

I Am Loaded 71

Chapter 71: One More

A headless body dropped to the ground, splashing water everywhere. There was still a puzzled expression on the now-severed head of Shao Yi.

He was thinking, "Didn't the kid already let his guard down? How was he able to react in time?"

He was thinking, "Why would a sword shoot out of a person's chest?"

He was thinking, "The kid was completely unable to resist even that one attack of mine, so why was I sent flying?"

Thump.

Water splashed as the head bobbed in the puddle.

Xu Xiaoshou clenched the muscles in his chest as he rose from the ground. He pulled the sword out of his chest and took a look at the hole there, which almost went straight through him to his back.

"Sh**, this hurts..."

Innate Level Physique, Sharpness, spiritual source shielding. All three of these added together, and still that man had been able to punch a hole right through him.

"The peak of Origin Court level really is insanely powerful!" he noted to himself.

The injuries all over his body were almost completely done healing.

He waved his hand and burned the dead body away, leaving only that head with a puzzled look on its face behind.

"Puzzled, huh?"

"You should be."

"If you'd been able to figure everything out, I'd be lying on the ground now instead..."

Xu Xiaoshou was still reeling from shock and fright. If it hadn't been for Recoil coming into effect at the very last moment, he would have probably suffered yet another stab.

If one of his vital organs had been hit, he thought that not even Eternal Vitality would have been able to heal him.

He touched his chest. Deep down, he was impressed.

"Innate Level Recoil sure is something. The more damaging the opponent's attack, the further away they'll be sent flying."

That meant if anyone out there wasn't able to kill him with one shot, that first shot would widen the distance between them.

And when he apparently had more information than the other, he would definitely be able to buy more time to get prepared, just like with the Reverse Style he'd just pulled.

That was simply no way out of such a predicament.

Furthermore, with both Eternal Vitality and High Spirits at work, no one would be able to fight a war of attrition against him, so long as his opponent didn't manage to score a one-hit kill.

He rescinded the Infernal Spiritual Source, which was wrecking the place, after High Spirits came to mind. The rain was no longer vaporizing, and was able to fall normally.

"That Fundamental Passive Skill sure is terrifying," he thought.

It had enabled him to maintain the harrowing mood throughout the entire ordeal all on his own, and had even burned that assassin almost to a crisp with the Infernal Heavenly Flames.

When he checked on his energy reserve, he found there was only a small bit of spiritual source left.

Yet, that bit was regenerating at a rate visible to the naked eye.

"Who would be able to withstand something like this, eh..."

Xu Xiaoshou mourned his future enemies, as those three major Fundamental Passive Skills of his were utterly insane.

Even Breathing Technique had been converted into a method of attack.

He wondered just how dejected that man had felt when he'd sucked the pill dry right then and there.

He shook his head. His face was drenched by rainwater, which cooled him down somewhat.

Peak of Origin Court level...

Despite the fact that someone at such a level was very powerful, they were still weaker than what he'd expected.

He wondered if that perception had anything to do with the fact that the man he'd fought had only been able to pull one effective attack on him from start to finish.

After that battle, he'd become fully aware that the huge gap between himself and those Innate Level veterans wasn't so big that he couldn't close it as he was.

This made sense. Conventional powers were indeed not his forte. In fact, one could even say that they were his greatest weakness.

Yet, conventional wisdom dictated that one's powers were the basic determining factor that decided how well one could do in combat.

This explained the fact why, despite knowing his situation and knowing that he had more up his sleeve, people would nonetheless somehow underestimate him one way or another.

He deemed that so long as he could make good use of this, he could bring enemies far stronger than him down all the same.

The rain kept falling, and he stood under it in silence, sorting out all the thoughts in his head.

Soon, he forcibly suppressed his thoughts and came back to his senses.

“There’s one more...”

“The battle may not be over yet.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the ground. The only loot he’d gotten from the battle was two short swords and a head, as he’d burned the rest.

Interrogating the man hadn’t been very useful. Even though the man had willingly answered all of his questions, he didn’t dare to believe any of what he’d said.

The only thing he knew with certainty was that the man who’d run away was probably of a level higher than the one who’d died.

Worse still, that man might come back.

He was more inclined to believe that people were cold-blooded, and more so in the case of those two, given that they were killers. There was no certainty that the one who’d run would come back to retrieve his partner.

But then again, what if he did?

In actual fact, a lot of what-ifs that he’d speculated in that battle had come true. The cunning one who’d run was the truly meticulous and calculative one—the type to fight with their brains.

Huff...

Xu Xiaoshou exhaled heavily, feeling worn inside and out.

Yet, he had to keep alert all the same, as that other man might just be waiting for him to let his guard down.

“How should I go about this?”

“Pre-emptive strike, wait for the assassin to come, or trap him?”

In a split second, dozens of thoughts raced through his head, yet he rejected them all.

If he were unable to bear overwhelming force down on that assassin and kill said assassin before he was able to react, then these thoughts would’ve been for nothing.

Furthermore, the one who’d escaped was still nonetheless at Voidness Level.

That was two whole levels higher than the level he was at.

Xu Xiaoshou was exasperated. He wondered who exactly he’d offended to warrant them sending such terrifying assassins at him.

Furthermore, according to his experience, the assassins sent at him should’ve only been a little stronger than he was, and he could’ve then used them as stepping stones to facilitate further growth.

“This really isn’t working as it should. How should I go about it, then?”

He started pondering. If the one who’d escaped were to return, what should he do in order to kill him?

Developing powers were out of the question.

Innate Level Physique...

“Yeah, this may be of some use,” he thought.

But, when fighting up close and personal, one or the other would definitely end up killed. Too risky.

“Well then, that leaves Infernal Heavenly Flames and Innate Sword Will...”

He could afford to splurge with the former, yet he definitely couldn’t use it as his main attack, as it would simply take too much time.

As for Innate Sword Will...

Xu Xiaoshou wracked his brains. He would be able to win.

Only something like that would enable one to kill someone of a higher level, no?

Acquired Sword Will could already take on those at Innate Level, so with his sword will now at Innate Level, it wouldn’t be preposterous to think that it could kill someone at Voidness Level.

“Very possible indeed.

“I can’t afford to get close, yet I have to score a one-hit kill...”

Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes lit up. “Blade-draw!”

“Indeed.

“Only the fourth style, Blade-draw, that I’ve created would allow me to do that!”

However, he quickly became dejected again.

After making it into Innate Level, the spiritual source it would cause to use that technique was simply too terrifying. That battle with Mo Mo had ended up with him depleting his energy reserve with just two such moves. Useless, then?

He guessed that not even High Spirits would allow him to instantly recover from such a splurge.

“And what if the guy survives after me using that move twice?” he thought. “Am I gonna just fight him barehanded, then?”

“Well, it’s not like it’s not an option.

“I guess that guy probably doesn’t have some Innate Elemental power as ridiculous as Sealing Power right?”

“No, no, no. Too dangerous.”

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head, thinking that unless he had a great deal of spiritual source that he could field in an instant, he would otherwise...

"Huh?"

"Hold on!"

"Recovering large amounts of spiritual source in an instant?"

"That seems possible, no?"

He then shuddered, and his legs wobbled, as he came up with this terrifying thought.

Chapter 72: The Woods

Swoop!

A short sword sliced through the air, and Xu Xiaoshou caught it.

Even though he was using someone else's spiritual sword, he was still able to use his own Innate Sword Will to execute the Reverse Sword Style.

"The experiment was a success!"

"Well, this should settle it..."

He clasped the short sword in his hand, and the blade immediately snapped in half.

Without an infusion of spiritual source, the spiritual sword was completely unable to resist his Sharpness.

He picked up the other short sword and the head on the ground, thought for a moment, then walked out of the door of his place.

"What would I do if I was the one running away?" He tried to put himself in the assassin's shoes.

"Run!"

"Run as far as I could and never turn back!"

"Cough, cough..."

"Okay, that seems a little too idealistic."

"Now, if I were the one running away and I had to turn back somehow. What would I do?" he asked himself, caressing his chin.

"First of all, I'd most probably check things out from afar using skills similar to Sense, and, if things weren't in my favor, turn around and run. If things were in my favor, continue moving in with caution."

"Regardless of how powerful that guy's Sense-like skills are, they're no match to mine. That much was already proven back in that battle in the compound. So, if he were to find somewhere to check things out..."

He peered at that field before his compound and found a winding road before him with two patches of woods on either side of it.

“That’s a really long road. They must’ve taken that road to get to my place.

“Even if his sensory powers are indeed very powerful, he’d need to get over halfway inside the woods. If he were to set up an ambush anywhere, this place would be the best choice,” he commented confidently.

Clang!

He dumped the sword he’d cut in half onto the ground.

“If that guy were here to see this, he’d definitely start panicking.”

He then counted the number of Spiritual Cultivation Pills in his ring. After claiming his reward for becoming champion, he now had tens of bottles left in his ring.

“More than enough.” He then walked into the woods.

If that guy didn’t turn around tonight, he would just leave him be. This bit of rain wasn’t that much of a problem.

But, if he were to dare turn around...

Hmph, they would never be able to go home.

“Wait... no,” he thought.

“What if I just anticipated what he thought, and he anticipated what I’ve anticipated that he thought?”

He felt his skin crawl, finding that to be very possible.

He immediately turned around, picked up the broken pieces of the sword, then headed straight into the woods.

Every second counts!

...

Swoop!

The sound of something slicing through the air rang out in the rain, and a crimson beam was seen shooting out from the Inner Yard.

