

I Am Loaded 371

### **Chapter 371: A Black Screen**

'This much?'

Xu Xiaoshou was puzzled.

The Passive Points were used up in his last visit. It had only been a short while since the last visit, but the points had increased immensely.

'Were they multiplying?' he thought.

'No, it should be that time in Zhang Mansion...'

It struck Xu Xiaoshou that the points were accumulated during his visit to Zhang Mansion.

He had not paid any attention to the growth of his Passive Points after the cauldron explosions.

Many Spiritual Cultivators resided within Zhang Mansion.

Moreover, Dong Qing Street, which Zhang Mansion was located, was an expensive stretch of property.

Aside from the Zhang family, some other smaller clans and forces had congregated on the street. Hence, there was an impressive amount of Spiritual Cultivators present.

In the event of a battle, emotions like fear spread. More importantly, anyone who was a witness would be taken aback at the sight of it.

If Xu Xiaoshou were to calculate with the lowest number assumption which was 100 Spiritual Cultivators in one family...

If there were 10 families and everyone in each family gave him 10 Passive Points from Impressed, this would have amounted to 10,000 points.

'Wow!'

The numbers were absurd. Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback by his own calculations.

The 80,000 Passive Points looked quite little after he had done the math.

'The explosion and the sword technique later on, as well as the time I pretended in the void, all of that was only for eighty thousand Passive Points?'

He felt that his Passive Points were stolen somehow.

However, once he calmed down and thought through the process again, he remembered no one was around to witness him triggering the explosion.

It was after the impacts of the explosion that people had reacted and identified him.

The real spectacle that was witnessed by many would have been the final battle at the Hidden Scriptures Pavilion.

Hence, the high volume of Passive Points should have refreshed at that very moment.

The discovery left Xu Xiaoshou speechless.

‘Well, this was a surprise...’

He had unintentionally checked his status and did not expect to gain this massive amount of points.

The accumulation of Passive Points in the system had never failed to surprise him whenever he checked back on it every once in a while.

There were times when Xu Xiaoshou was unaware of his actions, but it had attracted the attention of many or even been a pain in the neck for them.

“Hehe!” He laughed aloud and thought, ‘It looks like large-scale events are more suitable for me...’

‘As long as others are watching, even a two-person fight will be beneficial...’

Xu Xiaoshou had plans to keep to himself and live a quiet and peaceful life, but the epiphany had given him the idea to crash the banquet at the City Lord Mansion and flaunt his powers.

If he could practice around 10 cauldrons of alchemy pills at the banquet, Xu Xiaoshou shivered at the thought immediately.

‘Killing Zhang Taiying is the focus here. These people are all Sovereigns, so I can’t go too far!’

Recollecting his thoughts, he returned to look at the 80,000 Passive Points.

Xu Xiaoshou paced around. ‘How should I use them?’

The strongest technique at present was Sword Technique Expertise, and it had already been maxed to the highest level. Theoretically, if he wished to improve it further, he had to tap on the Expertise Passive Skill.

The Sword Technique Expertise was the key for Xu Xiaoshou to understand and internalize the Sword Observation Manual, and it sped up the process of Sword Cognition from Observation.

All of the factors enabled the attack that split the Zhang Mansion pagoda in half.

‘Should I upgrade Cooking Expert?’

He was hesitant.

Cooking Expert did not have a corresponding fire-type text like Sword Observation Manual that he could refer to.

In other words, there was a possibility that the skills he would obtain after leveling up were limited to cooking and fire control.

These did not directly increase his battle skills.

Moreover, these skills were hard to be applied when it came to eliminating Zhang Taiying.

Infernal Heavenly Flames – White Flames and Dragon Melting Realm would be useful, but to master these spiritual techniques, I need the Advanced Infernal Fire Seed!’

'However, I have no idea where to find it, so I can't realize them now.'

Xu Xiaoshou was troubled by the situation.

Redirecting his attention, he inspected the Sharpness skill.

Of all the Passive Skills, it was the only one that directly boosted his battle skills.

The others had been maxed out or were side skills used for power-ups.

'Sharpness and my sword techniques share some overlaps, and I don't know what direction it will take after leveling up. If there was no link or compatibility between these Passive Skills, then it's not worth to level up this aspect.'

Xu Xiaoshou looked away and decided to head to the roulette located in the store.

'Lottery or Awakening!'

Xu Xiaoshou had made his decision and agreed that it was time for him to have a few new Passive Skills in his inventory.

'Every time I try, it is around 10,000 points. It would be a waste of effort.'

'Not to mention Berserk Giant and Exploding Posture have not been fully refined yet. I have barely scratched the surface of their potential...'

He opted to not awaken it.

Rather than having the skill, he chose to spend more time researching the Exploding Posture.

There were areas of improvement in the one gas bead attack, and there was much to work on for the Exploding Posture.

Let's do 10 draws in a row first. That would be 50,000 Passive Points!'

Xu Xiaoshou hovered his hand and was given 10 keys in exchange.

He returned to Yuan Mansion as he tried to patrol for a suitable location that was safe for use.

'Water?'

Gazing at the active spirit fishes, Xu Xiaoshou flew out and laid down in the spirit pond. He took a few deep breaths after he had laid down.

'This place should be a good spot!'

He laughed as a wave of comfort washed over his heart. He felt like he was the embodiment of the European Emperor Possessed.

If he drew his lottery slots in a new place and a new state, would he need a new way of speech as well?

For example, he decided to remain silent in the process.

Click.

Xu Xiaoshou watched Greedy the Cat Spirit reach out to touch the fish from above them. He wore a smile on his face as he slotted the key in his hands into the roulette.

Once the first key was in, he had to continue with the second key.

At that very moment, his world went pitch black. The scene of Greedy the Cat Spirit playing with the fish and the Chaos fog all disappeared.

Xu Xiaoshou almost jumped out of his skin.

Once he had gained his senses back, he leaped into the void as if he had been shot with an energy boost.

“What!”

With a thundering yell, Xu Xiaoshou had been teleported into a fantasy realm.

The earth was renewed, and an endless blue sky and a sparkling ocean stretched out before him.

Creatures of all forms, big and small, legendary and ordinary, were walking together and alongside each other.

As he slowly digested the scenery before him, he realized he had been teleported to an entirely new world.

The world had gigantic creatures from ancient times as well as new tender seedlings that were freshly sprouting from the ground.

Some aggressive battle-ready clans and tribes were engaged in a vicious battle with the enemy clans that resided beside communities that wished to live a quiet and peaceful existence.

A strange sense of balance struck Xu Xiaoshou as he was overlooking this world with an omnipresent bird’s eye view.

‘What is this fantasy realm trying to tell me?’

“Take the middle path? Live with the coexistence of Ying and Yang?”

Another fantasy realm appeared before him. It was full of in-depth learnings and understandings of the world. To an extent, one could describe them as representing the true meaning of the Expertise Passive Skill.

With the Sword Technique Expertise, the Sword Will was continuous. It was constantly rebirthed, and it was indestructible.

With the Cooking Expert, heaven and earth were the pots and stoves. every being was consumable. The world had turned into a kitchen.

He wondered if the fantasy realm that was presented to him now was triggered by the Expertise Passive Skills.

‘What do they mean?’

Xu Xiaoshou tilted his head. He was not ready to think deeply about the subject yet.

In the next second, all the beings that were living or had passed combined. The realm shone brightly with the spiritual glow of the Great Path.

Every leaf, stone, and being that was alive had glowing lines across their bodies.

It resembled the veins of a leaf and the lines of time left on the surface of a rock. They were the arteries and veins of life.

He was confuddled by the images he saw.

Xu Xiaoshou frowned.

'Path?'

Suddenly, a word conjured itself in his mind.

After a moment of gathering his bearings again, Xu Xiaoshou surveyed the landscape around him. His eyes renewed with excitement but slight uncertainty.

'Are these spiritual veins?'

### **Chapter 372: Weaving Expertise???**

The lines of veins that were cleanly engraved on the bodies of all creatures were the very spiritual veins that Xu Xiaoshou had been looking for to no avail.

'Is Passive Skill related to the spirit-gathering array?'

Xu Xiaoshou could barely contain his excitement.

He recalled the days when he had almost lost his vision to study the spiritual-gathering array in depth.

Despite all of his efforts and the use of the Qingming Celestial Rock, he could not tattoo any spiritual veins on himself.

The efforts made him realize that to become a Spiritual Cultivator was equal parts hard work and natural talent.

Xu Xiaoshou had been unable to cross the threshold into the profession. However, the situation was different now.

'It looks like hard work does pay off. Have I finally reached the state to learn the craft?'

Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes as wide as possible.

It occurred to him that to reinterpret the marks on the bodies of creatures as spiritual veins was not a simple thing to achieve.

It looked as if Spiritual Cultivation Expertise ran through every being alive. The spiritual veins could be found on rocks and even individual leaves.

He inhaled deeply and held back his emotions.

Xu Xiaoshou wondered if it would be possible to engrave the veins on a human.

Human bodies were walking diagrams of the blood circulation chart. He wondered if he was supposed to dissect the veins according to it.

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded.

'Unless it's Operation Expertise...'

There was no time for him to delve into his thoughts any longer. After all the creatures completed the metamorphosis process for the spiritual veins, their bodies seemed to have been annotated with a Vitality Diagram.

He stared intensely into the diagram of parallel and intersecting lines and tried to immerse himself in the new world he was in.

Xu Xiaoshou was lost in the scene before him. He was slowly falling into the rabbit hole.

However, once he had fallen in, he realized that the situation was rather amiss.

The Vitality Diagram on the creatures' bodies seemed to be traceable to the existence of all creatures in this world.

He watched the tribe of giants who were aggressively tearing apart their enemies. Their every movement was mapped on their Vitality Diagram as if they were controlled like a marionette puppet.

