slightly.

This was when a realization dawned upon him. To execute the form, he still had to burn something within him. However, it was simply transforming the spiritual source into mental strength by consuming the spiritual source.

Even so...

After the continuous strengthening from his Perception, Xu Xiaoshou’s mental strength had advanced to become immensely powerful.

All he had to do was grit his teeth and withstand the consumption of his spiritual source. This should pose no problem, even after dozens of attacks.

“Ha-ha!”

Xu Xiaoshou laughed manically. He had his head and could almost picture the scene when Zhang Taiying was eliminated with a single cut of his blade.

Suddenly, he pulled out Hidden Bitter in a maddening manner. He casually summoned the aura of the sword and returned the sword into its sheath determinedly.

Ring... Ring... Ring...

The Sword of the Space shadowed his sword as if it had been guided by a spiritual force. It fell from the sky and transformed into a stream of light. It swam into the sword like a fish and merged itself into the Black Scabbard.

A strong wave of wind came over. It blew through Xu Xiaoshou’s black hair and green clothes.

The young man felt the corners of his lips tug upward. He was unable to hold back his emotions.

“Whoa, this sword is too cool!”

“Are my dreams of becoming a swordsman coming true?”

He unsheathed the sword. The shadows of thousands of other swords followed suit.

He shifted his concentration. The Sword of the Space transformed into a dual ray of sword presence, one high and one low, as it struck down from the sky. The sword body was glimmering with light as if the sword soul had possessed it.

“Awakening Effect, Earth-shattering Chop... Wait, this isn’t the name. What was it again?”

Chapter 349: The Night Attack Plan

The night was somewhat chilly.

The fleeting master swordsman conception level in Tiansang City made everyone sigh with frustration.

After all, during the breakthrough, many people received backlash from the sword and died.

This insignificant episode only caused a slight disturbance among the high levels of Tiansang City. It was obviously impossible to stir the crowds with a spectacle of this scale.

In the small manor that was Xu Xiaoshou's new home...

Xin Gugu stood up abruptly in surprise.

After listening to Xu Xiaoshou's plans, he looked as though as he had swallowed explosives.

He was excited and frenzied at the same time.

"Are you crazy to be attacking the Zhang family at night?"

"Is the time tonight?"

Who was the ghost beast host body? This kid must have been the real-life ghost beast.

Was confronting the Zhang family face-to-face in Tiansang City something that Origin Court Stage cultivators could even dream of?

By just thinking about it, was it not blasphemy against the strict order of this land?

An Innate Stage?

Planning a night attack on the Zhang family?

"Heh." Xin Gugu sneered coldly.

Xu Xiaoshou stared at him fixedly. "You are right. Not only will it be tonight, but it is also almost time based on the sky."

"If you have no objections, we can leave now."

"I..." For a moment, Xin Gugu was at a loss for words. "Are you kidding?"

Doubted, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded and glanced at him.

"You have also seen Yuan Mansion. There is no problem with it. Even Cutting Path or Higher Void Stage may not be able to grasp the order within."

"At most, they would only feel a sense of strangeness."

"So, what is there to worry about?"

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly raised his tone, and he asked uncertainly, "Are you afraid?"

"Afraid?"

Xin Gugu puffed his chest out. There was no doubt he was exasperated now.

“Since when have I ever been afraid?”

“Hehe, that’s fine. Let’s go.”

Xu Xiaoshou spoke and walked away in the next instant, leaving the house first.

“This...”

“Did he just leave?”

Xin Gugu spoke aloud, but he still felt a strong shock.

Was this kid treating critical decisions so casually?

He said he wanted to buy a house and proceeded to buy it. Now, he was saying that he wanted to destroy the Zhang family, but could he destroy it like that?

It would be impossible to destroy.

Could it be just as he said and he only wanted to light up some fireworks and cause them to jump around in a frenzy?

What was the point of this?

‘Why would anyone want to do such a thankless thing?’

Xin Gugu frowned, but he thought of that scruffy-looking man and his promise to him. Even if this young man was unruly, he would do his best to protect him.