Feng Kong was filled with uncontrollable rage and indignation.

Xu Xiaoshou!

That really was Xu Xiaoshou!

If it hadn’t been for that far-range telepathic message that Shao Yi sent him before dying, he would have kept waiting at the entrance of the Inner Yard instead.

Because of his hesitation and the time he’d spent waiting around, Shao Yi had bit the dust.

That guy had killed him!

“He shouldn’t have died...” Feng Kong was gritting his teeth so hard that his gums started to bleed. The rage he felt was uncontainable.

And when he recalled how Xu Xiaoshou had managed to play them for fools back at the compound, his rage went off the charts.

“A puny level niner actually managed to scare me away like this, and then wear down Shao Yi, who was at the peak of Origin Court Level, until he died. This is unforgivable!

“You’d better pray that you can run...”

“But then again, you shall spend the rest of your life living in fear!”

Feng Kong was behaving as though he were possessed. His expression was completely twisted as he moved at blitzing speeds. It took him mere moments to go all the way from the Inner Yard to somewhere near Goose Lake.

It all looked the same as before. The only difference was that now there was no longer anyone at his side.

That was indeed ironic.

The rain continued to patter on the surface of the lake, spreading ripples with every drop. The geese and fishes were startled by the terrifying killing intent from Feng Kong, and scattered all over the lake.

Bubble, bubble.

Several bubbles on the lake popped, and Feng Kong leapt over Goose Lake, then stood on the jade fence.

“Calm down!” The rainwater made him come back to his senses, and he calmed his rage.

Even though his partner had ended up dead because of his misjudgment, he didn’t see that as any reason to lose his cool.

Being a professional killer for years had given him a clear mind, and he steadied himself as he started to think.

“Xu Xiaoshou...”

“The kid isn’t strong because of his powers. He’s strong because of his thought patterns, which are equal to mine.”

That much had been verified from the psychological game they’d played back in that compound, yet Feng Kong had yet to admit that he’d actually lost in that game.

He deemed that he’d only been frightened due to what he’d seen back then, which had given his enemy an advantage to exploit.

At the moment, having distanced himself from that game, and now observing it from the outside, he deemed that Xu Xiaoshou had pulled little more than petty tricks.

“He indeed has smarts, yet he lacks the power to back up said smarts. At the end of the day, he’s still just an insect.”

Despite this, though, Feng Kong had to take said insect seriously. “If I were Xu Xiaoshou, how would I get out of such a predicament?”

“Run!

“Run as far as I could, leaving behind that compound altogether.”

But Feng Kong shook his head, knowing that Xu Xiaoshou would never do that. In the first place, Xu Xiaoshou couldn’t escape the Spirit Palace. And even if he did leave the Spirit Palace, he would run into more people after his life.

“The kid is clever. He definitely knows that he could run for the time being, just not for the rest of his life.

“So... ambush then?”

Feng Kong was feeling rather uncertain. He wondered if the kid actually had what it took to pull off an ambush.

Yet, he recalled what happened to Shao Yi.

That guy had been at the peak of Origin Court Level, and he alone would have been enough to finish the mission.

“Yet, after I ran... umm, I got away for mere moments, the kid actually managed to kill Shao Yi.

“Just how did he die?”

Feng Kong was unable to truly believe any of it. He couldn’t believe that Xu Xiaoshou, even if said kid did have many tricks up his sleeve, a mere level niner, had what it took to kill Shao Yi.

Yet, he had to believe the facts at hand.

He didn’t dwell on the minor details for long, and simply went on speculating. “If he does have what it takes to kill me, and he set up an ambush, what would he do?”

The rainy night was all quiet again.

As he pondered, his killing intent lessened. The geese on the lake started to cry again, and the lake water bubbled, as if there were fishes blowing bubbles inside.

“If I were Xu Xiaoshou...” Feng Kong tilted his head and frowned. Then, his eyes lit up. “I would deduce my thoughts!

“That’s it! That’s how he would do it!

“That guy’s forte is anticipating the thoughts of others. That much was proven back in the compound when he managed to see through all of my plans and tricks.

“If he set up an ambush, he probably thought things through from my angle...”

Feng Kong nodded solemnly, feeling that he finally knew what he would be heading into.

“He has no idea what I’m capable of, so he could probably only resort to guesses, and he definitely doesn’t know that I already know who he is right now.”

“So, let’s say he deduced that I would come back to kill him. He probably wouldn’t anticipate me going all the way to his place to kill him. He’d probably think what I would think. I would take it slow, searching meticulously and checking things out back in the compound...”

“With Shao Yi already dead right now, if he’s smart enough he’d know I’d be a sitting duck if I remained back in the compound.

“There’s also only one road leading to that compound. The winding, long road in the woods...”

Feng Kong then realized something. “The woods?”

“Very possible.

“If I’d gone through with what I planned beforehand, regardless of whether I went all the way or was more cautious, Xu Xiaoshou only would’ve needed to set up an ambush in the woods, and I’d have walked right into it without even thinking of the possibility.

“And the result...”

He couldn’t help but shudder at the thought, finding it terrifying.

He considered himself lucky for having seen through the situation before making a move. Now there was little else to worry about.

Vengeance was seen in Feng Kong’s eyes. He’d initially been out to kill this person because of a mission, but now he had another reason for doing it.

To vent his rage.

“The woods, huh...”

“Xu Xiaoshou, prepare to meet your doom, then.”

Chapter 73: You Were So Bad...

A storm was brewing, and clouds were gathering.

Feng Kong had made up his mind. Thus, without hesitation, off he went with the wind.

However, he didn’t expect the tree before him to shake and drop an object after being blown by the wind.

Klink Klank!

Feng Kong glanced at it indifferently, but when he saw it, he was shocked and almost fell from the sky.

“A broken sword?” he thought.

“No, this is...

“Shao Yi’s sword!”

Feng Kong was trembling all over, and his pupils contracted. Although he already knew that Shao Yi had died, seeing the remains of his relics still made him feel tremendously shocked, as if he’d been hit by a tsunami.

“Xu Xiaoshou!”

Feng Kong squeezed through his teeth, deeply aggrieved. He couldn’t help but walk towards the sword, but then something suddenly dawned on him.

How could Shao Yi’s sword have dropped here?

Could it be that he’d already escaped the courtyard and had run to Goose Lake but still ended up getting aggressively slashed by that Xu Xiaoshou here?

If that was the case...

Xu Xiaoshou, where art thou?

Feng Kong started to become suspicious, as he’d just deduced that Xu Xiaoshou was in the woods, and the scene before him had deeply affected him.

Ring!

Before he could think further, the broken sword on the ground started to vibrate. Feng Kong thought that this was bad and immediately retreated backward.

It was too late!

The broken sword exploded suddenly, and a wave of invisible aura instantly spread out.

“Fire!”

Feng Kong was affected in a blink of an eye. Even though his mind was paralyzed from shock, he saw that his body was being burned by an invisible flame.

It was an extreme pain!

He subconsciously used his spiritual source to guard his body, but his spiritual source also ended up getting burned.

“What the h*ll is this...”

Feng Kong was completely dumbfounded, as he’d never seen invisible flames like this before, but this didn’t stop him from confirming one fact!

Xu Xiaoshou was right here at this location!

But how was this possible?

The area before him was wide and open. Where was Xu Xiaoshou hiding?

If he was somewhere in the distance, then how was he able to control this broken sword from afar?

“He must be here!” Feng Kong was knocked back to the white jade railing by the explosion, and he suddenly realized something when he landed on his feet on the ground.

“If he’s not in front of me...” he thought.

“Then could it be that he’s behind me?”

“But I flew by Goose Lake. How is it possible that I didn’t discover him?”

“That’s not right!”

He trembled again all of a sudden and looked over to the surface of the lake with a look of disbelief.

Xu Xiaoshou...

Was at the bottom of the lake???

It seemed that his suspicion was right, as there were bubbles coming off the lake surface, creating splashes. A black shadow then emerged from a water pillar.

Feng Kong didn’t have time to turn around, as he’d just come to a halt. He was feeling stiff from switching force, and could only slash at the shadow without thinking.

Feng Kong’s bloody hand mercilessly slashed at the black shadow.

“Slice!”

A crisp sound was immediately heard, and the black shadow was cut in half. At this time, Feng Kong finally saw what the item really was.

It was a head!

Shao Yi’s head!

“Ah ah ah!”

Feng Kong was sent into hysterics. He...

Cut his teammate’s head in half?

“Xu! Xiao! Shou!”

“I will kill you!!!”

Feng Kong was consumed by the flame of anger and completely lost his composure. He slashed with his bloody red arms again and threw out two crimson slashes right at the location the head had flown out from.

“I, I am here,” a shaky voice came from the other end of the lake. Xu Xiaoshou had shifted his position the moment he threw out the head.

Feng Kong looked over suddenly and saw that Xu Xiaoshou was shivering and that his eyes were all white. His legs were bending inward, and, standing on the railing not far away, he looked so frail that he might fall at any moment.

However, his right hand was resting on the sword sheath on his left hip. It contained such a jaw-dropping amount of sword will that he went numb looking at him.

“Innate Sword Will?”

Feng Kong felt his head ache. He was shocked at the incredible level of Innate Sword Will Xu Xiaoshou had.

How much energy had he compressed into the sword sheath? If he were to release everything, even an upper spiritual level wouldn't be able to stop it.

Feng Kong suddenly understood how Shao Yi had died.

A thick cloud of deadly aura enshrouded him, and he felt a chill go up him from his feet all the way to his head. Without any hesitation, he retreated backward again.