Xu Xiaoshou studied the diagram and immediately gained all knowledge about the giant's movements.

'Oh my God!'

Xu Xiaoshou was quivering in his shoes.

If an ability like this existed, he was afraid of the power it contained.

He gingerly turned to the large border on the side.

The being was dead. No absolute signs of life could be found.

Its Vitality Diagram remained dormant after one year.

It remained the same even after two to three years.

However, as time dragged on for close to eternity, Xu Xiaoshou was surprised that the rock's Vitality Diagram started to move slowly.

'It's breathing!'

As time progressed, it had been changing, transforming, and even breathing.

Eternity was simply a second for the rock.

His eyes lit up with realization. He seemed to have cracked the mystery of life. He felt that it had taken him a long time, but it was no more than the time of a single breath.

He was still within the world of the fantasy realm.

The blue skies and oceans of the new world remained eternal.

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes lit up again as he lifted his eyebrow and refocused his line of sight away from the small beings of life to the void above him.

The physical landscape of the world around him was changing as well.

Under his watchful gaze, the Vitality Diagram of the world hidden within space and time had slowly revealed itself to him.

'Path?'

The word appeared in his mind rather suddenly, but he was not confused this time.

He was taken aback.

Under the net of the law of the Great Path, creatures were categorized based on natural selection and the survival of the fittest.

After Xu Xiaoshou experienced his epiphany, the world began to shake around him like it was on the edge of shattering into pieces.

He was not convinced by this.

If the world around him had simply been a fantasy realm, he would have been convinced by the scene.

In fact, the fantasy realm presented to him was all built based on the foundations of the real world around him.

He had verified this point when he experienced the Sword Technique Expertise for the first time.

Even the Seven Swords of the Moving Heavens, which was the highest level of the White Cloud Sword Technique, was a technique that existed on the Shengshen Continent.

If the fantasy realm was real, did that mean the changing rules of the world were the truth as well?

Xu Xiaoshou recalled the words of Elder Sang in Qiu Long Words.

Regardless, he refused to believe in that.

He did not believe the old man when he said that all life was virtual.

He also did not believe in the cruel truth that the old man had told him.

As the void tore itself into bits, Xu Xiaoshou kept his eyes open to observe the last pieces of the world before it vanished.

The sky and earth had ceased to exist. The net of the Great Path's law was slowly deteriorating in color.

The darkness had swallowed all forms of light.

Xu Xiaoshou felt slightly dizzy. He was aware that the strong inflow of information from the Expertise Passive Skill was about to start.

However, in his attempt to understanding the world around him, he gritted his teeth and held on to his search for a sign of life amidst the world of destruction before him.

'That is...'

He suddenly caught a glimpse of something that made his eyes enlarge, but the darkness had engulfed his vision before he could focus. Xu Xiaoshou slowly closed his eyes.

'Ho!'

When he had opened his eyes again, he had returned to the familiar surroundings of Yuan Mansion.

The transformation was life-changing and an indication of absolute power.

In comparison to the two other worlds he had previously experienced, the world he had seen this time encompassed all of the lives of creatures and turned it into a glimpse into the truth of a new world.

If he was honest, this was the most spectacular experience yet.

However, a wave of vulnerability trembled from the depths of Xu Xiaoshou's soul.

A pang of despair hit him. His personal determination had led him to witness the last scene clearly.

Concealed within the darkness, in a space that he could not name, a gigantic pair of hands were glowing softly with spiritual light.

The hands were weaving the Great Path.

He could believe that the world's Vitality Diagram and the net of the Great Path's laws were born from the hands of someone.

'What is that?'

Xu Xiaoshou did not understand his panic. If it was himself from the past who had witnessed this, he doubted he would be half as anxious as he was.

Perhaps it was his changing knowledge about the world that made Xu Xiaoshou rather anxious about the unfolding scene.

Some things came in pairs within the unseen world. As unrelated as they may have seemed, after more observation, they had a great amount of synergy that complemented each other.

'Horrible!'

Xu Xiaoshou tried to recover from his emotions and convinced himself to take the situation more lightly.

'This is a fantasy realm,' he thought. 'You will lose if you take it too seriously!'

The notification banner pinged. Xu Xiaoshou turned around to come face to face with a string of words.

Expertise Passive Skill acquired: Weaving Expertise

Xu Xiaoshou stared at the words and rubbed his eyes before staring at the words again.

Expertise Passive Skill acquired: Weaving Expertise

He thought that his vision had gone blurry. He looked at the words again, but there was no change.



The words remained what they were, reinforcing what they represented.

Xu Xiaoshou was baffled.

‘Weaving Expertise?’

His eyes were opened so widely that his eyeballs could have rolled out.

‘What kind of skill is Weaving Expertise!’

‘I saw the changes in the world! After all that, you tell me this skill is called Weaving Expertise.’

‘Shouldn’t this be Spirit-gathering Array Expert, the kind that lets me draw veins on others and pull the explosive trigger on my enemies?’

He felt that he had been lied to by the system. Xu Xiaoshou’s face went sour.

The system had been continuously glitchy and inconsistent, but this round was truly outrageous in Xu Xiaoshou’s book.

“Weaving...”

He muttered, but he tried to rationalize the situation. No matter what happened, he had at least seen a truth of the world.

The hand was without a doubt weaving the Great Path.

‘Don’t tell me I was overthinking?’

Xu Xiaoshou collapsed on the ground weakly. ‘Is this thing really a weaving type?’

### **Chapter 373: I, Xu Xiaoshou, Can Still Make Things Work**

‘I got played!’

Xu Xiaoshou rested for a while. He still did not believe that the Expertise Passive Skill he had obtained this time was the Weaving Expertise.’

He looked at Cooking Expertise and suddenly felt that this Passive Skill was actually perfectly normal.

‘Weaving... Ah... Ah!’

Xu Xiaoshou almost went insane. He had wanted Spirit-gathering Array Expert, not this broken thing.

‘That’s not right!’

‘Calm down!’

‘Now that I think of it, when Cooking Expertise first came out, I seemed to be also like this, right?’

Xu Xiaoshou ran around the perimeter of Yuan Mansion for a few rounds before coming to a stop.

‘In this world, there do not exist any weird and useless skills. There are only those that the inventors did not... Never mind!’

'If I think seriously for a moment, this thing and the spirit-gathering array... Ugh... Spiritual veins could actually be related!'

'Weaving is just using strings, right? There should be some relation between strings and spiritual veins!'

Xu Xiaoshou nodded with a lack of confidence. 'Uh, that must be it!'

Without thinking anything further, he immediately raised the level of this Weaving Expertise to Innate Stage.

A large amount of knowledge instantly entered his mind. Xu Xiaoshou's face darkened.

'Was it really just weaving?'

In that great amount of knowledge, there were detailed explanations of different types of stitches, needles, and plaits...

Including how to use strings, their thickness, and arrangement, as well as tips that affected the whole...

Including colors, collocation, composition...

Aesthetics, perception, artwork appreciation...

Lastly, there was a part on...

'Rhythmic gymnastics?'

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

He looked at the part about gymnastics and was left speechless.

'Is this asking me to move and stretch more to prevent me from being overly addicted to weaving and having diseases of the vertebrae?'

With a plop, Xu Xiaoshou could not control his movements and fell onto the ground.

He looked at the vast sky and deeply exhaled a breath of air.

Puff...

He felt a little helpless, with which he struggled.

With mixed feelings and a heavy heart, Xu Xiaoshou squatted.

'There is still some use for Innate Stage Weaving Expertise. At least, it taught me in detail about the Weaving Technique.'

'If that is the case, when I use this method on a spirit-gathering array, can I also easily control spirit veins?'

Xu Xiaoshou tilted his head as he trembled. He took out a piece of Qingming Celestial Rock from his ring.

It was a foundational rock for array wheels.

By carving spirit veins on the rock to gather spiritual energy, the spirit-gathering array was formed.

He took out a carving knife, had a second thought, and put it back.

Innate Stage Weaving Expertise was honestly very useful and practical.

It taught Xu Xiaoshou how to gather his spiritual source to form a needle, which could be used on anything to practice the Weaving Technique.

Xu Xiaoshou pinched his fingers as a delicate spirit needle started to form.

Different from its calm appearance, this spirit needle had a spirit core within it vibrating at high speeds. It allowed this needle to carry huge destructive capabilities.

The moment he pinched the spirit needle, Xu Xiaoshou's hand stopped trembling immediately.

As if he had undergone strict and intensive training, the young man raised his pinky finger. His face looked strange. He was just about to start weaving when he subconsciously glanced at Aje.

The expression on his face seemed as if he had been forced to do something but was seen by a familiar person.

It was quite embarrassing.

"Ma Ma..."

Aje called out softly as his line of sight shifted to land on Xu Xiaoshou's lifted pinky finger.

"Uh."

Xu Xiaoshou tried to retract his finger, but it bounced back by itself.

"Never mind."

He slightly relaxed as he gave the rock a little poke.

Crack!

The Qingming Celestial Rock exploded.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

'As expected...'

The small explosion did not make Xu Xiaoshou disappointed. On the contrary, his eyes showed signs of deep thought.

'It's very strong!'

'Even the Qingming Celestial Rock could be instantly broken, and it looked like it was filled... Uh... It exploded like a filled balloon...'

'What if this was used on a person?'

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hands. Tens of thousands of spirit needles appeared in the sky.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

With a casual movement, the spirit needles made frantic noises.

Xu Xiaoshou was excited.

‘Who could defend against this?’

‘As long as that person did not guard against this, wouldn’t I be able to poke him to death?’

The attack power was not the main point. The main purpose of a spirit needle was not to be used with Qingming Celestial Rocks.

Xu Xiaoshou pondered this for a while. He immediately gave up on the physical form of carving spirit-gathering arrays.