For the first time, he did not need someone else to clean up his mess. Nonetheless, Xin Gugu felt a strange feeling in his heart at the thought of being responsible for protecting someone.

To be honest, this feeling made him very uneasy.

‘I hope everything goes fine.’

He strode forward to keep up with the pace of the young man who had a head start.

“Oh, right!”

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly stopped to take Aje from his arms and morphed him casually.

“Get to know this guy here. He is called Aje and is very powerful. You will probably have to work together later.”

“As for me, I might just be a wallflower.”

Xin Gugu was taken aback.

He looked at what appeared to be a little boy wearing a hat before him. A look of hesitation crossed his face.

‘Does this guy have any cultivation level?’

Aje was also judging him at the same time.

It could observe the people around it by following Xu Xiaoshou. Although it had never seen the other in person, this was not the first time it had met Xin Gugu.

“Ma Ma...”

Under the instruction of Xu Xiaoshou, it had stopped its habit of attacking people at random.

Or rather, it had learned that the way to greet others was not to shove their heads into the floor.

“Cough, Ma Ma?”

Xin Gugu looked at Xu Xiaoshou with a look of confusion. One could almost see question marks on his face.

What was all of this about?

“It’s fine. Just get acquainted.”

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand casually. He did not expect Xin Gugu to communicate with Aje.

He only intended for them to meet in advance. This was so they would not scare each other when the time came.

If they were mentally prepared, it could only benefit each other when the time came to fight.

“That’s all for the time being. For this operation, there will be only the three of us. You just need to follow my orders.”

“There’s no need to think twice!”

This statement only caused Xin Gugu to panic further.

It was as if the blind were leading the blind. Following this person and his puppet seemed like an absurd idea.

Did this formation look fit to attack the Zhang family, the head of the four giants in Tiansang City?

‘Sister, come and save me!’

...

The sound of footsteps went away, and the shadows faded.

Under the full moon, Mu Zixi was sitting on the roof. She clutched her twin ponytails and watched the two leave. Her hands gradually slipped off.

Perplexity arose from her eyes. The little girl looked up at the moon.

Under the clear night sky, the moonlight reflected on her delicate face and outlined her petite and youthful features.

“It’s the second time... It’s the second time you watched him leave like this.”

“Actually, you have realized that you can’t keep up with him anymore.”

“Aren’t you planning to accept me now?”

A cool-sounding voice rang in her mind. The little girl closed her doe-like eyes instantly, and her elegant nose wrinkled.

“Get lost!”

She admonished softly. The irritating voice finally disappeared without saying anything else.

“Why did things turn out like this?”

The bewilderment in Mu Zixi’s eyes grew.

She saw herself trailing far behind Xu Xiaoshou in the morning again, watching him suddenly disappear. When he appeared again, only a bloodied mess remained.

Even if she wanted to come to his rescue, Sovereign Stage cultivators were everywhere. It was difficult for her to make any progress.

Until the battle was over, and that man left, only then did she dare step forward and rescue Xu Xiaoshou with Xin Gugu.

A sense of helplessness reverberated in her heart.

Mu Zixi had always considered herself a prodigy.

She had only been in the Outer Yard for less than a year and was even likened to the gifted Su Qianqian.

Despite her aptitude, she still felt that she could not keep up with Xu Xiaoshou.

Without any warning, his enemy was already at the Sovereign Stage.

“My memories...”

Mu Zixi muttered.

She felt that all of this was as dreamy as her memory.

From the very beginning, the memories she could recall began at the door of Tiansang Spirit Palace. It had skipped over her childhood entirely.

Mu Zixi did not even know how old she was this year.

She had always been in search of her lost memories.

The first time a possibility occurred was at the Tianxuan Gate when she faced the grey mist figure.

It was the first time she felt that the memory sealed in her mind was loosening.

Inexplicably, she called out the words, “Holy Emperor Fengtian.”

The second time her memory loosened was a violent affair.

She recalled the appearance of the blind man, the sudden headache, the stare of Ye Xiaotian releasing his control... It had instantly caused a flood of information in her mind.