“It's, it's too late...”

Xu Xiaoshou's mouth and teeth were still trembling and chattering, as he had swallowed ten Spiritual Cultivation Pills and compressed the Innate Sword Aura under the lake for more than a quarter of an hour. There was no way this guy could dodge it so easily.

Even if Feng Kong were standing in the woods, let alone in close proximity, he still might not be able to dodge it.

Xu Xiaoshou bent over slightly, positioning himself lower.

“Blade-draw Technique!”

He didn't draw the sword, but the leaves flew all the same.

The willow trees by the lake were completely chopped in half, and a few huge waves were created on the lake. Rain was falling in the woods, and blood was spilling in the sky.

“Ah!”

Feng Kong had nowhere to run as he roared in pain.

When he caught a glimpse of the white sword aura, half of his body and an ear was blown away, and the extreme pain almost instantly knocked him out!

“Demon!”

“This is a demon!”

Feng Kong's eyes were full of fear, and he completely lost the will to fight.

Xu Xiaoshou's fighting strength had nothing to do with his cultivation level. He could fight an upper spiritual level with this sword and maybe even the thirty-three people from the inner yard.

The problem was...

Why had he waited until now to strike?

Why didn't he do this in the courtyard?

Feng Kong was knocked out of his mind, and he started to use his spiritual source to heal himself. If he hadn't subconsciously tilted his head at the critical moment, it would've been cracked open!

...

"I missed..."

On the other side, Xu Xiaoshou's lips twitched as he stared at the half of Feng Kong's body that had been cut away, feeling helpless.

He had actually screwed up at the final moment due to the pleasant sensation. If not for that, he would have slashed Feng Kong in half, not just a big portion of his body!

Even so, he was surprised by his sword.

How could it be that strong?

It shouldn't be the case!

Even Mo Mo had been able to take the sword barehanded on that day and swallow one more slash. Although he'd done that without the enhancement from ten Spiritual Cultivation Pills, the power between those slashes and this one shouldn't have been that different.

Without much thought, Xu Xiaoshou withdrew his sword again, as he still had some remaining spiritual source.

The giant waves on the lake never once subsided, and they actually started raging upward again. The water in the woods was sent into the sky before flowing back to the lake.

Feng Kong's injured body had instinctively evaded a ray of sword aura, but a second wave of sword aura arrived before he could react.

"Slice!"

Another arm was sent flying to the sky.

The rainy night was silent as death, and blood was spilled all over the blue sky.

The light in Feng Kong's eyes had gone out. He'd never expected to lose so completely just because of his momentary carelessness.

Just because he had wrongly estimated where Xu Xiaoshou's ambush was it, he'd lost the opportunity to strike first. And now he wouldn't even be able to use any of his skills before perishing.

He stood in the same spot in despair and gave up struggling.

He was used to hunting, but now he had become the prey.

He had already expected this outcome when he'd chosen to be a killer. The only thing that hadn't cross his mind was that he would die at the hands of the like of Xu Xiaoshou.

"I can't believe this..."

Feng Kong was spurting blood. As gaunt as a pillar, he stood still, staring at Xu Xiaoshou with his empty eyes...

"Hmm?" he thought.

"He's not gonna execute me? Is he out of spiritual source?"

He saw that Xu Xiaoshou had let go of his sword. Had he decided to let him go alive?

Feng Kong was wild with joy, and he turned to leave.

"Swoosh!"

A blue light flashed before him and instantly impaled his head.

Ugh...

What the f*ck was that?

Feng Kong collapsed. He was still confused as his consciousness slowly dissipated. It wasn't until the very final moment of his life that he then realized:

Shao Yi's... sword?

But nobody would answer him anymore.

Under the sunlight, there wasn't even a single bone left.

"I thought you were good, but I was wrong..."

"When you slashed the head in half, still not realizing the existence of the sword, that was when you lost. Even if you had dodged my "Blade-drawing Technique" later on..."

"But you couldn't even dodge Blade-drawing Technique."

Xu Xiaoshou walked by slowly and picked up the sword, then turned to Goose Lake.

"You were so bad..."

Chapter 74: The Night is Beautiful

Were they really that bad?

Actually, they were doing okay.

However, Xu Xiaoshou realized that he had severely overestimated those two because of their strengths.

For a real life-and-death battle, the factors that determined survival consisted of more than just one's cultivation level, unless one were up against two complete idiots.

An arena battle was completely different. Factors that determined survival included timing, location, and personal agency...

He couldn't do without any of them.

He'd been able to realize their intentions because of Sense, which had also caused him to misjudge their true strengths due to the cultivation level and the accidental geographical changes resulting from the lucky draw. As such, he'd had to make a series of guesses.

Of course, it was undeniable that his adaptability had saved his life.

Hmm...

To be frank, he was just smart!

Xu Xiaoshou was a little scared, because if he hadn't managed to intimidate those two, leading them to initiate the battle first, the end result could've been vastly different.

Yet again, after this battle, he felt that even if the two of them had stuck together, they still wouldn't have been able to defeat him.

"I'm getting a little too cocky..." Xu Xiaoshou patted himself on the head.

j

Staring at Goose Lake's misty rain, Xu Xiaoshou fell into deep silence.

The first rain he had witnessed in this world had taken two lives away.

Including Wenchong, he'd already claimed three lives.

As he'd expected, the world he was in now was completely different from the previous world he'd lived in. If he couldn't adapt well to the rules of survival here, he might be the next one to die.

"Hmm?" he thought.

"Wen Chong?"

"These two, were they here to seek vengeance for Wen Chong?"

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly remembered that although he couldn't be held accountable for the battle in the arena, and that Wen Chong was the one who'd assaulted him first, there was no evidence to suggest that Wen Chong didn't have companions.

It totally made sense that there were people seeking revenge for him after his death!

"Er..."

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned, as he'd just realized that he was at a disadvantage because of his orphan status. He hadn't at all thought that people would seek revenge for their companions.

Looking at it from this perspective, this made sense.

Two assassins had been killed today, and he expected there to be more tomorrow...

“Oh my god, is this a never-ending nightmare!” Xu Xiaoshou hugged his head.

“That’s right!

Who were these two?

Some mere killers?

Could they be?

Since they were able to move through the Spirit Palace so freely, they must be a part of the inner palace, which was to say they were a part of them.

However, it didn’t make sense to categorize them as Inner Yard disciples. He would’ve bought this at the start, but definitely not now.

They were so weak. Could they really be the disciples who had cultivated inside the Inner Yard for more than two years?

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly felt that something was wrong here. Could it be that it wasn’t that they were too weak...

But that he was too powerful?

“I am really getting too cocky...” Xu Xiaoshou slapped himself again.

The only thing he was curious about was if that dull guy could really take his sword skill...

“He’s at least of Voidness Level. He shouldn’t be so weak...”

Xu Xiaoshou could declare that even after swallowing ten Spiritual Cultivation Pills, his Blade-draw Technique had indeed strengthened, but not to the point of doubling the power.

“How is it possible that...

“He couldn’t even block it?!

“Even Mo Mo could take one sword!

“Could it be that Mo Mo was actually stronger than that dude?” Xu Xiaoshou thought.

He was dumbfounded, but then he suddenly remembered Mo Mo’s right hand and her mystical sealed power.

To his knowledge, nobody but her possessed such an eerie power.

Even for the two he’d just fought, he could barely deduce their Innate Elemental power.

The first one should be metal element, which was similar to his own Sharpness. All he did was one strike.

The second one was most likely blood element, his blood hand...

Hmm, he couldn't even land an effective hit!

"Sealing Technique..."

Xu Xiaoshou was thinking vigorously. Perhaps, maybe there were some people out there who were as talented as him!

"I've got to ask Elder Qiao sometime..."

He wasn't too bothered, as the world was huge and there were many interesting things. His Innate Level physique was probably a miracle in others' eyes too.

He'd ended up acquiring Innate sword will too...

"Heheh!"

Xu Xiaoshou calmed down. This battle had definitely made him more conscious of his battle capability.

He had unknowingly acquired ranged attacks, and it was a very powerful instant cutting skill. After swallowing the pills, it seemed like even the powerful individuals from Voidness Level couldn't block it.

Hmm, except for some special people.

Close combat...

That was supposed to be his forte, but he had saved it as a last resort tonight and ended up not using it.

From the dude's attack in the courtyard, he could tell that with his Recoil skill, not many people could instantly kill him.

So his close combat skills were probably invincible, as he also had the great eight innate passive skills...

"There's only one conclusion: what doesn't kill me only makes me stronger.

"Hmm, and that disgusting Infernal Heavenly Flame..."

Actually, it should be counted as Infernal Heavens, but it was pure Spiritual skill. Since his cultivation level was stuck, he couldn't use it at all. It would be pretty lucky to just burn at least one target.

The fires could burn a radius of ten thousand miles.

"Hmm, let's go back to sleep. Who knows what will come in my dreams.

"Still got to cultivate properly!

"If my strength could allow me to thrash around brainlessly, then fighting wouldn't be so tiring. It's actually wasting my brain cells..."

Xu Xiaoshou stretched and yawned, consumed by endless exhaustion.

The night was...

He was thoroughly tortured by Infernal Flame Seed, and then experienced a dozen rounds of extreme mood swings. Before he could finish his wet dream, he was abruptly interrupted and had to waste countless brain cells killing two people...

It was indeed phenomenal!

“Better go back to sleep, lest there be more troubles.”