Since the road he had taken had already gone astray, he decided to run wildly on this road ahead.

Perhaps it would be a totally new style.

He kept the tens of thousands of needles and left just a dozen. This was the limit that the Innate Stage of Weaving Expertise could control.

‘Move!’

Using his spirit senses to control it, Xu Xiaoshou viewed the sky and earth as the array wheel, used the spirit-gathering array as a carving knife, and started carving in the air.

Even though Weaving Expertise did not bring the way of spirit-gathering array carving, in the past few days, Xu Xiaoshou had already studied and memorized the stuff that Li Seven had left behind.

The key to spirit-gathering arrays was in the spirit veins.

When drawing spirit veins, their thickness and depth, including the layout, all had a direct relationship with the actual formation of the array.

Regarding that point...

Weaving Expertise had it.

As the spirit needles danced in the air, Xu Xiaoshou used his spiritual source and condensed them into spirit threads.

At this point, these spirit threads had replaced spirit veins.

The thickness of the thread, its outline, the interactions between threads, and their attraction and repulsion, were all within Xu Xiaoshou’s mind.

This was only the most basic study of the Weaving Technique in Weaving Expertise.

As he swayed according to his mood, Xu Xiaoshou slowly realized that his thoughts and ideas might become reality.

Using the air as his array wheel, Xu Xiaoshou threaded his spirit needles and weaved a beautiful pattern.

The pattern started to develop and become more structured. If there was a Spirit Array Caster present, that person would shockingly realize that...

This pattern was actually a basic spirit-gathering array.

Beads of sweat rolled down Xu Xiaoshou's forehead. He completed his last weave without even shifting his gaze.

Hum...

The spirit-gathering array in the air did not explode or become damaged like the Qingming Celestial Rock when it was being carved. After a hum, it started to shake and vibrate.

'Is it working?'

Xu Xiaoshou was in a daze. He had never thought that a random passing thought would work.

He replaced the peaceful and prosperous family pattern within the Weaving Expertise into the spirit-gathering array and successfully weaved it.

At this point, he was over the moon.

Xu Xiaoshou examined the sight in front of him. After the array was formed, it finally overcame the period of instability and shone brightly with brilliance.

Foosh... Foosh... Foosh...

Since Yuan Mansion was a small, tight place, he was able to feel the power and intensity of this spirit array even more.

As the rich and surging aura of vitality gathered, it was as if a storm had met a black hole and was pulled straight toward it.

Xu Xiaoshou's clothes were almost ripped off his body.

This young man, who had found hope in despair, was tearing up profusely at this point.

'Hard work will always be rewarded!'

For the third time, he sat on the ground with a plop. It was caused by the fact that his spiritual source had been used up.

More so, it was from the fact that...

'If I had already found the entrance to spirit arrays, I wouldn't have to worry about not being able to become a spirit array master anymore, right?'

'Weaving Technique...'

'So what if it was weaving technique? I can still make things work!'

The edge of Xu Xiaoshou's mouth twitched.

"Ah-ha!"

He could not hold it in any longer.

“Oh-ho!”

He sprawled on the ground with his hands on his stomach, as he let out a crazy bout of laughter.

“He-he, ha-ha, ha-he, ha-ha...”

### **Chapter 374: I, Xu Xiaoshou, Want To Do Something Big**

“Ma Ma?”

Aje seemed to be scared by Xu Xiaoshou’s craziness and looked at him with its head tilted as he rolled and slapped the ground.

After being crazy for a while, Xu Xiaoshou used his hand to pull down from his forehead.

“Calm.”

He calmed all his emotions.

Looking at Aje’s silly face, Xu Xiaoshou straightened his robes and said, “Never mind. You can continue to be in a daze!”

He had finally settled the Way of Spirit Array. Xu Xiaoshou felt the huge rock in his heart soften. He felt great.

‘The next step is to level up this Weaving Expertise so I can create spirit arrays with a simple movement.’

‘If that’s the case, I can use Big Fire Ball and nest it within the array. When I encounter enemies, I can throw it at their faces.’

As he thought that, Xu Xiaoshou started drooling uncontrollably.

He had long wanted to be able to command this type of fighting style like a wealthy man throwing money at his enemies.

Previously, Lei Shuangxing’s uncountable treasures, as well as Fu Xing’s defense spiritual weapon, had left him speechless.

Now, he finally had a chance to become the type of person that he hated and found the most annoying.

“Woo-hoo!”

He called out with a trembling hand over his mouth. Xu Xiaoshou finally calmed down.

He looked at Yuan Mansion again.

He had exchanged 10 keys to get 10 consecutive draws. The first key had already gotten him Weaving Expertise.

Would the remaining keys give him something extra?

Did he lose out by exchanging so many keys?

That was not possible.

Perhaps with the nine keys, he could draw nine more skills.

'Could it be possible that today is my lucky day?'

Xu Xiaoshou was very happy. He used up the remaining keys at once and looked at the notification board.

'Nine? Nine thank yous?'

He took a step back.

'Did I not even get a notification for one key?'

Feeling a big pouty, Xu Xiaoshou sucked in some air and was speechless.

Even though he knew this time he had already gotten more than its worth, the nine keys were still quite disappointing.

Passive Points: 26,944

It required 50,000 for the lucky draw and 10,000 to level up. Now, he was left with this little amount of Passive Points.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at High Spirits.

He had not paid much attention to this skill for a long time.

For this skill to not have been his focus of leveling up meant that it had been functioning well for him.

This time's drawing of spiritual arrays using Weaving Expertise had completely used up his spiritual source.

This exposed two problems.

His cultivation level was not high enough, and its growth was not keeping up well.

'Should I level up?'

'No!'

Without much hesitation, Xu Xiaoshou put all of his skill points on Weaving Expertise.

He did not have to consider it at all.

As long as he could create array wheels, he could prepare lots of spiritual arrays beforehand.

As for High Spirits, he decided to temporarily use elixirs to get him through for now.

Under certain current circumstances, spiritual arrays were more important.

Weaving Expertise (Innate Level 1)

Weaving Expertise (Innate Level 6)

Following this change, a large amount of knowledge entered Xu Xiaoshou's mind.

This time, not only did the simple Weaving Technique appear, but there was also more information on how to cultivate inner peace and resolve.

'Multitask control, multiple needles weaving, controlling spirit finger, puppeteering...'

The more he looked, the more shocked he was.

Weaving Expertise encompassed many things.

To simply define it as the Way of Spirit Array was honestly degrading it.

Weaving seemed to be unimpressive and not comparable to a spiritual array at all.

But Weaving Expertise contained really strong and powerful attention cultivation.

The newly appeared multitask control, as well as multiple needles weaving skills, helped Xu Xiaoshou learn how to multitask efficiently.

Based on his memories, Xu Xiaoshou used his spiritual senses to summon hundreds of spirit needles in thin air.

"Move!"

With a simple command, the hundreds of spirit needles started to move. They all had their own designated paths. They instantly weaved a shape that resembled Aje.

"Ma Ma!"

Seeing itself being flashed across in the air, Aje was feeling a little excited and called out agitatedly.

Xu Xiaoshou was even more agitated as he pat Aje on the shoulder.

"Look!"

"My hundreds of weaving needles... Ha-ha, it was still 10 needles a while ago!"

"This method of multitask control not only increased my efficiency by tenfold, but it also means that during battles, I could possibly create spiritual arrays in an instant!"

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes widened so much that they almost fell out of his head. He was so excited that his lips trembled.

Aje retracted its line of sight from the sky. Its eyes were red with excitement.

It looked at the hand Xu Xiaoshou had put on its shoulder. It seemed to understand the feeling of excitement and was about to release its own excitement.

Boom!

Even with his Recoil and Toughness, Xu Xiaoshou was slapped and thrown deep into the ground by Aje.

The air was silent.



The young man crawled out from the pit. He coughed a little and took a deep breath of air.

“Naughty.”

He brushed the dirt off his butt. Without saying a word, light flashed as he retreated from Yuan Mansion.

‘Stupid Aje. I shall confine him in there for a few hours!’

‘Did you dare to slap your Ma Ma?’

Xu Xiaoshou was angry as he looked at his shattered shoulder bones, which had started to heal under his Eternal Vitality. He got on his bed to calm himself.

‘Weaving Expertise was too strong!’

‘It was so strong that using just spiritual arrays to define it is totally not appropriate!’

“If this Passive Skill were to be leveled up to the Master Level, the controlling spirit finger and puppeteering techniques might be able to shine and perform as well!”

Xu Xiaoshou thought about the last scene he saw of that bright hand in the illusion. If he was not wrong, that was the controlling finger’s final form.

As for puppeteering...

‘That’s a little terrifying. Could it really be like what I saw that time?’

In the illusion, Xu Xiaoshou remembered that he had seen the Vitality Diagram of some giant race.

Based on the design of the giant’s diagram, he could predict the giant’s movement whenever he wanted to.

‘If I drew this design, would that mean I could control that giant’s actions like I was controlling a puppet?’

“Tsk!”

Xu Xiaoshou took in a breath of cold air. It was too terrifying.

If he took into consideration the previous multiple needles weaving...

‘This means that once the battle starts, I just need to instantly perform weaving on the enemy, and the enemy will bound to become my puppet!’

‘With the way of weaving being able to control living things, won’t every being just be an ant?’

Xu Xiaoshou was deep in shock and could not recover for a long time.

Was he interested?

He was extremely interested.

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he was very eager and hungry for it.

However, the Passive Points that he had now were not sufficient for his Weaving Expertise to attain that level.

'I've got to get to work!'

Coming back to the starting point, Xu Xiaoshou's head started to hurt.

Earning small amounts of Passive Points was easy, but to earn a large number of Passive Points within a short amount of time was definitely not an easy task at all.

Other than harming oneself like when he was at Black Cliff, he could only cause trouble in a large crowd of people to get their attention and judgment.