From that moment on, there would occasionally be a strange and indifferent voice in her mind.

“What nonsense!”

The more the little girl thought about it, the more irritable she got. In the end, she yanked out the roof tiles with her hands and flung them away.

“I don’t want to follow Xu Xiaoshou! Why does it keep saying that?”

She was silent for a long time before she softly spoke.

“Hmph, I’m left behind while he goes out to play...”

Chapter 350: A House Visit

Zhang Mansion...

The great hall, which Zhang Taiying had destroyed in his outburst of anger many days ago, had been newly rebuilt.

Now that it was close to the City Lord Mansion’s banquet dinner, Zhang Mansion was even more flurried.

Everyone was trembling in their posts, fearful of the unexpected.

This time, the banquet dinner at the City Lord Mansion would be different from the past. Everyone was aware of it.

This was a strategic move by the family head. The Zhang family could leverage this opportunity to extend its influence beyond Tiansang City if it was successful.

There were no empty seats in the great hall.

The seniors assigned to the remote affairs of the family were transferred back here at the moment.

Everyone was sitting on the edge. It was so quiet that if a needle was dropped in the hall, it could be heard.

It was the eve of the banquet dinner. However, there was another equally pressing matter that weighed heavily on everyone’s minds.

“So, during the daytime explosion, the killer from Three Incenses was dispatched, but Xu Xiaoshou was not killed.”

Zhang Taiying was sitting at the head seat. He tapped the armrest of his chair with his sole arm and spoke harshly.

“Yes.”

At this time, only the head butler dared to step forward and answer.

“Was the killer a Sovereign Stage?”

“That’s correct,” the head butler replied after some hesitation.

Zhang Taiying struck the armrest of his chair, and it shattered with a bang.

“Do Sovereign Stage’s these days grow up eating sh*t? I have not even mentioned how much attention it attracted! In the end, did the assassination of this Innate Stage ant also fail?”

“Is it because I haven’t been out for a long time? Or are some of you pulling my leg?”

The seats in the great hall creaked. At this time, no one could sit still.

Each of them opened their mouths slightly, trying to say something. Even if they wanted to say anything, they found that they could not speak at all.

Seriously, an assassination of an Innate Stage by a Sovereign Stage failed and ended with the latter dead.

This matter was unimaginable in the past. No one even dared to imagine this possibility.

Now, such an absurd event was happening before them.

Who could explain it clearly?

The head butler trembled in fright and almost fell to the ground.

“The family head has misunderstood. Everyone present is from the Zhang family. How can they have dubious intentions?”

Zhang Taiying ignored him and continued his interrogation. “I heard that before the Sovereign Stage, there were two Master Stages who attacked. Is there any news from them?”

“...”

The head butler froze.

He struggled in his heart for a long time and finally said, “We cannot say. All we know is that one of them was blown up...”

Boom!

Zhang Taiying’s remaining armrest on the other side of the chair also exploded.

The brows of the head butler jumped frantically at that sight.

He had served the family head for many years. Although every time the family head had an outburst of anger, it was a waste of money and objects. In the past few days, the occurrences were too frequent.

He had squeezed an armrest to dust with each sentence. Although the family wealth was inexhaustible, the main thing was...

The chair could not be replaced.

Zhang Taiying took a deep breath to calm himself. He knew that he could not devote too much energy to his son's affairs at this juncture.

However, it got on his nerves to be interrupted in this way.

"Raise the prize money! Sovereign Stage... Heh, what a bunch of useless things!"

"I heard this time it was delayed for too long, and the forces from the City Lord Mansion were dispatched."

"Hmph, I don't believe this kid will have such good luck next time!"

He swept his hand, looked at the head butler, and said, "Give me information about that kid. I want the details."

"Does Master want to do it himself?" The head butler was surprised.

Before he could conduct further actions, an old man sitting on the left of the head seat opened his closed eyes.

"The family head has lost his focus on the big picture."

"The top priority is the City Lord Mansion's banquet dinner, which is the expansion plan of the Zhang family. How can the progress for that be delayed because of a personal matter?" The old man sighed wearily.