Xu Xiaoshou was about to turn around when the information bar in his brain suddenly updated.

Gazed, Passive Points, +1

“...”

“F*ck!”

Xu Xiaoshou was completely stunned and didn’t know whether to turn around or not.

“What’s going on?” he thought.

“I was only thinking about it. I didn’t say anything out loud, so I didn’t say anything bad!”

What, now the thoughts in his brain could be manifested automatically?

Xu Xiaoshou was terrified. He repeatedly activated Sense but couldn’t sense anyone around him.

He swallowed his saliva, and greeted with much difficulty, “Elder Sang?”

Nobody answered.

Xu Xiaoshou was going crazy, as he realized that the information bar was a terrifying existence. A random line of words could very well shock him to death.

No words could describe his urge to erase the word “gazed” from his dictionary and never see them again.

Who could it be?

If it wasn’t Elder Sang, then who had the sick hobby of gazing at him?

Could it be the third killer?

This wasn’t important, but the fact that he could gaze at him without being sensed suggested that this person was of at least Elder Sang’s level!

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t dare to move an inch, so he inched back to the white jade railing and leaned on it.

“It’s so beautiful...”

“The night is beautiful!

“The rain is also beautiful...”

“So so so beautiful!”

He tried to enlarge the sensing area and finally discovered a shadowy figure at the end of the road in the direction of the woods.

So far?

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned and was no longer afraid. He turned around, wanting to get a better look.

A pair of pitch-black eyes abruptly appeared in his line of sight.

They were as close as a few punches away.

“What the heck!”

Xu Xiaoshou’s heart almost leapt out of his throat, and a black sword shot out of his chest.

Chapter 75: I just Wanted to Ask for Directions!

The rain was pitter-pattering, and it didn’t seem like it was going to subside anytime soon.

Before him stood a masked person covered in black. His whole body was so tightly covered that even his fingers were enveloped by a pair of thick gloves.

The only party of him exposed, a pair of eyes, was so murky that it looked like only shades of dusks resided within.

If he were to see this pair of eyes again in the future in a sea of people, he wouldn’t be able to recognize them.

They belonged to an ordinary person!

But could this dude really be an ordinary person?

Xu Xiaoshou stared at Hiding Pain, which was stuck between them. In one quick moment, it sprung toward him, and yet he was able to react to it.

The sword came extremely close to the masked person’s heart, but he directly stopped it with two fingers.

Xu Xiaoshou was completely puzzled.

This was a ninth-grade spiritual sword that had cost him thousands of spiritual crystals. On top of that, it also carried a powerful innate sword will with it when it’d sprung at him, yet this man had easily blocked it.

And, looking at his next move, it looked like if he were to cross his fingers, the sword would simply break in half.

“Hey, don’t!”

Xu Xiaoshou closed the gap between them in a flash and grabbed the masked man’s fingers. “Don’t break it,” he said, a look of shock on his face. “This is my life. If you break it, who will I cry to?”

The masked person was really shocked. Xu Xiaoshou's reaction was...

"He's not scared of me?" he thought.

"I'm not going to break it. Take your hands off me..."

"Hmm? And your legs too!"

His expression turned serious, although this wasn't visible to the others, as he was covered in a black rag.

But this boy...

He had actually encircled him with his arms within such a short moment and now he couldn't move either of his hands.

At the same time, both of his legs had also crawled up on his own thighs, making the lower half of his body unsteady and exposing its instability, making it prone to attacks.

That was a very powerful body manipulating technique...

A human lock?

Was his zodiac sign the octopus?

1

"Let go!"

"I just wanted to ask for directions!"

Xu Xiaoshou listened to this coarse voice that was like a saw on his ears, and got goosebumps. His eardrums were experiencing hell.

Was this a voice of a human? It was so disgusting!

However, judging from the voice, the masked man was probably quite old, at least of a middle-aged uncle level.

Xu Xiaoshou increased his strength for his human lock. "No, who the h*ll would ask for directions in such wee hours of the morning?"

"And it's raining heavily. Are you a psycho!?"

"..."

The masked man let out a deep sigh. "Don't you think you'd already be dead right now if I wanted to kill you?"

"Ho!" Xu Xiaoshou laughed coldly. "Or maybe the only reason why I'm alive right now is because I have you locked up like this."

"..."

The masked man was completely p*ssed. What the h*ll was that? He was definitely toxic!

“Let go!”

“No!”

“Are you sure?”

“...”

Xu Xiaoshou kept quiet for a moment, then he took advantage of the masked man’s momentary relaxation to push the black sword into his heart with his chest.

“Ugh!”

The masked man’s eyes widened with disbelief and shock.

Even with his black mask on, Xu Xiaoshou could smell the blood. After ensuring that he was safe, he finally asked, “Okay, what did you want to ask me?”

“???”

Cursed, Passive point, +1.

Spited, Passive Point, +1.

Marked, Passive Point, +1.

Hoho, he’d been marked?

Did that mean the man was planning on killing him someday in the future?

Xu Xiaoshou became murderous suddenly and continued to thrust the sword forward to impale the masked man.

“Ha!”

At this time, his palm felt a painful sensation, and he involuntarily released his fingers. The masked man flicked his finger, and the black sword was sent flying.

Bang!

Not letting go of the opportunity, the masked man clashed head-on with Xu Xiaoshou’s head, intending to knock him back.

However, the next moment he clutched his forehead and moaned instead.

“What the...

“Are you made of iron?!”

Xu Xiaoshou’s legs were still on his thighs, and he immediately bounced back to lock him up. Now the masked man couldn’t even move his head.

After doing all this, Xu Xiaoshou felt a little scared.

What did this guy do just now? How could he pierce his palm with just two fingers?

To be frank, Xu Xiaoshou's body was enhanced with the eight great innate passive skills...

This masked uncle felt odd!

Xu Xiaoshou glanced over and caught a glimpse of the fading sword will on the tip of his fingers.

Sword will?

What a weak sword will!

If it wasn't for his highly sensitive Sense, he wouldn't have even detected it.

So here was the question: if this man could pierce through his palm, then why did he feel pain from a headbutt?

It was weird. This man was really weird!

He wanted to take off the black mask that covered the masked man's hair but was afraid that he'd be killed for knowing that man's real identity.

This strength of this masked man was a mystery.

"If you don't belong to Tiansang Spirit Palace, then how did you get in?" Xu Xiaoshou probed.

The masked man fell silent and didn't talk. After a while, he finally let out a cough, which made Xu Xiaoshou realize that he was choking him.

He relaxed his grip on the man's throat.

"Ugh! Cough cough..."

The masked man declared naturally, "I am!"

"Cheated, Passive Point, +1."

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou was a little speechless. He wanted to laugh but couldn't.

Although this man was shameless, it meant that he'd come in from outside the spirit palace, since he had lied blatantly.

So...

Xu Xiaoshou was a little panicky. The spirit palace was guarded by a powerful array. The two he'd just killed were probably from within the palace.

With their strength, they probably hadn't entered from the outside.

However, this masked man had really come in from the outside? Didn't that mean he was an expert among experts?

But why was he so weak?

This didn't match up with his actual strength.

“Who the heck are you...” But Xu Xiaoshou abruptly stopped mid-way through saying this, thinking it could be problematic for him to learn the masked man’s identity, so he changed the question. “What do you want?”

“To ask for directions!” the masked man yelled.

“To heaven?”

“...”

“Cursed, Passive Points, +1.”

Ha, his psychological activity was still abundant!

Xu Xiaoshou tightened his grip. “Spit it!”

“Cough cough! Let go...” The masked man struggled violently, and his two fingers made to project a faint sword will. This startled Xu Xiaoshou, so he let go slightly.

“Phew...”

The masked man panted heavily and suppressed the desire to attack, telling himself that Xu Xiaoshou was an irrelevant small fry and he shouldn’t startle more people.

After resting for a long time, he asked slowly, “The inner yard, where is it?”

Xu Xiaoshou: “???”

“Just that?”

All this time just to ask where the Inner Yard was?

Why didn’t he just say so earlier?!

This provoked the masked man again, but he managed to suppress his anger and nodded in response.

This was probably the most ridiculous thing that had ever happened to him in his few decades of life. All he’d wanted to do was ask for directions and had ended up injured and even gotten stabbed in the heart instead.

And worse still, he’d gotten a sarcastic reply after asking...

Frustrating!!

Chapter 76: Good Luck Takes Turns

“The Inner Yard is over there.”

Xu Xiaoshou pointed in the direction of the Inner Yard with his back facing the man.

There were three paths at the corner of the small forest. One lead to his own yard, and another one led to the Outer Yard. It was a straight path that led right to the Chuyun Platform, where the Windcloud Competition took place.

The third path led to Goose Lake. By following this path, one could enter the Inner Yard and reach the Spiritual Library Division after turning a corner.

“Why do you want to go to the Inner Yard? Do you intend to steal books there?” Xu Xiaoshou asked curiously.

This man was wrapped from head to toe, and only his eyes were visible. He indeed looked like a thief, or even a robber.

However, if he was a thief, he wouldn’t have come here so recklessly without knowing how to get around the place.

“This isn’t something you should know,” the masked man sternly replied.

“I’m just curious.”

“But curiosity killed the cat.”

“Oh, you go ahead then,” Xu Xiaoshou said casually.

The masked man asked through gritted teeth, “So, can you get off of me now?”

“Oh, I’m terribly sorry.”

As a matter of fact, Xu Xiaoshou didn’t dare to get off his body; but it definitely wasn’t a good idea to continue riding him. At least, he didn’t want to get brought along while this man stole; otherwise, he’d become the man’s accomplice.