'Is there another black cliff?'

The answer to this question was bound to be negative.

Xu Xiaoshou thought about it as he took out a golden invitation, which was the City Lord Mansion's banquet invitation letter.

As he looked at the invitation letter, the young man made sly laughing noises.

'I can't... I can't remain low profile anymore!'

'I want to do something big!'

'I want to earn money!'

### **Chapter 375: I Said, There Must Be Wind**

Sizzle~

Bang!

The sky was getting dark, but the explosions did not cease at the Small Manor. It was as if Doctor Strange was conducting laboratory experiments.

In the room...

Xu Xiaoshou put down the Qingming Celestial Rock shard in frustration.

"It still doesn't work!"

The difficulty level of making the Blank Array Wheel was beyond Xu Xiaoshou's expectations.

It was an unfathomable feat for an Innate Stage Spirit Array Caster.

In the Way of Spirit Array, this kind of self-made freestyle array wheel could not benefit from any spiritual technique. It was simply too difficult to master.

There was no way to get started without at least a Master Stage cultivation level.

Xu Xiaoshou was currently only at level six of the Innate Stage for his Weaving Expertise skill. Yet, for most of the spiritual arrays, it was already possible to manipulate them.

Given time, he could work out the mechanics of the Master Stage spiritual array because of the precise and extensive knowledge he had in his mind.

When it came to the Blank Array Wheel...

It was impossible.

'Can I comprehend it only when I get to the Master Stage?'

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the Qingming Celestial Rock shard on the table.

He created his own Weaving Technique out of thin air, but the spiritual array depended on a physical object.

Of course, there were some things in common between the two.

If he were honest, there was a big difference between skills conjured out of thin air and those that required the handling of a physical object.

At least for now, Xu Xiaoshou could not carve a spiritual array out of thin air on an entity.

Even if he tried hundreds of times and wanted to break through this shackle, he still faintly felt that something was missing.

'Is this the threshold?'

Perhaps this was the breaking point between Innate Stage and Master Stage.

For others, maybe this setback would last a lifetime.

For Xu Xiaoshou, the obstacle preventing him from obtaining that skill was a matter of 25,000 Passive Points.

Unfortunately, he was currently penniless.

"Damn..."

With a feeble moan, Xu Xiaoshou stopped struggling.

If this went on, it would be in vain and a waste of time.

The most urgent matter on hand was to earn more Passive Points.

He pushed open the door and stepped out of the courtyard. Unknowingly, night had fallen.

Xu Xiaoshou inhaled a breath of fresh air and made little effort to tidy himself up. He held his hands to his mouth, shouting at the top of his lungs.

"Enemy attack!"

His distressed scream sounded for less than a second before two figures raced toward him from the sky.

Mu Zixi landed on the roof tiles, her double ponytails curling with her movement. She released a violent wood attribute breath.

Xin Gugu behaved more like a startled bird. He had already imagined that Zhang Mansion would not let the two of them off so easily.

It was possible that they tailed them secretly and were undiscovered.

This scream of an enemy attack instantly verified the idea in his mind.

“It’s good that you have come!”

A golden light was the first cast, followed by a cloud of blood mist that flew past, binding the Golden Staff in the void.

As soon as the bounded domain opened, it wrapped around the entire manor.

“Since you dared to come over, there is no escape now!”

The two had rushed over frantically. When they looked at Xu Xiaoshou in the courtyard, he seemed to be stretching.

Mu Zixi was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Point +1.

Xin Gugu was confused.

Suspected, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou bowed his body slightly.

“Are you coming?”

He took out the invitation in his hand and waved it. “Come, I’ll take you to a good place where we can eat and drink!”

Xin Gugu felt deflated after his impressive entrance. “Xu Xiaoshou, where is the enemy?”

“He escaped.”

Xu Xiaoshou acted nonchalantly.

He could not be bothered to call for them one by one, nor did he want to elaborate further. He just said softly, “I only have to raise a finger, and Zhang Taiying would run with his tail between his legs!”

Xin Gugu was shocked.

‘As if I would believe that!’

Suspected, Passive Points, +1.

“So, is there no enemy?”

“Hehe.” Xu Xiaoshou patted him on the shoulder without saying much. He looked back at his junior sister.

“There is a banquet dinner. Do you want to go? I got the invitation from the handsome guy who wanted to charm you that day.”

“If you go, maybe you can change from a country chicken into...”

“Ah!” Mu Zixi immediately kicked him forcefully and looked at him with daggers in her eyes.

“What country chicken?”

“You are the country chicken!”

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

“Hehe, I am the country chicken... I am the country chicken...”

Xu Xiaoshou covered slightly and said, “Alright. You are a phoenix, okay?”

The little girl raised her head haughtily with a smug look in her eyes. “I don’t need you to tell me that. I really am a phoenix!”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at her serious expression and reached out his hand to pinch her face.

“Tsk tsk... Really... I only gave you some color, and now you can open a dyehouse! You don’t need any encouragement at all, do you?”

“Would you like me to light up a candle for you so you can put on a shadow puppet show? Perhaps this peacock will then spread its plumage.”

Mu Zixi was dumbfounded.

She did not know what the hell Xu Xiaoshou was talking about.

Intuitively, she sensed that this guy had to be mocking her.

‘How hateful!’

“What do you mean?” Mu Zixi’s eyes blazed contemptuously.

“Nothing!” Xu Xiaoshou spread his hands. “If the country chicken doesn’t cover itself and lights a candle to see its shadow, who would think it is a phoenix?”

“Did you really think that you could grow bigger by looking in the mirror?”

Big?

Mu Zixi heard this word without catching anything else.

As soon as she lowered her head, she saw her little feet. Suddenly, the vein on her forehead throbbed menacingly.

“Xu, Xiao, Shou!”

She rushed toward him.

In the courtyard, a flurry of green plants instantly flew up to the sky. Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly flew up to the void, evading one after another.

“Don’t mess around!”

“If we want to do gardening, there is no need to be so violent...”

Xu Xiaoshou was saying no on his mouth, but he had a cheeky look on his face.

As he flew, he pointed out various spots. His mouth ran on without stopping.

“Right, plant some big trees on the rocks here!”

“You can also plant some by the pool. I will fly around, and you will encircle him...”

“Xin Gugu?”

“Get out of the way! We can form a spirit-gathering array here, so don’t obstruct us!”

“Junior Sister, plant the trees first. Later, I will cast the spell personally!”

Mu Zixi looked at Xu Xiaoshou, who was jumping up and down. She realized that she could not keep up with his speed.

Every tree she generated sprouted behind his behind, but it could not reach him. No, they could not even rub against him.

Did he get stronger again?

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

Xin Gugu watched the two of them fooling around in the courtyard. In a flash, his surroundings were shrouded in green.

He felt somewhat redundant standing there.

“Never mind.”

When he turned around, he released the bounded domain.

“I was so worried about your life that I could not sleep at night. But here you are playing around in front of me.”

Xin Gugu felt like his efforts were for nothing. He sighed heavily and turned away bitterly.

“Don’t go!”

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the person who was about to leave and suddenly became anxious. “You haven’t watched me cast a spell yet!”

He pointed his finger in the direction of Mu Zixi.

“Set!”

Dozens of spirit needles flew out in an instant like a meteor passing through the sky at night. They directly wrapped around Mu Zixi under her surprised gaze.

“Restraining Array?”

He had trapped Mu Zixi with these spirit needles. Her expression changed as she felt the strange imprisonment power.

‘Spiritual array?’

‘When did Xu Xiaoshou learn about spiritual arrays?’

She raised her little head. Her eyes were filled with disbelief.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Xin Gugu paused in his step. He also noticed Xu Xiaoshou’s new abilities.

“These are... Are they spirit needles? What are they?”

Seeing that Mu Zixi could not move after Xu Xiaoshou’s command, Xin Gugu was shocked.

However, no one could understand the power of this Weaving Technique without being trapped in the spirit thread.

Xu Xiaoshou ignored him and smiled lightly to himself in the air.

“Watch closely! I am going to cast a spell!”

Under the starry sky, Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyes. Behind him, tens of thousands of Swords of the Space appeared out of thin air.

These swords were naturally useless for drawing arrays, but...

What a spectacular sight.

Under the shocked gaze of the two, Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand again.

Instantly, hundreds of spirit needles soared through the light, leaping toward the courtyard like excited elves. They formed a crystal-clear outline of a Vitality Diagram under the starry night.

Xu Xiaoshou closed his hand and secretly swallowed a magic pill. He twitched his mouth and stood with his hands behind him.

The full moon behind him reflected his silhouette mysteriously. The 10,000 swords also made him appear majestic and impressive.

“I said that there must be wind!”

Xu Xiaoshou flung the sleeves of his robe. The Courtyard Map suddenly illuminated amid the extraordinary sight.

If the gods summoned and Buddha called, the spiritual energy of heaven and earth would gather madly under these words. The sudden strong gust that enveloped Xu Xiaoshou sent his clothes flapping with a loud rustle.

At this moment, not only Mu Zixi looked a little dumbstruck, but even Xin Gugu was also rendered speechless.

Revered, Passive Points +2.

### **Chapter 376: My Little Brother at the Entrance of the City Lord Mansion**

The round moon in the sky was dazzlingly bright.

The clouds around hid behind the moon shyly.

Compared to the events in the past two days, Tiansang City was a bit too quiet.

In a city that never slept, there would be no curfew on weekdays unless something serious happened that could affect the safety of the entire city.

Tonight, that was the case.

When everyone attended the banquet at the City Lord Mansion, the streets of Tiansang City were clear.

Tonight, almost all the influential forces in the city would gather in the City Lord Mansion. If there were an accident outside, it would be a big deal.

That was because the City Guarding Array would be turned on tonight.