"Zhang Zhongmou!"

Zhang Taiying narrowed his eyes and coldly asked, "Do you think this situation is still small? An Innate Stage killed a Sovereign Stage in retaliation. There is a lot of peculiarity in this. Are you telling me that this is just an accident?"

"If that kid did not possess special means, I would be the first to not believe it!"

Zhang Zhongmou shook his head and said solemnly, "The family head has misunderstood the meaning of this old man."

"Naturally, I have no intention of preventing the family head from avenging Xinxiong, but there must be a priority and order in everything."

"You are still responsible for the process this time. Let Duoyu follow you to the City Lord Mansion to negotiate the White Cave quota and other matters."

"As for Xu Xiaoshou... Let this old man handle it!"

Everyone in the great hall was shocked when they heard that.

"Chief Elder wants to attack?"

"Is that kid worth it? To be honest, even if there is a shortage of people, there is no need for Chief Elder to do it. After all, Three Incenses has its sights set on the prize money..."

"I think this guy may be a misfortune in disguise. Now is a critical moment, and we need to act swiftly."

“If you let a minor incident affect major events, it will only disgrace us!”

“...”

Everyone talked about it animatedly, but it was clear that these guys were only fit to discuss trivial family matters. They did not have much say in dealing with actual operations.

Zhang Zhongmou looked toward the beautiful and alluring woman sitting on the right and asked, “Duoyu, what do you think?”

Zhang Duoyu was an attractive woman with an hourglass figure who looked almost 30 years old. She smiled and glanced at the man at the head seat.

“I do not have any opinion, but Chief Elder presented a good proposition. If you want to head out and enjoy the outside world, perhaps we can change positions.”

“I’ll deal with that kid while you go to the City Lord Mansion.”

Zhang Zhongmou caressed his beard and shook his head. “I’m old! I will leave outside matters to you young folks. This old man will only be responsible for the little family matters.”

He looked at Zhang Taiying and did not wait for him to speak. He waved his hand and said, “Let’s do it this way. Look, it is late now. This old man is going to bed now. You can talk about the remaining matters.”

After saying that, he got up and left.

Zhang Taiying narrowed his eyes as he watched the departing figure.

To tell the truth, he could accept this proposal if it were communicated tactfully.

However, the old man spoke in a commanding tone, which annoyed him tremendously.

The Zhang family had changed hands a long time ago, and the era of the old man had passed.

However, the force of the newcomers was strong. If not for the old man’s influence, Zhang Taiying would have already eliminated him.

Whoever interfered with his matters had to die.

He turned his head to look at the head butler. “Give me intelligence.”

The head butler was surprised. “This...”

He turned his head and glanced in the direction the old man who was leaving. He thought, ‘Didn’t they agree that Chief Elder would be responsible?’

Zhang Zhongmou did not look back, so he could only look at Zhang Duoyu again.

“I said give me intelligence!”

Zhang Taiying’s pupils narrowed, and an unrelenting pressure exploded in the room.

The head butler was taken aback and hurriedly took out a jade scroll from his spatial ring. "It's here. It's here."

Zhang Taiying snorted coldly. He snatched the jade scroll and rubbed it lightly.

"Xu Xiaoshou..."

"Ha!"

There was a commotion outside the door. Zhang Taiying stopped his movement of touching the jade scroll and frowned at the door.

"What is going on?"

A servant entered from the door and hurriedly said, "Family head, there is a young man at the outer door saying that he wants to see you and that it is an urgent matter."

Zhang Taiying was stunned.

"What kind of urgent matter could take precedence over a family meeting?"

His tone was ice-cold as he shouted, "Where did your judgment go? How many years have you been a doorman? Don't you know the rules?"

"It's not like this..."

The servant knelt in a hurry and said with a trembling voice, "He said... He said that this matter is related to Young Master Zhang..."

"Hmm?"

Everyone in the great hall was startled.

Zhang Taiying finally calmed down. He paused for a long time and waved his hand.

"Let him in."