He forcefully bumped his stomach against the man’s back and a powerful counterforce made the two of them bounce in opposite directions, instantly separating them by dozens of meters.

Xu Xiaoshou dashed forward with his head lowered for a long while, but he found there was no commotion behind him and couldn’t help but feel surprised.

He turned his head and saw the masked man pull himself up with difficulty by leaning against a tree trunk from a pool of water on the forest path.

Xu Xiaoshou, “...”

“You’re so weak,” he thought. “How can you have the courage to be a thief?”

“Did you really come here from outside of the Spirit Palace?”

“I suspect that you’re playing me.”

The masked man didn’t pay Xu Xiaoshou any attention. It seemed that in Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes, the only reason for his existence was to ask his ordinary inquiries.

Yet, after walking toward the Inner Yard for a while, the masked man discovered that Xu Xiaoshou kept on peeking at him clandestinely while curled up underneath the white jade railing, like a thief stealing a bell with his ears covered.

“...”

The man halted in his tracks and said with a sigh, "You fought pretty well earlier; but your sword style was a bit off. You should fix that as soon as possible."

With arched eyebrows, Xu Xiaoshou realized that his man had witnessed the process of him killing those two men.

The thought of killing the man to shut him up once again crossed his mind, but the problem was whether he could beat the man or not.

This man was way too weird!

"My sword style was the idea of one of my genius friends. You're too clueless to understand it," said Xu Xiaoshou in an attempt to test the man.

"Your path has been trodden by too many people before you." The masked man didn't stay around and walked straight away.

Xu Xiaoshou felt disturbed as he gazed at the man's receding back.

"Is he trying to trick me?" he thought.

"Or, has somebody already tried the path of the pure sword will fighting style he's pursuing right now?"

"It's impossible!"

"I've merely used the 'blade-draw technique.' How did this man find out about his style?"

"His sword will is so weak. How dare he criticize others!"

"It's preposterous!"

"My style was the idea of a genius!" shouted Xu Xiaoshou furiously.

The masked man didn't respond.

"Ridiculed, passive point, +1."

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his fists and shouted again, "Ten Sections of the Finger Sword!"

He expected the man to twist his body or halt in his tracks, but he did none of these things.

Xu Xiaoshou watched the man disappear at the end of the path.

"I guessed wrong?" he wondered, but wasn't so sure.

The sword technique the man had used earlier to injure him had looked a lot like the Finger Blessed with Sword Will.

Yet, that was rather impossible, because he'd just seen the sword technique of Heavenly Horse Traversing in the Sky in the Spiritual Library Division not long ago, so how would someone have started using it already?

"My mind must've been playing tricks on me..."

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head, trying to shake off such a ridiculous idea, then decided to leave the place.

What the man was intending to steal or how he would do it had nothing to do with him as long he didn't expose the matter of him killing someone, Xu Xiaoshou thought to himself.

Judging by the man's temperament, he probably wouldn't tell anyone about the incident.

On the other hand, no one would believe a thief who'd snuck into the Spirit Palace on a rainy night anyway, even if he did tell them that he'd killed someone.

Xu Xiaoshou thought the man was quite eccentric and that he might get involved in some kind of serious trouble, so he had no intention of having himself implicated.

"I'd better go back to sleep!

"I hope he doesn't reappear...

"Bah! Shut up!"

Xu Xiaoshou slapped himself on the face and decided to leave after turning around, but he halted in his tracks.

He saw the masked man come back from the end of the path, and he looked rather uneasy as he was running.

Xu Xiaoshou turned around without a second thought and ran away as fast as his legs could carry him.

Because he'd spotted a group of law enforcers from the Spiritual Law Division right on the man's heels.

"It's truly too convenient!"

There was no way the law enforcers could've discovered the masked man so quickly. The only explanation was that the sound of his fighting earlier was so loud that they'd been drawn by it.

Though the assassination of him had occurred before he'd killed the assassins, he had nonetheless killed someone. As such, Xu Xiaoshou felt quite nervous.

"Hi!"

A shadow swept by and blocked Xu Xiaoshou.

It was the masked man!

How did he move so fast?! Maybe he was playing him.

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't stop his momentum in time and bumped into the masked man, but the man wasn't knocked flying away. Instead, the man took the opportunity to lift Xu Xiaoshou up and hold him around his waist.

"I'm not going to kill you, but I need you to stage a show. I'll let you go after I get out of the Spirit Palace." The hoarse voice, which sounded like grating sandpaper, rang out again.

"I would be a fool to believe you," he thought.

He struggled to get free, but the man unexpectedly pointed one of his fingers at his waist. The formidable sword energy instantly assaulted the interior of his body, breaking his inner energy into pieces.

“Hmm?” he thought. “He’s actually quite outstanding since he has such a powerful energy.”

The masked man noticed something and made the sword energy more scattered and frequent, passing through Xu Xiaoshou’s flesh like a great many tiny razors. As a result, even the recovery power of “Eternal Vitality” was suppressed.

“Attacked, passive point, +1.”

“Attacked, passive point, +1.”

“...”

The information bar came back to life from its downtime and started to work at once.

“Poof!” Xu Xiaoshou spat out a mouthful of fresh blood and lost complete control of his body.

His expression darkened. Had he fallen into the tiger’s den after just getting out of the dragon’s den?

The man was indeed playing him. The control power of the sword will was too formidable, and was many times more so than his own.

Xu Xiaoshou was almost in tears. Why did he always meet opponents of the elder status?

Elder Sang was an exception because he was nevertheless a friend. Even though Xu Xiaoshou was often tormented by Elder Sang, their encounters always brought some benefits for him at the same time.

Judging by his cultivation of the sword will, this masked man, who’d come out of nowhere, was as powerful as any other masters.

“Let go of me.”

“No.”

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. This situation felt familiar. Did that mean good luck took turns?

“If you let go of me, I’ll help you get out of the Spirit Palace,” Xu Xiaoshou genuinely promised.

“Really?”

“Yes.”

“I don’t believe you!”

Xu Xiaoshou: “...”

It was so frustrating!

Yet, he could do nothing about it.

Xu Xiaoshou held his breath. In fact, the pain in his body was tolerable, as he was used to it. However, his body was being restrained by the masked man. He couldn't move an inch. It was all he could do to move his mouth.

Xu Xiaoshou continued tricking the man. "I tell you that you'd better put me down because I know many people. Do you know Qiao Qianzhi, the Elder of the Spiritual Affairs Division..."

"No, you don't know him? It's okay that you don't know him. But what about Xiao Qixiu? He's the Chief Elder of the Spiritual Law Division..."

"You haven't heard of him? What about Elder Sang..."

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly calmed down and realized that he was using the same threatening words as those used by the villains after they were captured. What he was doing was no different than courting death!

Unexpectedly, the masked man paused when he heard Elder Sang's name mentioned. "Did he come back?"

"Who?" Xu Xiaoshou responded quickly after a jolt.

"Elder Sang!"

"I don't know him," Xu Xiaoshou calmly answered.

The masked man: "..."

"Cursed, passive point, +1."

Chapter 77: The Masked Man's First Strike

The masked man moved extremely fast. Even though he had Xu Xiaoshou in a chokehold, this had no effect on his speed.

Yet, the law enforcers of the Spirit Law Division were equally capable. They were keeping pace and weren't that far behind.

Goose Lake was rather large, but the masked man crossed it in a few steps.

It was just then that a group of law enforcers appeared in front of the two of them. The masked man wasn't the only one who was stunned. Xu Xiaoshou was also puzzled.

He wondered if this group of law enforcers had come over after hearing the noise from his fighting. But it seemed more likely that they'd been planning an ambush on them all along...

Well!

Perhaps, they hadn't been drawn by the noise but had been lying in ambush this whole time.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the masked man in surprise, wondering who this man was and why so many law enforcers of the Spirit Law Division had come out to ambush him.

Though his fight from earlier had been earth-shattering, it hadn't interrupted the plans of the Spirit Law Division. No one had bothered to come out to stop him from killing his opponents.

Xu Xiaoshou felt unimportant at the moment.

It turned out that he wasn't a part of their plans and that he might have actually disrupted the plans of the Spirit Palace.

The masked man stopped in his tracks and turned around. At that moment, many heads could be seen on the other two edges of Goose Lake.

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart go cold as he realized it was true...

These law enforcers had been waiting here all along!

"Are you the 'Saint Servant' Elder Sang mentioned? We've been waiting for you for a few days. You'd better surrender yourself." Xiao Qixiu walked out from the forest with a long sword on his back while looking sideways at the masked man.

"He has come back..." Xu Xiaoshou was probably the only one who could hear the masked man's whisper. The man suddenly lowered his head and asked, "Rascal, do you know Elder Sang?"

"No, I don't!"

Xu Xiaoshou was almost in tears. He wished he'd minded his mouth. The situation had turned against him. His careless words had put him in a perilous situation now.

He looked at Xiao Qixiu and shouted, "Master Judge, help me. This guy just killed two disciples of the Spirit Palace. I don't want to be the third!"

Xiao Qixiu: "..."

"This lad must think I'm blind," he thought. "We've been waiting here for a long time and didn't see the man kill anyone."

Xiao Qixiu didn't want anything to stand in the way of the more important matter at hand. This evening, he would seize everyone who made trouble and send them to the punishment platform.

Despised, passive point, +1.

The masked man was puzzled when he heard what Xu Xiaoshou said.