The blue light curtain rose from and enveloped the entire city. When the void was closed, all those who raised their eyes and looked at the sky were impressed.

“The City Guarding Array was launched. The City Lord Mansion banquet dinner...”

“Is it about to start?”

...

“We have arrived!”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned when he walked to his destination following the map on the invitation. He used his spiritual senses to view it.

Behind him, Mu Zixi also adopted a similar dazed expression. She stared straight ahead with her huge eyes and unconsciously swallowed her saliva.

“Is this... Is this the City Lord Mansion?”

The sight before her was a magnificent palace that glittered blindingly.

The brilliant golden external wall went on for miles. Even if Xu Xiaoshou stood a few feet away, he could not see the ends of either side.

“How big is this place?”



Not to mention the wall, just the gate at the doorway was several feet high.

There were two rows of door sentinels standing beside the gate. He counted 36 people in total.

The door sentinels were clad in silver armor. They had solemn expressions on their faces and were armed with spears and swords. It was a sight to behold.

“Why is it called the City Lord Mansion? It might as well change its name to The Forbidden City instead!”

Xu Xiaoshou stopped in his steps. He gazed at the imperial palace in front of him and only felt that the Small Manor he recently bought dulled in comparison.

It was crushed by such competition.

“No wonder...”

Xu Xiaoshou murmured to himself. No wonder Fu Xing had such a weird expression when he asked Fu Xing how big his house was and whether it could accommodate hundreds of people.

A few hundred people would only occupy the area of a toilet for a house of this size.

“Let’s go.”

Xu Xiaoshou calmly spoke, pulling Mu Zixi to move forward.

‘I cannot reveal to others that I am country bumpkin!’

‘I have seen the world!’

‘Perhaps not before, but now I have!’

He suddenly dragged Mu Zixi from her shock. She looked startled. She lowered her head to try to pull her hands out of his grip.

After a while, she blushed suddenly and stopped her actions.

‘He, he held my hand?’

Her heart thumped...

And thumped...

At that moment...

Watched, Passive Points +1.

The sudden popup notification cast Xu Xiaoshou in shock, and he stopped in his thoughts.

He paused, and his hand moved in a forceful reflex.

“Ah!”

Mu Zixi immediately let out a strange cry. Her face turned green.

“Xu Xiaoshou! What are you doing?”

Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly released the hand of his junior sister and forced himself to calm down.

Was someone staring at him again?

Who was it?

He thought of the arrest warrant issued by Zhang Taiying...

'No way. Can that guy be staring at me at this time?'

'Should he not take care of himself instead?'

'Xin Gugu should be sauntering in front of his house at this time!'

Without thinking further, Xu Xiaoshou turned his head and pulled his junior sister's hand with a sigh of relief.

His gaze wandered, carefully searching the surroundings with Perception. However, he discovered nothing except a few wealthy people who wanted to enter the City Lord Mansion.

'Who could it be?'

"Xu Xiaoshou!" Mu Zixi glared at her senior brother, who was blowing wildly on her now-bloodied hands.

"Cough, don't be afraid. I'm here!" Xu Xiaoshou looked a little flustered.

Mu Zixi was furious. Did he ask her not to be afraid?

What she feared most now was his sudden tenderness.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

"Go, keep going!"

After a while, they had already gone around 13 times. Xu Xiaoshou realized that if he stayed in place, someone might see him. He immediately let out a vitality breath, pulling the little girl with him and leaving.

"Uh~"

There was a groan.

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

...

"Stop right there!"

The silver-armored door sentinel shot his spear and stopped Xu Xiaoshou in his tracks. His hands stretched out as he barked, "Invitation card!"

"Here."

Xu Xiaoshou handed over the gold gilded invitation card that he had prepared. At this crucial moment, there should be no trouble.

The door sentinel examined it before closing it.

“You may enter.”

Xu Xiaoshou pointed at the girl behind him. “We are together. Can she enter?”

“Yes.” The door sentinel nodded. “Your invitation entitles you to bring three guests.”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded and took a step toward the door.

Right before he stepped in, the notification popped out again.

Watched, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart hammering in his chest, and he halted in his step again.

Behind him, Mu Zixi could not stop in time and hit her head against him.

“Ouch.”

Fortunately, her previous experiences had finally taught her a lesson to always keep her spiritual source protection on. So, she was not affected and sent flying back from the force.

The little girl covered her forehead and shot him a resentful look.

‘He stopped again!’

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou turned around. His sixth sense compelled him to look behind. He was not disappointed and saw a figure rushing out of the woods.

It was a scruffy-looking lad with stains and smears on his face. He looked to be about 15 or 16 years old.

He had a long braid. The hair on his scalp was as oily as rapeseed. It was unbearable to look at him.

As soon as he saw Xu Xiaoshou, the boy yelled and rushed over.

“Big Brother!”

“I finally waited for you! Why have you only come now? They pushed me earlier!”

The young man’s voice had a nasal tone as if he was about to cry. His eyes were whirling with tears.

Coupled with the muddy body above, he was like a weak teenager bullied by the door sentinel.

The door sentinel knew him too. When he watched the lad jump, a spear blocked his chest.

“Stop!”

“I have already told you, no invitation, no entry!”

When Xu Xiaoshou heard that, he quickly understood what had happened.

That lad wanted to enter the City Lord Mansion, but he did not have an invitation. He could only wait for a kindhearted person to bring him in.

It seemed that the Watched just now came from that guy.

However, he had been scanning for so long. Why had he not spotted that person?

Was it all so simple?

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart stop. He wanted to turn around cautiously, but when he looked at the aggrieved eyes of the young man, he suddenly stopped.

‘Do I look like a fool?’

‘I must look like a nice person. Does he think that I will I bring him in for no reason?’

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated for a while as if recalling his memories before he spoke.

“Little Brother?”

When the young man heard his words, his tear-filled eyes glittered with hope. “Big Brother, it is me. Do you still remember me?”

“I can’t recall who you are.”

“...”

The boy choked before he could say anything.

Cursed, Passive Point +1.

He burst into tears, squeezing his fists. He shook his head and struggled with his words. “This is impossible. How can you forget me? We were...”

“What were we...”

“...”

The boy saw that Xu Xiaoshou did not catch on and widened his eyes incredulously. “Have you really forgotten me? Can’t you even remember my name?”

Xu Xiaoshou lowered his head and hesitated for a while. Suddenly, his face lit up in recognition. “Oh, is it you?”

The boy’s eyes glittered in excitement.

“Big Brother, you have recalled! My name is...”

“Your name is...” Xu Xiaoshou tilted his head with eyes squinting as if he were trying to recall.

“Well, my name is...” There was encouragement in the boy’s eyes. He seemed to expect his big brother to recognize him.

Xu Xiaoshou thought for some time. Suddenly, his eyes widened, and he pointed at the other party.

"I remember! It's you... Xu Xiaoji, right?"

"???"

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

### **Chapter 377: You Are Not Human**

"Ha-ha!"

Mu Zixi could not hold back her amusement and burst out laughing.

As she guffawed, the 36 door sentinels tried very hard to hold back their smiles, even though they were supposed to be serious because of their positions.

"Pfft!"

No one could tell who let out the burst of air trying to stifle his amusement.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced back only to see solemn faces. He had no idea who let out that sound.

The young man opposite him turned green in his face. He had not expected that after the long silence, Xu Xiaoshou would coin such a name.

But...

"Big Brother, you recognized me! I knew you wouldn't forget me!" The boy sobbed and attempted to push away the spear, but he flew out immediately with a thump.

Xu Xiaoshou was aghast.

How could he accept a name like Xu Xiaoji?

To enter the City Lord Mansion, it seemed that he would tolerate anything.

What was he after?

"Is it you?" Xu Xiaoshou exhibited a surprised look on his face.

The young lad, Xu Xiaoji, fell to the ground and struggled to crawl halfway. He lost his footing when he heard those words and fell directly to the ground.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

He touched the mud on his mouth. The tears in his eyes made their way out.

"It's me, Jiji! Big Brother, you finally remembered!"

Xu Xiaoshou felt goosebumps rising.

He was amazed by this lad.

He carefully examined the young lad's condition and discovered that he indeed had no spiritual source at all.

Was he an ordinary person?

That was impossible.

There had to be something off with him.

Was he also a killer? A killer from Three Incenses?

Xu Xiaoshou was a little uncertain, but if the killer of Sovereign Stage made an appearance in this way...

Xu Xiaoshou felt that it was unnecessary.

He was merely an Innate Stage, so was it even worth the effort?

"Xu Xiaoshou."

Mu Zixi pulled his sleeves and shook her head slightly.

Even she could tell that something was wrong with this guy.

Xu Xiaoshou frowned and thought for a while, but he looked at the door sentinel and said, "He's my little brother. Please let him in."

He was not afraid of the enemies who made themselves known to him, but he was anxious that this guy would disappear and secretly stalk him.

It was the safest if his enemy was within his grasp.

The door sentinel had a question mark on his face.

Suspected, Passive Points +38.

In this episode, even a blind man could see that the two had no relation at all, yet Xu Xiaoshou had acknowledged this little brother.

Even Xu Xiaoji himself was in absolute disbelief.

He had hit so many roadblocks and found no one willing to entertain him. Now, he finally succeeded.

It perplexed him that the key to his success was so inexplicable.

'Is my acting so good? Was he fooled?' Xu Xiaoji did not know what to make of the situation.

The door sentinel breathed lightly and asked, "Are you sure?"

"Mm."

Xu Xiaoshou nodded his head in affirmation. "How can I not recognize my little brother?"

"But he has many big brothers!" The door sentinel attempted to persuade him.

"No."

"From now on, he has only one big brother!"

Xu Xiaoshou smiled and reached out his hand to the lad on the ground.

Under the reflection of the full moon, the young lad Xu Xiaoji seemed to have seen the divine light radiating from behind his Big Brother Xu Xiaoshou at that instant.