He wondered when he'd killed someone. It was obvious that this lad was throwing mud at him with no shame at all.

Cursed, passive point, +1.

"You rascal..."

As the masked man made to increase the intensity of his sword energy to make Xu Xiaoshou suffer more, he heard the lad at his waist say, "Calm down. Don't be witless.

"If you admit that you killed two people, I'll guarantee your safe departure from the Spirit Palace."

The masked man was amused by this remark. What would a lad like him with such a low cultivation level be able to do?

Xu Xiaoshou realized his trick wasn't working and came up with another lie. "I guess you must be a member of an evil...bah, a righteous organization.

"As a matter of fact, I can't stand this Spirit Palace anymore. They're all too hypocritical. I've wanted to join you guys for a long time now.

"You'll follow my instructions later since I know a secret passage..."

"You've wanted to join us?" the masked man interrupted him.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. The man seemed to be more interested in this matter than the mention of the secret passage, which was what he should've been interested in.

He was a bit worried that what he'd said was true and that this man was a member of an evil organization.

"This isn't that important. What is important is the secret passage..."

"Do you really want to join us?" the masked man interrupted him once more.

Xu Xiaoshou felt like crying again. "Yes, I've set my heart on it!"

"What's your name?"

"Wen Chong," Xu Xiaoshou said, making up the name without a second thought. "Wen as in the phrase 'never heard of,' and Chong as in 'recharging money.'"

"What's 'recharging money?'"

"It's recharging Q..." Xu Xiaoshou trailed in the middle of his sentence and waved his hand. "You wouldn't understand it no matter how I explained it..."

"Is it the 'Chong' as in surfing?"

"What surfing?"

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou had to admit that he was indeed a bit nervous, but he tried his best to stay calm.

"It's the 'Ming' as in being clever."

"Oh, 'Ming' as in clever..."

There was a hint of mockery in the masked man's eyes. "So your name is Wen Ming?"

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou felt like crying. Why did he have to go and behave so badly tonight and make so many mistakes with his choice of words?

"My name is Wen Chong!" he said weakly.

The masked man didn't respond, as Xiao Qixiu had drawn near.

The man shook his body a little and flew to a high elevation over Goose Lake. The raindrops seemed to be colder at such a height.

Xu Xiaoshou looked down at the shrunken Goose Lake below. The hundreds of law enforcers looked like a thin thread, and he started to feel scared.

Even when he was on his sword, he didn't dare to fly this high. If he fell from such a height, his innate flesh physique would turn into a pile of flesh mud.

"You have to hold me tightly!" Xu Xiaoshou pressed deeper into the masked man's bosom. At the moment he was very timid.

The masked man was amused. The man pulled out his finger that was behind Xu Xiaoshou's back and hoisted him instead. "If you stay motionless, you won't fall."

Xu Xiaoshou grew more anxious. Though the pain in his body was gone, he felt considerably less safe.

He thought about it and said, "You'd better put your finger in my back again. I don't feel safe this way."

The masked man: "..."

This lad must be mentally challenged!

Without a second thought, the masked man put his finger back into Xu Xiaoshou's back to make him spit out a mouthful of fresh blood with a puff.

"D*mn it. You took my words literally!

"Take your finger out, quickly. I was just kidding."

Xu Xiaoshou felt uneasy. This man didn't behave like a normal person.

The masked man pulled his finger out. But before Xu Xiaoshou could feel relief, he found his body was thrown higher in the sky.

The whooshing wind almost scared him to death.

"Help me!"

"Shut up and watch out!" the masked man yelled harshly.

Though his eyes were assaulted by the wind and rain and he had a hard time keeping his eyes open, Xu Xiaoshou could clearly sense his surroundings.

He sensed Xiao Qixiu on the ground reach out his hand, and the long sword on his back tore apart a green path in the night sky as he headed toward the masked man like a shooting star.

The sword will contained in the striking sword was equivalent to a violent wild beast. As such, the raindrops in the sky turned into nothingness wherever the sword passed.

Xu Xiaoshou now understood why the masked man had thrown him high up in the sky.

If the man hadn't thrown him so far away, Xu Xiaoshou figured that he would have been torn into oblivion like the raindrops turning into smoke before the sword drew near.

Yet, the masked man wasn't affected at all.

Moreover, Xu Xiaoshou vaguely heard the masked man's mocking remark:

"Among those who have dared to attack me, you're the weakest..."

Xu Xiaoshou felt troubled. This man was truly shameless.

He was indeed a showman...

Xu Xiaoshou thought his former reckless behavior in the competition arena couldn't hold a candle to this man.

Before Xu Xiaoshou could complain further, his eyes widened the next moment.

The masked man didn't move an inch. All he was doing was staring at the longsword heading his way, a slight sword will still on his body.

Yet, the longsword shuddered for no obvious reason and gave out a wailing sound. It seemed that the sword was under tremendous pressure, and it turned around and shot at Xiao Qixiu.

Xiao Qixiu was stunned. It was hard for him to fathom why the sword that had been with him for decades would intend to destroy its own master.

Unfortunately, Xiao Qixiu didn't have enough time to reflect on this. The returning longsword traveled faster than the speed of his control.

As Xiao Qixiu made to move, the sword energy in his body suddenly exploded, throwing everyone around him onto the ground. At the same time, Xiao Qixiu was confined on the spot by the sword energy.

Poo!

The longsword passed through Xiao Qixiu's body.

"Puff!"

Xiao Qixiu's eyes were filled with disbelief as blood poured out from every orifice in his body.

Xu Xiaoshou was so horrified his eyeballs almost jumped out of their sockets.

The masked man slowly lifted his head and looked at Xu Xiaoshou, his cloudy eyes showing a hint of motion.

"If I'm right..."

"This is the path of the sword will you are on right now."

Chapter 78: Continuous Suppression with Ease

Xu Xiaoshou was back in the hands of the masked man again. This time he behaved as amiably as a cat.

“Well stop torturing me! I’m not that formidable at all!” Xu Xiaoshou said weakly.

A hint of a smile appeared in the cloudy eyes of the masked man. The man started to say something, but then he began to cough violently.

“Cough, cough...puff!”

Xu Xiaoshou was nervous to hear this coughing sound, and he wondered if the man would accidentally drop him since he was coughing blood.

He’d figured out why the masked man was so weak at the moment—employing a powerful strike could also injure one’s body.

“Was that move just now ‘All Things are Swords’?” Xu Xiaoshou asked.

The masked man nodded. “The Innate Level ‘All Things are Swords.’”

Xu Xiaoshou: “...”

“Like I’d believe that,” he thought. “I am innate sword will myself, so I very well know the magnitude of the innateness. Who are you trying to fool?”

The masked man was aware that Xu Xiaoshou didn’t believe him, but he muttered to himself, “The true sword will has no level and is not related to the form. It utilizes the assault of the opponent to attack the opponent.

“As long as you master the essence of the sword, nobody will dare to attack you with their swords. It’s because...”

“Your sword becomes my sword?” Xu Xiaoshou chimed in.

The masked man froze for a moment and didn’t give a definite answer. “It can be described this way, but...”

The man paused and turned his eyes to the ground below.

“This path has been already trodden too many times by the others. It’s a dead-end. Your sword will is pretty good, so you should give it up as soon as possible.”

Xu Xiaoshou seemed to see dark spots floating before his eyes.

Your sword will is pretty good, so you should give it up as soon as possible...

What nonsense this was!

“I’ve just started to walk on the path, and you probably haven’t reached the end of your path yet,” Xu Xiaoshou said eloquently.

He figured he wouldn’t achieve anything if he couldn’t take this path.

His talent for cultivation was obvious. It would be better for him to do nothing if he had to learn the spirit technique; at least he could come up to an understanding of “appreciating time” in the end by doing so.

The masked man ignored him. There was a commotion below.

Xiao Qixiu had lost the ability to fight after being injured by the shooting sword. The law enforcers were all stunned.

Even though Elder Sang had warned them that the enemy was a bit strong this time, nobody had expected him to be so powerful.

After one strike, Xiao Qixiu, a swordsman in the throne status, had lost the ability to fight back.

Their opponent was a bit too powerful.

It was then that another person walked out on the forest path. The law enforcers, who’d been anxious, pushed their chests forward and held their heads up high when they saw this person, and they angrily stared at the two people in the sky. It seemed like they’d gotten their spines back.

The person walking out was dressed like a young Daoist with white hair and a beard, giving off the aura of a fairy man.

The only thing that spoiled this impression was his height.

When he stood on the ground, he looked like he only came up to the waist of most men.

It could be said that he was as tall as Su Qianqian...

Fortunately, he was drifting in the air.

“Ye Xiaotian...” the masked man murmured, a grim look in his eyes.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled to find out that this short man was the legendary Chief of the Inner Yard.

Ye Xiaotian drifted to the front of Xiao Qixiu and checked his injury, then he disappeared after pulling the longsword out of Xiao Qixiu’s body.

Xu Xiaoshou lifted his head in surprise and saw the white-haired young Daoist right in front of the two of them.

Ye Xiaotian inserted one of his hands into the empty space in front of him, and a cloud of mysterious darkness rolled up and down, giving off a horrific power. It seemed like he could pull down the sky with his hand.

“This is called the ‘Hand of Ripping Heaven,’ which is Ye Xiaotian’s special technique. He can pull down a piece of space and use it to crush his opponent to death,” the masked man explained.

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded.

“What...”

“What level has this master achieved?”

“Why did I get involved in this fight in the first place?” he thought.