“Big Brother!”

He cried loudly and rushed forward to hug Xu Xiaoshou.

“Damn it, wait!”

It was too late!

The moment Xu Xiaoji leached onto Xu Xiaoshou, blood suddenly burst out of his body with a bang, and he fell to the street.

“???”

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Mu Zixi watched the scene from behind with a trembling heart. Her face was ashen.

She was familiar with this situation.

Xu Xiaoshou heaved a sigh.

“My stupid little brother, you only need to call Big Brother. Why do you need to hug me?”

He stepped forward to pass him a magic pill. Unconsciously, his Perception detected that the boy whose ribcage had cracked from the impact was instantly recovering.

“That...”

That speed of recovery was almost on par with his Eternal Vitality.

What was the origin of that guy?

He hesitated for a moment but stepped forward and handed the magic pill over.

“Big Brother!”

Xu Xiaoji looked at him with misty eyes. He was speechless as he swallowed the magic pill tearfully and suddenly became animated once more.

“Are you a killer?”

Xu Xiaoshou leaned over and cut to the chase.

The boy looked dumbfounded after hearing this question.

Was he so direct?

“Big Brother, I am not... You, you misunderstood...”

“Are you lying to me?”

“No, I am not!”

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the Information Bar. He observed that nothing had changed, and he immediately frowned.

He remembered that he had triggered a type of alert before called Deceived.

The trigger for that type of alert was most unusual, and he had no way of reproducing that incident or unearthing a pattern.

Sometimes it would be triggered by other people when they were lying, and sometimes it would not.

Were there any restrictions to it?

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated for a while and then continued to ask, "Are you a killer?"

"No!"

Deceived, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

At this moment, his hair stood up.

He cursed inwardly and wondered what was going on.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the young man, who was less than a few inches away and never felt so close to death.

He adopted a passive expression and tried very hard to conceal the shock in his heart.

This kid was still pretending.

He could not expose himself.

Xu Xiaoshou tried to still his throbbing heart. He attempted his best to remember what the difference between these two questions was.

'There seems to be no difference. How can different answers trigger the same alert?'

Hmm?

Different answers?

Xu Xiaoshou closely scrutinized the young man below him and grabbed his hand, pulling him to his feet. He pointed at the big tree beside him.

"Is this a tree?"

"Hmm?"

The lad was stunned.

Was he seriously asking this question?

They were talking about a different topic just now, so how did he switch to this channel suddenly?



Suspected, Passive Point +1.

“Answer me,” Xu Xiaoshou demanded.

The boy hesitated. “Yes.”

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the Information Bar, but there was no movement.

“You can only answer yes and no.”

“Yes!”

The young man did not hesitate. This was his golden ticket into the City Lord Mansion. He only had to keep up with the pace of the person before him.

Even at this pace, he almost broke his waist bending over.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the Information Bar, but there was no sign of movement on it.

Oh, he was right after all...

That was indeed a tree!

“Say ‘No.’”

Xu Xiaoji was speechless.

‘Big Brother, my dearest Big Brother, what do you want to do?’

Xu Xiaoji almost keeled over.

He seriously considered if he should end this and immediately terminate their newly claimed relations. Perhaps he should worship another big brother.

“Hurry up,” Xu Xiaoshou urged him.

The young Xu Xiaoji glanced at the sky feebly.

“No!”

Deceived, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was thrilled, and his eyes shone brightly.

Indeed...

It could only detect a lie when the words “Yes” and “No” were mentioned.

To be precise, did this pair of antonyms “Yes” and “No” need to be present to fulfill the condition that triggered the Deceived alert?

Whether or not it was necessary, Xu Xiaoshou did not know. With that lever, he was confident that he could take advantage of the system.

Xu Xiaoshou suppressed his delight at his discovery and turned his head to look at the glorious palace behind the door sentinels. He was eager to verify his theory and quizzed the lad once more. "Is this the City Lord Mansion?"

"Mmm."

"?"

"Yes!"

"Now say 'No.'"

"No!"

Deceived, Passive Point +1.

Xu Xiaoshou smiled contentedly. He was getting close to unraveling the mystery behind the elusive Deceived alert.

He pointed to the sky again.

"Is that the moon?"

"No!" Xu Xiaoji felt insulted.

Deceived, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou grinned as the corners of his lips curved. He was chuckling deep in his heart and elated beyond words. He looked around and realized that there was nothing else to point out.

He looked at the boy thoughtfully.

"You are a human!"

Xu Xiaoji looked humiliated and almost burst into tears.

"No!"

"..."

The air was quiet for a second.

Xu Xiaoshou was a little taken aback.

What happened to the alert?

Where did Deceived go? Did this broken system fail him again?

Suddenly, his pupils contracted.

That was not right.

"Not a human" did not trigger Deceived. Did this mean that he was telling the truth?

"You, you... Say 'Yes.'"

The lad rolled his eyes in frustration. “What the hell are you trying to do? I can’t stand you anymore!”

“Say ‘Yes!’”

Xu Xiaoshou hollered.

“Yes!” Xu Xiaoji responded reluctantly.

Deceived, Passive Point +1.

It was at this moment that Xu Xiaoshou felt as though he had ascended to heaven. He was on cloud nine.

He immediately fell to the ground, trying to search for the shadow of the young man on the floor. It was just his luck that dark clouds were covering the moon.

Xu Xiaoshou hugged the lad tightly.

“I was wrong!”

“Big Brother, you are my Big Brother!”

Xu Xiaoji was in disbelief.

He was stunned for a while, and his face burned red with anger.

“Ahhhhhhh!”

What kind of psycho had he encountered?

Was this lunatic even human?

Cursed, Passive Point +1.

### **Chapter 378: You Are Small, So You Don’t Understand**

He was damned if that was a person.

Xu Xiaoshou pretended to pounce on the ground. As the clouds passed and the moon unveiled, Xu Xiaoji’s shadow was visible on the floor.

‘So, is he not a ghost?’

‘My God, what kind of creature is this?’

Xu Xiaoshou was scared out of his wits. He had never encountered such a situation before.

It was better to be naïve and ignorant. If one did not know much, one could at least live a happy life.

Like before, Xu Xiaoshou could still tease the young man in front of him openly and honestly.

Now, even if he wanted to show off his mouthiness, he could not muster that up anymore.

‘The built-in lie detector in the system... Sure enough, there is no good product from this lousy system.’

‘Since it can be detected, it is probably a big secret.’

'People cannot know too much...'

Xu Xiaoshou trembled as he stood up and looked at the young man in front of him whom he had christened Xu Xiaoji. He shuddered as he thought if this guy wanted to hold him at fault.

"Big Brother!"

Xu Xiaoji faced him with streams of tears running down his face. He sobbed woefully and lamented.

"Big Brother, please don't pull my feet any longer. I only want to enter the City Lord Mansion this once. If you don't want to bring me along, then forget it. You don't need to be so insulting!"

"I am a human being, and I also have feelings!"

Xu Xiaoshou thought in his heart, 'I would be a fool to believe you!'

'If you are human, then how can the system be wrong?'

The lad's reasoning and explanation, however, made him a little puzzled.

Based on the results from the system's lie detector, this guy was not only not human but also a killer. Therefore, if he wanted to enter the City Lord Mansion, he should have a target.

But that target did not seem to be him.

Otherwise, this guy would not need to spend so much time beating around the bush with him there.

Xu Xiaoshou rationalized the events and calmed himself down. After all, he had uncovered the secret of this guy, but the other party was still in the dark.

Now, he naturally could not make it known that he knew too much.

Therefore, he pretended not to care and flung his sleeves.

"Little Brother."

"Although I have almost forgotten your looks, you and I get along so well. I also recognize you as my missing... Bah, I meant my long-lost Little Brother who was separated from me for many years."

"Do you want to enter the City Lord Mansion?" Xu Xiaoshou quickly changed his words.

"Yeah!" Xu Xiaoji gritted his teeth and nodded in humiliation.

Upon seeing this, Xu Xiaoshou quickly comforted him by saying, "This way, I can bring you into the City Lord Mansion. After you enter, what do you do or where you go is entirely up to you!"

"But everything will have nothing to do with me."

"How about this?"

Xu Xiaoji was surprised. How could this guy suddenly be so kind?

Wasn't this the best outcome he had desired?

However, would there be anyone so kind to not only play along with him and acknowledge this fraudulent Little Brother but also bring themselves into the City Lord Mansion without asking for anything in return?

That was impossible.

Xu Xiaoji darted his eyes around as he pondered Xu Xiaoshou's motives.

He was not stupid. He could tell that Xu Xiaoshou's words and actions were far too bizarre.

It was as though this guy was about to do something major, and he was afraid of being held back by himself.

No matter how major his plans were, could they be more important than his own?

Xu Xiaoji did not continue thinking about it. After all, this proposal was the closest to a perfect scenario for him.

"Okay!"

He agreed instantly, and Xu Xiaoshou did not continue talking. He hurriedly turned around and tossed his head.

"Keep up."

Mu Zixi looked at these two guys who first dove to the ground before getting up. They then behaved as though they were blood brothers. She was dumbfounded.

Not only her, but the 36 door sentinels were also a little flabbergasted.

Could such a strong bond between people be successfully established in such a short time?

Looking at those two guys who had their arms on each other's shoulders, whoever did not know what was going on would really think that they are blood brothers.

The door sentinel stood with his spear in front of him. He was hesitant to retract it back or direct it out.

Xu Xiaoshou walked toward him with a smile and pushed away his weapon.

"I've confirmed it. He is indeed my little brother."

"If I bring another person, it's not too unreasonable, right?"

The door sentinel swallowed his saliva. Black lines seemingly appeared on his head. He sized up the two of them. A weird expression gradually formed on his face.

"Have you reached a special arrangement?"

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

"Please."

At this point, he could not stop them since they were on the same page.

'It is fine to bring another person with you...' Xu Xiaoshou thought and nodded slightly.

Under Mu Zixi's suspicious stare, he led his little brother and junior sister into the City Lord Mansion.

...

The banquet room...

It seemed that the banquet room was fashioned from a large competition platform for the event that night. It was very spacious on one side.

The purpose was simple. It had to accommodate many distinguished guests.

At the same time, it was also convenient to assign the White Cave quota after the eligible candidates emerged successfully from the fight.

On the eastern side of this open-air banquet room, there were hundreds of dining tables. Countless night pearls adorned the surrounding walls, which lit up the place so brightly that it was as if it were daytime.

The ambiance was festive with singing and dancing.

Most of the people in attendance were middle-aged men and women of distinguished status. They all had extraordinary strength, and the number of guests was increasing by the minute.

On the western side of the banquet room, there was an enormous competition platform in its original state.

It was different from the dining and partying area on the east. The young talents from the major cities stood on the competition platform in Tiansang Prefecture.

Although the fight had not started yet, the young people on the stage were already quietly sizing up each other.

The brilliant white stars of the barrier reflected the various figures beneath it.

There were people warming up and others who were showing off their skills.

Some people assumed a high-and-mighty demeanor and walked around disdainfully.

Some were fledgling and darted their eyes around anxiously.

Under the guidance of the attendant, Xu Xiaoshou flew over a distance for a quarter of an hour before he finally arrived at the banquet room.

This time, he could no longer recoup his amazement.

"Big!"

"It is too big!"

The City Lord Mansion was so big that it was almost terrifying.

This place did not need any spiritual arrays for protection. If they did not reveal the map, it could function as a Miniature Restraining Array on its own.

With no one to lead the way, any intruders would be lost within the walls very quickly.

“We have arrived.”

The attendant bowed and said before he retreated to continue his duties.

“We have arrived.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Xu Xiaoji and said the same to him. His tone hinted that they would no longer have anything to do with each other, and they would part ways.

Xu Xiaoji was speechless.

How could this guy disapprove of him more than himself?

Forget it.

Parting ways was indeed more beneficial.

He thought for a while and turned his unwilling eyes to Xu Xiaoshou. “Big Brother, I shall leave now?”

“Go, your wings are now mature, and you have to learn to conquer the skies.” Xu Xiaoshou smiled reassuringly as though he was a benevolent senior.

Xu Xiaoji was speechless once again.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

With a toss of his head, he walked toward the west side of the banquet room. He made his way toward the gathered youths.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the departing figure, the benevolent smile on his face instantly turning into one of relief.

Finally, he got rid of this leech...

“Let’s go!”

Without saying anything else, he led Mu Zixi to the banquet on the eastern side.

“Are we going to the banquet?”

Mu Zixi was a little bewildered. This behavior was not in line with the usual antics of her senior brother.

Shouldn’t he jump into the crowd to make a scene and then slam those guys who had triggered his annoyance on the ground one by one?

“Xu Xiaoshou, did you go the wrong way?” she asked.

Xu Xiaoshou turned his head and glanced in the direction where Xu Xiaoji had disappeared off. He patted Mu Zixi on the head.

“No. You are small, so you don’t understand.”

“Some people... Well, I should say some humans and non-humans are beyond the level your brain can comprehend or discern.”

He conveniently omitted the fact that if he did not have that lie detector, he also would not be able to figure that out.

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

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback by the sudden influx of notification popups.

Hmm?

Did he say anything uncalled-for? That reaction was inexplicable...

He held the stormy face of the little girl in his hands and took a closer look at her.

“Do you have a fever?”

“Or is there water in your brain?”

Mu Zixi lowered her head and looked at her toes. She squeezed her pink fists tightly.

Small?

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

### **Chapter 379: The Famous Xu Xiaoshou**

Xu Xiaoshou hid at the corner of the banquet. He watched and judged the many strong men in the crowd as he stuffed himself with food.

‘Master, the highest stage of Master, a Sovereign, another Sovereign!’

‘These old men are kind of terrifying!’

He paid little attention to the young and handsome men at the east.

His goal was to determine the strongest individual in the proximity, find Zhang Taiying in the crowd of people, and lock his sights on him.

This full moon would be a prickly one.

His vision encircled the many tables of the banquet as he searched for his target. His ears were full of various sounds of conversations and noises from the event.

One banquet table suddenly caught Xu Xiaoshou’s attention.

He glanced over at the table.

Sitting at the table were two middle-aged men. They were well-dressed and commanded an impressive presence.

However, their way of talking was rather strange.

“Ho, isn’t this Master Zhao? Did he finally decide to leave the house?”



The voice who spoke first was at the highest level of the Master Stage, but Xu Xiaoshou could not recall who the man was.

“Oh? Brother Wen?”

The voice who replied belonged to the man of the Sovereign Stage. The voice sneered and added, “I heard that someone in the Wen family passed recently. What was it about? Was it Old Wen Chong, or the Old Wen snake?”

“Or was it someone younger? A shame for someone old to send someone young off.”

“Ha, a tease as always,” the familiar-looking old man retorted. “Enough about me. Hasn’t the Zhao family lost a disciple of the Spirit Palace as well?”

“Same as always. It was the foolish actions of the rascal. This matter is of no significance to me!”

“Ha-ha, it seems like lives have little value in the eyes of Master Zhao!”

“Some do, at least yours. I would love to buy it if I could.”

The other replied with silence.

Halfway through their conversation, Xu Xiaoshou felt that something was amiss. The topic that the two men were discussing stood out to him.

He coughed.

Xu Xiaoshou pulled Mu Zixi over as he made his way to depart from the place and relocate to a different place.

An unexpected situation had occurred.

Zhang Taiying was not the only enemy present at the banquet.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

The sudden voice came from a lady who had walked past the two. The lady jerked her head back and looked toward him with great curiosity.

Xu Xiaoshou stopped in his footsteps and looked over to where the voice came from.

He had too many enemies around him, and he was afraid to expose himself.

“You are...” With a glance, he realized he had never crossed paths with the individual before.

Qu Qing-er was donned in a purple evening gown with a champagne wine glass in her hand. She presented herself in a dignified manner, but the alcohol caused a flush in her cheeks made her appear extra charming and attractive.

She bowed and spoke with a smile. “Qu Qing-er of Plenty Gold Company. I’ve met Master Xu before.”

Xu Xiaoshou was puzzled. ‘We’ve met?’

He paused. It struck him that this was the technique that was only spoken of in legends: striking up a conversation.

The thought lit up Xu Xiaoshou's eyes.

He was someone who had the power to woo others in a banquet setting as well.

He swept his fringe aside immediately. "Yes, we've met!"

Qu Qing-er did not say words in response.

"You've met me before Master Xu."

"Of course!"

"Oh?" Qu Qing-er's expression broke into a slight excitement.

She had researched Xu Xiaoshou after the incident with Old Man Jin.

Moreover, in her days of working in the higher levels of Plenty Gold Company, she had witnessed the fight between Xu Xiaoshou and others she had suspected to be strong forces.

However, he should not have met her before.

"When did we meet?" Qu Qing-er tilted her head in curiosity. A strand of her black hair fell from the back of her ears and slid down onto her shoulders.

Xu Xiaoshou had to maintain his proper front, so he did not dare to let his vision drift.

He scanned the physique of the other with Perception and swept away the hand of his junior sister before continuing with a deeper voice. "We met often."

He stared into the eyes of the lady. "You look so strikingly similar to the woman in my dreams!"

"Though I have never met you personally, I believe we are spiritually connected. Hence, you must have met me in this way as well."

The abrupt obscene talk had turned Qu Qing-er's face as red as an apple.

She was thrown off and speechless.

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

Xu Xiaoshou turned behind him casually. "How about you go have fun on your own? I just remembered some business I have to attend to!"

Mu Zixi was taken aback. She could barely this was her own disciple brother.

Her brother had always been a blockhead. She wondered why he had suddenly decided to be open-minded.

Mu Zixi looked toward Qu Qing-er curiously and wondered if she was the reason for the change in Xu Xiaoshou's behavior. Her eyes wandered to the bosom of the woman. Her eyes narrowed, and she understood what was happening.

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

“You went too far Xu Xiaoshou!”

Xu Xiaoshou nearly jumped from Mu Zixi’s yell.

Xu Xiaoshou’s mind raced. His name was not something that could be boldly declared, especially in a room that had his many familiar enemies in every corner.

He rushed forward and held down the mouth of the young lady. He looked at Qu Qing-er apologetically. “My bad, something came up I will take my leave now.”

If he had wanted peaceful relations with others, he had to have a peaceful relationship with those within his family.

If he had known this would have happened, he would not have brought Mu Zixi along.

The scheme was a lost cause.

Qu Qing-er smiled happily. She did not mind the situation. From the words, she had already seen through what kind of person Xu Xiaoshou was.

He was a simple loafer, and that was all there was to him.

She nodded with agreement and was about to take her leave with her glass of wine. At the same time, voices of suspicions could be heard from the far side of the banquet.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

Another voice that belonged to a woman called out. However, the tone that it carried was not a voice of doubt but rather a factual statement that the other had confirmed his identity.

‘Damn, do I know so many people?’

In a rush, Xu Xiaoshou cast his gaze over in that direction and discovered he knew the owner of the voice.

“Fu Dianhong!”

The woman was covered head to toe during their first meeting at the back alley of the Plenty Gold Company where she tried to capture him.

The second time they met was a sheer coincidence at the Pill Pagoda. She was donned in the robes of a Spiritual Cultivator.

However, seeing her now in the red dress changed her presence as a warrior completely. She had the aura of a princess.

The description was not far from the fact. She was the princess of the City Lord’s Mansion.