Those two damned assassins were to blame. He wasn't sorry that they were dead. He wished they would come back to life again so that he could cut them into pieces a second time to vent his anger.

The three of them hovered high in the night sky. The air was quite cold here.

Ye Xiaotian didn't say anything. He stared straight at the masked man with his hand inserted in the empty space. He didn't seem to pay any attention to Xu Xiaoshou.

The masked man muttered to himself, “To escape from Ye Xiaotian is futile. Usually, the only thing people can do is chitchat about what their last words will be.

“This guy has a rare spatial quality. I heard that he was able to fight against a swordsman a half-step into Master Level as soon as he achieved innateness.”

“I can't hold a candle to you. You're innate enough to defeat the masters,” Ye Xiaotian finally spoke. His voice sounded like a tender child's.

“I don't have such a talent. You must have mistaken me for someone else.”

“I hope so.” There was a hint of coldness in Ye Xiaotian's childish voice that was unfitting for a child.

Listening to the compliments the two men offered each other, Xu Xiaoshou felt dizzy and almost fell down from the sky.

What weirdos!

Xu Xiaoshou had thought himself rather formidable after cultivating ninth spirit level and killing Origin Court and Occupied Void; but now he'd found out that he was nothing in comparison to these true geniuses.

“Is this spatial quality a power of innateness,” he thought. “But it sounds very horrific!

“And who is this masked man? What kind of weirdo is he? The Master Chief of the Inner Yard is about to attack, but he still has enough leisure time to talk.

“Well?

“Why does this guy explain so much to me?”

Xu Xiaoshou felt sick as he thought all of this over.

“Master Chief, I'm not with him. You go ahead and fight him, but don't involve me in your fight!”

A hint of a smile appeared in the corners of the masked man's eyes. “Didn't you say that you would like to join us?”

“I...”

Xu Xiaoshou froze, and his face turned white. “Sorry to bother you, but please put me down on the ground. I'd like to bid my goodbyes now.”

Ye Xiaotian turned his attention to the young man at the masked man's waist. He was surprised that this young lad dared to joke around when he was between two powerful swordsmen.

He was definitely very brazen.

He was none other than a person who had intervened in the scheme tonight and distracted his own colleagues.

Click, click!

Cracks appeared in the night sky, and it seemed like the sky would strike down the next moment.

As time passed, the right hand Ye Xiaotian had used to insert into the empty space grew stronger, and the breath of death enveloped the two men on the other side.

The masked man lifted his head to look at the night sky. The falling raindrops were swallowed by the dark crack, unable to reach him.

The masked man laughed gently, "If you strike, the nine others lying in ambush won't survive.

"Well, adding the one here, there are ten."

Before Xu Xiaoshou could feel astonished at this, the sound of several explosions below sent nine columns of sword energy up into the sky from the ground.

Each sword energy was bound to a white-haired elder. Seeing the elders, who were hung by the sword energy, Xu Xiaoshou couldn't help but recall Mo Mo in the arena of the final competition the other day.

This scene looked exactly the same!

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the masked man in surprise and recalled the remark he'd made: "Your path has been trodden by too many people."

"Which means he's been on the path that I'm taking now. But why does he advise me against taking the same path?" he thought. "It's obviously very powerful."

"All Things are Swords?" he asked.

"Yeah," the masked man nodded. "It's the Innate Level All Things are Swords."

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless, and he wondered why the masked man had emphasized the "Innate Level." Did he think he hadn't belittled the others enough?

The law enforcers on the ground, on the contrary, were so surprised that their jaws almost dropped to the ground when they saw the nine elders hung high up in the air by the sword energy.

"Nine elders?"

"It's impossible!"

"How could these elders be sneak-attacked by that masked man all at once? They are none other than the elders!"

“The nine throne level masters are being hung by the sword will alone. This is.... Am I dreaming?”

“These nine elders are the oldest and most qualified in the Inner Yard, and are above the masters!”

“I’m dumbfounded. ‘Saint Servant’...”

“Is he really so powerful?”

Chapter 79: The Value of Xu Xiaoshou

Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes had been opened.

It turned out that this was how the fairies fought each other.

With great ease, the masked man had severely injured Xiao Qixiu with one strike of the sword and hung the nine elders in the air with his sword will. Because of the hostage situation, Ye Xiaotian was subdued.

Stealing a glance at the nine elders hung in the air, Ye Xiaotian couldn’t help but curse in a low voice, “They’re a bunch of useless helpers!”

In Elder Sang and Ye Xiaotian’s original plans they’d designed, these old guys weren’t meant to be employed, but they’d insisted on helping out in an attempt to prove the value of their existence.

Did they really think it was a piece of cake to capture “Saint Servant?”

“Click, click!”

Ye Xiaotian grew angrier. As a result, a large crack appeared in the space. Before the masked man could respond, Xu Xiaoshou hastened to say, “Don’t be so emotional. Impulse is the devil!”

Ye Xiaotian: “...”

The masked man: “...”

The nine elders hung in the air looked rather ashamed, but they weren’t very strong-willed by nature and were well-behaved. At the moment, they couldn’t escape the masked man’s long-distance control.

“Don’t worry about us. ‘Saint Servant’ should be killed by all. Capture him and bring him to the Holy Divine Palace. Doing so will benefit all human beings!” one of the elders said.

Hearing this, the masked man’s eyes turned cold. “Should be killed by all? Do I know you? Did I kill your whole family?”

As the masked man waved his hand, the sword energy came out from the endless rain droplets and passed through the body of the elder who’d spoken, turning him into a bloody person.

Ye Xiaotian’s eyelids twitched.

“You...” Another elder became upset and said sternly, “If you’re so powerful...”

“Too noisy!”

The masked man turned his head toward the speaking elder. All of a sudden, the rain droplets turned into a sword and pierced through the elder, turning him into a second bloody person.

Nobody dared to speak now. Besides the seven elders hung in the air, the law enforcers on the ground fell silent as well.

There was a hint of mockery in the cloudy eyes of the masked man as he said slowly, "I shouldn't fail to take care of the others."

He waved his hand one more time. The rainy swords whizzed in the sky, turning the remaining seven elders into bloody men.

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded. This masked man really was brazen...

This was reckless! What he was doing was reckless!

"You..." Ye Xiaotian couldn't stand it any longer and was about to act, but the masked man quickly spun his head around and took a step back.

"Don't be so emotional," he said. "Impulse is the devil!"

And he added, "I have ten hostages."

Ye Xiaotian: "..."

He shot Xu Xiaoshou a stern look.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. Why was he being stared at? He wasn't the attacker.

More importantly, he couldn't act on impulse at the moment, Xu Xiaoshou thought to himself. The deaths of those old men weren't a big deal, and the masked man had allowed him to live this long, so he shouldn't die.

Xu Xiaoshou wanted to complain again but chose to shut up instead when he recalled the masked man's comment that he was "too noisy."

The masked man glanced at him and smiled. "You're very interesting. You can speak."

"..."

"I don't want to talk," Xu Xiaoshou responded crossly. "You'd better let me go, like a fart you keep holding in."

"You masters are fighting each other. I'm of no value to you."

The masked man patted his head and said, "Don't belittle yourself. Actually, you're quite valuable."

"Praised, passive point, +1."

Xu Xiaoshou nearly went mad. He had no intention of getting involved, and he had no idea what value he had.

He wanted to go back to sleep.

And if he couldn't go back to sleep, he'd like to go back to building his house.

But here...

He looked down at Goose Lake, which, from this height, was but a dot.

It was very high, cold, and scary up here.

"What on earth do you want?" Ye Xiaotian stared at the masked man, trying his hardest to suppress his anger. He was afraid he might pull down a large patch of sky if he let his emotions get out of control.

"All I want is to take an object. I'll leave afterward."

"Nothing in the Spirit Palace belongs to you!"

The masked man laughed. "The object I want will be mine."

Ye Xiaotian took a deep breath.

The masked man raised up the young man in his hand. "This person is very interesting. Can you give him to me?"

Xu Xiaoshou felt sick to his stomach.

He wasn't an object! He was a person. He couldn't be given away.

And he had no intention of leaving the Spirit Palace. He'd just won the title of champion and hadn't left a legacy here yet.

Ye Xiaotian glanced at the young man and said, "I can give this person to you, but you have to let the other nine go, and you must promise that you won't come to the Tiansang Spirit Palace again."

Xu Xiaoshou: "? ? ?"

The look in the masked man's eyes seemed to suggest he was considering this offer.

But before the masked man could respond, an angry swear echoed through the heavens and across the earth.

"Ye Xiaotian, shut your d*mned mouth!"

After this remark, the sun seemed to become hotter, the rain stopped falling, and the empty space was warped.

The accumulated water pools on the ground evaporated in the blink of an eye, and the forest path turned dry and cracked.

The horrifying hot atmosphere surrounded the whole area, and the law enforcers around Goose Lake felt horrified, their foreheads breaking out in a cold, warm sweat.

An old man holding a conical hat appeared in front of the three of them in the sky. His eyes ringed with dark circles were fixated on Xu Xiaoshou.

"Elder Sang?"

Except for Xu Xiaoshou, the other two men looked like they'd expected this result.

Ye Xiaotian imperceptibly rolled his eyeballs. This guy had finally been forced to come out.

"Don't tell me any more nonsense."

Elder Sang pointed at the young man in the hands of the masked man. "This person has to be given back to me. You can kill the nine others if you want to. After the killing, we can negotiate the next step."

Nine elders?

Xu Xiaoshou was so moved that tears almost fell from his eyes.