Fu Dianhong was often the center of attention of many young and handsome men. As she approached from the west side of the stage, she brought with her a hoard of young and strong men.

The yell had brought the eyes of everyone at the banquet into the direction of Xu Xiaoshou.

Some of the elders had begun to ponder the name and remembered events that had happened.

Watched, Passive Points +172.

Xu Xiaoshou felt every hair on his body stand up.

He had been so caught up in his pride that he had slipped up and caused all the attention on himself.

Xu Xiaoshou tried to calm himself down. There had to be a way that he could easily brush this under the carpet.

He joined on the gaze of the masses and turned his head around as well.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

“Who is Xu Xiaoshou?”

Qu Qing-er laughed with a scoff. Her laugh was an obvious signal to others who he was.

She wanted to make a few jokes about the situation. At that moment, another voice of surprise and suspicion arose in the room.

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned for words.

‘What is going on?’ he thought.

‘Am I known by so many people? Why does everyone know me?’

Not only did Xu Xiaoshou turn to the source of the voice with panic, but Qu Qing-er, Fu Yinhong, and many others in attendance also turned simultaneously to the direction of the voice.

All of the individuals in the masses had picked up on the cue in the voice. The cue had carried unwell intentions.

The instant Xu Xiaoshou turned and showed his face, Wen Song matched his face with the one in the wanted poster. His face sank immediately.

“Are you Xu Xiaoshou?”

Beside Wen Song was Zhao Nong, who was at the highest level of the Master Stage.

Zhao Nong locked eyes with the young man a distance away. He could not believe the young man who was a mid-stage of the Origin Court was able to eliminate Zhao Shu.

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Between the elders present, the younger men, or anyone from Tiangsang Spirit Palace, those who truly knew Xu Xiaoshou could be boiled down to a handful.

The meeting planted a seed of doubt in the hearts of everyone.

“Who is this Xu Xiaoshou?”

“Is he strong? Many people seem to know him, but he’s just of the mid-stage Origin Court.”

“Xu Xiaoshou... That name is quite bizarre!”

The talented young men watched as an unhappy expression surfaced in the eyes of Fu Dianhong and Qu Qing-er.

They did not care much about the attention from the elders, but for someone as weak as Xu Xiaoshou to catch the attention of the two beauties in Tiangsang City was rather unbearable.

At this moment, everyone in attendance had an intention to challenge him in their hearts.

Everyone present always wanted to show off their abilities.

How could they let an individual of the Innate Stage take all the attention?

### **Chapter 380: But Words Could Kill**

“Xu Xiaoshou?”

Xu Xiaoshou mumbled his name quietly under the stares of the banquet attendees.

He took a peek at his notification banner.

Watched, Passive Points +239.

Missed, Passive Points +120.

Suspected, Passive Points +113.

“...”

Although all he did was stand still, the notification banner was refreshing at an alarming speed. Additionally, it had started to climb as more joined the crowd.

Xu Xiaoshou grinned from the corners of his mouth.

‘Wow, this place is heaven!’

Taking a broad gauge of the people who were in the banquet hall, he estimated that it would be around 600 to 700 individuals.

However, the crowd was scattered around. He had only attracted around half of the people, yet he was able to accomplish this level of Passive Point increase.

If the rate of renewing points was sustained, he would accumulate a similar amount of points as the time he fell from Black Cliff in just one night.

Additionally, this method was painless. He did not need to torture himself to gain any new Passive Points.

Xu Xiaoshou controlled his excitement and turned to elder Wen Song. He said his words with a slow shake of his head. “Sir I think you have the wrong person. I’m not Xu Xiaoshou.”

He shook his head sincerely. He tried to play it off as never having met the man before to an extent that he had never heard his name before.

“Ha-ha, do you think you can lie in front of me?” Wen Song sneered.

The denials from Xu Xiaoshou were meaningless to him.

As Wen Chong’s third grandfather, Wen Chong was his precious grandchild. After the news of Wen Chong’s passing had reached him, he had stared at the portrait of Xu Xiaoshou at least a hundred times a day and made sure to burn the face of Xu Xiaoshou into his memory.

Even if Xu Xiaoshou had been incriminated, he would be able to recognize his ashes.

Wen Song was not the only one who did not believe him. Zhao Nong and all the other young men in the venue were in disbelief as well.

Xu Xiaoshou could fool no one there.

If there were only a single person who had recognized him, perhaps it would be an honest mistake. However, with more than four people who felt the same way, there was a small margin of error.

Suspected, Passive Points +336.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at his notification banner and tried to hide his joy. He turned to the crowd sincerely.

“I am really not him.”

“I’m sure everyone here is mistaken.”

Suspected, Passive Points +364.

Zhao Nong stroked his beard and smiled coldly. “I had hoped for you to come clean and admit your crimes with some boldness, yet...”

“You refuse to acknowledge your own name.”

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head. “Do we perhaps look similar to one another?”

Doubted, Passive Points +322.”

“Xu Xiaoshou!”

Wen Song cut into their conversation. “Stop pretending. How could we mistake how you look like and your potential?”

“Ah.”

“You still don’t believe me.” Xu Xiaoshou sighed.

“That’s the right thing to do. I am Xu Xiaoshou,” he added with a grin.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

The sudden twist in the situation caught everyone off guard.

“What is this fella doing?”

“He was so insistent on denying, but now he admitted it.”

“He can’t just admit it like this!”

“If he did not admit it, no Sovereign in the City Lord Mansion would be able to harm him!”

“Now that he admitted it, these old guys will not let him go so easily!”

Voice could be heard in the crowd. Some were confused. Some who are more sympathetic toward the situation were worried for the young man they had never met. Despite it all, Xu Xiaoshou did not care much about their responses.

Instead, he gazed at his notification banner quietly.

Doubted, Passive Points +344.

Debated, Passive Points +411.

“...”

Xu Xiaoshou could no longer suppress the bursting excitement within him as he watched the notification banner refresh at rapid speeds.

He could not believe the thousands of Passive Points he had accumulated after a few sentences.

The City Lord Mansion was truly a valuable place for him.

Xu Xiaoshou realized this was not the highest number of the Passive Points yet. He had to milk the opportunity further.

This was the perfect time for him. There were plenty of Spiritual Cultivators around, all of whom had not entered the barrier yet.

He knew he had to strike while the iron was hot.

“When I denied it, you didn’t believe me. When I did not deny it, you still didn’t believe me.”

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hands nonchalantly. “By the way, what do you guys think my name means?”

Zhao Nong and Wen Song exchanged looks of disdain.

They both mentally agreed that the young man was a very strange individual.

The unexpected and out-of-the-norm question had thrown both of them off. They stood silently momentarily unsure of their words.

“You killed...”

Before Wen Song could finish, Xu Xiaoshou cut in. “Yes, I killed someone. What does it have to do with you?”

“...”

Wen Song was at a loss for words.

The words Xu Xiaoshou had spoken greatly haunted him. He had dismissed the topic with such ease. It was almost as if he was unaware that the victim was Wen Song's dearest grandchild.

"You!"

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hands and cut him off before he could unleash his rage. "Why? Do you want to avenge him?"

"By fighting me? Right here?"

"You are a bully. You want to take someone weaker like me on simply because you're strong."

Wen Song fell silent.

The chain of accusations had made Wen Song red in the face. He gritted his teeth as if he wanted to say something, but he was unable to get another word out.

He had the intention to do that. After Xu Xiaoshou's repeated accusations, he did not dare confess his intentions.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

In fact, Wen Song almost gave it away in the moment of rage. He inhaled deeply and thought about his response.

He thought about the appropriate response to the words that were clearly meant to agitate him and what would smooth the situation over.

The expressions of the young talents around them had changed as well.

This young man was smart.

"I've never seen someone with such a sharp tongue. His words have their logic to it as well."

"Wait. Isn't this bullying? Isn't this the strong picking on the weak?"

"Right! I always hated people who picked on the weaker ones! They are the worst!"

"You are mistaken! This isn't a fight! From the looks of it, it sounds like he killed someone!"

"Same!"

Their conversation sparked a heated debate amongst the crowd. Others had become aware of the occurrence and joined in. Xu Xiaoshou subconsciously became the center of attention in the guest hall.

Impressed, Passive Points +162.

Debated, Passive Points +477.

Belittled, Passive Point +62.

"..."



Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the notification banner and looked casually toward the old man. He realized the other man had not recovered from his anger yet.

He was much weaker than he had expected him to be.

He supposed Wen Song was constantly buttered up by his family as the head of the Wen clan. He had lost his sense of self-awareness and could no longer take any oncoming criticisms in a quarrel.

Above all, he had made the mistake of picking a fight with Xu Xiaoshou.

He raised his eyebrow playfully and laughed.

“Ha, you old thing.”

He stepped forward and focused his gaze on the old man. He casually said, “You know how we young men like to fight with one another. The fella launched a sneak attack on me, and I misjudged my attack. It was all accidental.”

“Do you want to use this excuse and attack me?”

“Does the highest level of the Master Stage want to fight a mid-term of the Origin Court like me?”

“That’s truly something reputable to do!”

“You’re so amazing!”

Xu Xiaoshou was merciless with his sarcasm.

To speak truthfully, the old man was only at the highest level of Master Stage. This level was nothing to Xu Xiaoshou at this point.

Should the worse happen, all he had to was to call Aje out for assistance.

It seemed rather amusing to him that the elders put so much emphasis on respect for seniority, especially if they were on the more powerful end. Yet, they refused to pay respect to someone like Xu Xiaoshou if he proved himself to be more powerful than them.

His words were a smack on the face to Wen Song. He had not thought through his arguments before starting the quarrel.

The old man was shaking with anger. When Xu Xiaoshou finished his sentence, his mouth was opened, but no coherent words nor sentences could come out of it.

“You... You...”

“You what? Why are you stammering?”