He'd thought this old man had a strange, self-centered and desolate personality, but now he found his eyes ringed with dark circles rather amiable.

What he'd said was more decent and virtuous than what Ye Xiaotian had said.

His stance was different from the Chief of the Inner Yard's. The Chief of the Inner Yard wanted to give the champion of the Outer Yard away.

As Xu Xiaoshou thought about all this, he found that the masked man was holding him more tightly, and he heard a terrifying voice say, "You're valuable as I thought."

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart tremble. He shot Elder Sang a look that yelled "help me."

Elder Sang looked at Xu Xiaoshou and gave a familiar grin. "Relax. As long as you have a breath left in you, this old man will save you."

Seeing the grin, Xu Xiaoshou instinctively felt concerned. What did this old man have on his mind?

Don't act too recklessly!

The masked man retreated as he heard those words.

"Want to flee?"

The corners of Elder Sang's curled up, and he reached out his hand. The retreating masked man stopped moving and started to tremble violently.

"Infernal Heavens?"

Xu Xiaoshou's pupils shrank as he felt a hot energy flow into his own body through the body of the masked man.

Boom!

The hotness exploded inside his body, and then started to burn fiercely. The pain was one hundred times more painful than what he'd experienced when cultivating the Infernal Fire Seed.

"Cough, cough!"

It felt like his throat was on fire. The blood in his mouth evaporated before he could even spit it out.

His skin cracked, and the water in his body dried up. Xu Xiaoshou sensed that his life was rapidly leaving him, and his vision was going black.

Was this the “Infernal Heavens?”

The “Burning People Alive” he employed seemed like mere house-play in comparison...

His consciousness grew blurrier and blurrier. In the end, Xu Xiaoshou seemed to hear the slightly panicked voice of the masked man say:

“I can give you the lad, but take back the fire!”

Chapter 80: Where Can One Get a Makeover?

He felt himself thrown into the air once again, but this time he landed against a skinny bosom. It felt as if he’d bumped into a skeleton.

A magic pill with a strong medicinal flavor landed in his mouth and instantly melted. Xu Xiaoshou completely recovered from his injury.

He opened his eyes, a cold sweat on his forehead, and discovered that he was in the bosom of Elder Sang.

“Haha, you rascal, this old man didn’t lie to you. As I said, as long as you have a breath left in you, I’ll save you.”

Xu Xiaoshou felt like punching him in the face. He’d had one foot in h*ll just a moment earlier.

Save him? More like almost let him get killed!

If he’d been a bit slower to act...

At that moment, the situation completely changed.

The masked man, after throwing Xu Xiaoshou into the air, lost total control of the “Restricting Sword Energy” on the nine elders because of the effect of the “Infernal Heavens.”

Nobody missed this window of opportunity.

“Do it!”

The nine white-haired old men freed themselves from the sword energy and flew away with a whizz. The spiritual source filled the air, causing a few cracks to appear in the empty space.

As Elder Sang was giving the magical pill to Xu Xiaoshou, Ye Xiaotian pulled down a piece of space and smashed it at the masked man, no longer able to restrain himself.

A large hole appeared in the sky, but it automatically repaired itself.

Yet, in the brief moment that the hole was open, Xu Xiaoshou was nearly sucked in by the suction and might’ve been finished if not for Elder Sang pulling him back.

“Stop!” Elder Sang shouted.

Xu Xiaoshou was flabbergasted. Why was Elder Sang trying to stop the attack? This was obviously the best opportunity to attack together.

And the power of the “Hand of Ripping Heaven”...

Xu Xiaoshou swore that it was the most astounding spiritual technique he’d ever witnessed.

Nobody paid attention to Elder Sang. Ye Xiaotian’s “Hand of Ripping Heaven” had instantaneously appeared in front of the masked man and was bearing down on his head.

Bah!

The masked man leisurely stuck out one of his fingers. This time Xu Xiaoshou saw it clearly. It was indeed the Finger Blessed with Sword Will, but the move looked rather weak.

Yet, the next moment, a flash of white light passed through the pierced space and through the figure of Ye Xiaotian.

The expected spilling of blood didn’t occur, as it was only Ye Xiaotian’s afterimage.

“Boom!”

The torn space struck down. The empty space turned completely into powders, and a large black hole appeared.

Xu Xiaoshou’s jaw almost dropped to the ground. How could anyone survive this attack?

It wasn’t possible!

He lifted his head and sensed that the masked man, who’d been struck by the torn space, was also just an afterimage.

A figure appeared in the sky before Ye Xiaotian could steady himself, and two fingers were thrust into his throat.

“Whoa!”

Fresh blood poured out, reddening Ye Xiaotian’s white hair. His eyes were full of astonishment.

The masked man materialized in front of Ye Xiaotian and jeered, “Your spatial quality isn’t bad, but your fighting will is a bit weak. I guessed it would be...”

The masked man twisted Ye Xiaotian’s arms behind his back and looked down at the nine elders below. “If you do anything, he dies,” he said coldly.

“You...” one of the elders began, but the masked man ran his two fingers across and one of Ye Xiaotian’s arms fell off into the empty space.

“The same will happen to the speaker.”

It was deadly quiet!

At that moment, time seemed to freeze. Nobody dared to breathe loudly, let alone speak. They were all afraid that the Tiansang Spirit Palace would lose its Chief of the Inner Yard if they made a wrong move.

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes were full of terror. He tightly clenched his fists, feeling his blood boil.

Perhaps this man was indeed a member of an evil organization. However, he'd never witnessed a swordsman suppress a whole arena all on his own before until now.

Cultivation master, for him at the moment, was the highest level for cultivation.

But he was certain that none of the nine elders was below the Master Level.

Including Xiao Qixiu, who had lost the ability to fight, and Ye Xiaotian, who was a hostage at the moment, and Elder Sang, who was holding him, Xu Xiaoshou believed their cultivation levels were certainly higher than Master Level.

Yet, all these cultivators together couldn't even graze the masked man.

He was a true swordsman, and indeed reckless!

As long as one achieved a high cultivation level, one could definitely enter any inner yard and care less about assassination attempts from the innateness. They would all be rubbish...

"Pah!"

Elder Sang slapped Xu Xiaoshou on the head, making him snap out of his dizziness.

"What are you thinking at such a young age?"

"Don't learn from such a person, who will die earlier than the others!"

Xu Xiaoshou "..."

He uttered an "oh" before falling silent, but he had a vague idea brewing in his head.

Elder Sang sighed. He was fully aware of what this young man had on his mind.

Looking at the masked man, Elder Sang fell silent as well.

He was indeed someone who had dominated an era. Therefore, his reappearance had attracted others' admiration.

"I wish it wasn't you who'd come tonight," Elder Sang said.

"If it weren't for me, you would have already caught the person," the masked man looked at Elder Sang.

Elder Sang sighed, "You take your leave, and I won't stop you."

The nine elders were upset, but they couldn't utter a single word when they saw Ye Xiaotian in pain.

Well, what could they do if they didn't let him go?

The Tiansang Spirit Palace was quite big, but not enough.

All the members of the palace had come out in order to capture the masked man. The foundation of the palace would be harmed if they kept on fighting.

It was evident that the masked man had no intention of leaving. While holding Ye Xiaotian he said, "I just want to take an object. I won't hurt anybody."

"With this old man here, you won't be able to take away a blade of grass from the Tiansang Spirit Palace, let alone a sword." Elder Sang was furious.

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly realized that the masked man wanted to take a sword.

What kind of sword was worth the protection from all of the Tiansang Spirit Palace?

Xu Xiaoshou was curious, but it was obvious that he couldn't ask. He knew very well that he shouldn't joke around in such a serious situation.

The masked man flashed a grin. "Do you think you can guard it all the time?"

"Are you threatening me?" Elder Sang was so angry that the conical hat over his head seemed to raise up. "The Tiansang Spirit Palace is my second home. Where would I be but here to guard it?"

Xu Xiaoshou wanted to ask where his first home was, but he thought better of it and reminded himself that he shouldn't behave too impishly.

The masked man didn't respond. Then, he suddenly turned to Xu Xiaoshou and said, "Give this lad to me, and I'll leave without looking back."

Xu Xiaoshou: "? ? ?"

"D*mn," he thought. "Didn't you come here for the sword? So why are you focused on me?"

"Is this world sick? Everybody focuses on me."

"I don't think I'm so outstanding."

Elder Sang became furious, as if he'd been rubbed the wrong way. "You must have a death wish!"

In a split second, the air filled with white smoke, and the empty space warped, as if it were being burned by scorching temperatures.

"Hahaha!"

The masked man's laughter alone was very eerie, but coupled with his hoarse voice, the sound could torture one's soul.

"You're Wen Ming, right? Wait for me. I'll be back for you." The masked man broke through the empty space with his two fingers and disappeared without a trace.

Wen Ming?

Xu Xiaoshou was startled for a second and then madly nodded his head.

"Yes, yes, yes!" he thought.

“My name is Wen Ming, and you must come back to find me!

“The name is also the code. You must remember it right and don’t forget it!”

“Even though your name is not the correct one,” the masked man said, “I will remember your face...”

As his voice gradually faded away, Xu Xiaoshou found himself in a daze.

“D*mn it!” he thought.

“Why do you also have to remember my face? Just remember my name.”

“Who is Wen Ming?” Elder Sang asked with lowered head as he watched the masked man disappear into the horizon.

“That isn’t important!” Xu Xiaoshou wildly waved his hands and hastily said, “Where can one get a makeover? I’ll be back.”