

Refining 1001

Chapter 1001 - Cage of the Rules

Cultivators who hadn't yet entered the God boundary comprehended the truths of the heavens and earth to become aware of the power of the Laws. Then, they opened up their own Great Dao, condensing their God Mark and entering the God boundary.

Strictly speaking, every complete Law represented a path to being promoted to the God boundary.

Obtain one of them and one can rise to the God boundary, producing a transformation in the level of their life. One's strength would rise and they would obtain a much longer lifespan.

Understanding three or four Laws was considered adequate. If one could obtain five or more, then they were an extraordinary talent in the eyes of the common people.

Of course, the enlightenment here was complete and whole, without any incompleteness.

Because of the soul and one's limited cultivation level, comprehending the rules before one entered the God boundary was difficult.

It was generally recognized that if one was able to control seven rules before entering the God boundary, they had a chance of becoming an Origin God.

For instance, even though the East Zhou Family could gather several hundred Origin Gods easily, they were scattered through dozens and dozens of worlds both large and small.

Calculating carefully, each world had at most a handful of Origin Gods. They were terrifying existences that stood upon at the highest heavens.

Of course, there were countless changes and variations in the vast world and there were always things that occurred outside of normal conditions.

For instance, there were some cultivators that had an amazing natural soul sensitivity, or perhaps they possessed extraordinary talent in perceiving the Laws of the heavens and earth, or perhaps they even relied on some outside strength, but they were able to perceive numerous Laws before entering the God boundary.

In this sort of situation, they would try to grasp as many Laws of the heavens and earth as possible before they entered the God boundary. The reason was simple – the more accumulations one gathered before entering the God boundary, the more potential they had.

Everyone understood the concept that good preparation was the key to success. Generally speaking, there was nothing wrong with this, but it was just a little different when applied to breaking through to the God boundary.

The specific reason, if described by a researcher, would be an extremely complicated and specialized topic. Roughly summarized, if a soul that hadn't yet reached the God boundary had too many marks of the rules, then it would be like layers of threads forming a pupa, spinning up a cage that eventually transformed into shackles binding down one's cultivation.

These shackles targeted a cultivator when they attempted the transformation of their life level, just before they reached the God boundary. Simply put, the more rules one comprehended, the tighter these shackles would be until they permanently sealed a cultivator inside so that they would never reach the God boundary for the rest of their life.

And after countless years of innumerable attempts by cultivators, it was finally determined that the maximum number of rules one could comprehend was ten. That's right, before entering the God boundary, if one controlled more than ten rules, that would naturally form an intangible but real cage that prevented them from advancing.

As for Qin Yu...even though no one knew how many rules he actually controlled, through the incident of Stranded God Valley, it could be inferred that he controlled at least several hundred of them...or even more!

This was an impassable line formed by the equivalent of dozens and dozens of cages. It could be imagined how strong those cultivation shackles would be.

To break into the God boundary...hoho, the hopes of this were likely so slim that they could be ignored.

No matter what their true emotions were, the eyes that fell on Qin Yu in the pavilion showed hints of pity.

If one didn't enter the God boundary then they wouldn't be able to increase the level of their life and transform their soul. Their future achievements would be limited.

The Qin Yu of today was tyrannically strong and was no weaker than them. In fact, he might even be a bit stronger.

But so what?

As the years passed they would continue advancing and rising to higher levels. Eventually, there would be no comparing the difference in strength between them.

This was the cruel and tragic conclusion that cultivators who died in despair obtained over the countless years, using themselves as an example.

Shang Lingyu sighed, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu, I have no idea what happened to you, but the taboo of comprehending too many rules before entering the God boundary is something that any cultivator who possesses an inheritance would be reminded about."

He shook his head, looking regretful.

It seemed he could already see Qin Yu's lonely back as he walked away after receiving an immense psychological attack.

But what was unexpected was that after hearing all of this, Qin Yu only furrowed his eyebrows for a moment before composing himself.

"Oh, so that's how it is."

What was this reply?

If he was just calm then it might seem a bit suspicious, but in this calmness there was clearly some relaxation.

Could it be that he didn't know his future road of cultivation had already been thoroughly severed?

That for his remaining life, he would be restricted below the God boundary? That when his life came to an end, he would be filled with unwillingness as he returned to the earth?

Anyone who faced this sort of situation shouldn't be able to maintain their composure. Or did Qin Yu suffer too great a shock and he was now left in a haze of confusion?

East Zhou Duly hesitated for a moment before she softly said, "Qin Yu, nothing in this world is predetermined. Just because others cannot achieve something doesn't mean there is no hope for you."

He was the disciple of a Ruler. Even though he hadn't been genuinely acknowledged yet, with this status he might have a chance.

After all, that was a supreme, omnipotent Ruler!

But all of this was things that would happen in the future. The Path of 10,000 Souls was going to open soon. Qin Yu was doomed to miss it.

As for her, she would lose her greatest boost.

Qin Yu looked at East Zhou Duly. He could clearly feel her helplessness and the other complex emotions in her eyes. After thinking about it, he understood why she was like this.

He smiled and said, "Miss East Zhou, may I ask how much time there is before the Path of 10,000 Souls opens?"

Every person that obtained a spot to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls would establish an invisible connection to it.

The existence of this connection allowed them to judge the approximate time before the Path of 10,000 Souls would open. Once it was opened, they would be directly dragged inside.

To be exact, it was a bit presumptuous for Qin Yu to ask this, but East Zhou Duly paused for a moment before answering, "Seven days."

Qin Yu said, "That's enough." He cupped his hands together, "Then I must ask Miss East Zhou to arrange a place for me to enter seclusion. I will emerge within seven days."

Although he didn't speak the reason, everyone understood why Qin Yu wanted to go into seclusion – within seven days, he wanted to break through his limits and condense his God Mark, reaching the God boundary!

The pavilion fell silent.

The eyes that fell on Qin Yu were stunned. After a short astonishment, they shined with absurdity.

Reaching the God boundary in seven days?

Even common cultivators that wanted to knock on the World's Dragon Gate and condense their God Mark had to make many preparations in order to have a great chance of success.

Moreover, Qin Yu was facing a difficult conundrum himself.

East Zhou Duly's eyes brightened. If she didn't know Qin Yu's 'true status', she would have thought he was joking.

But the one standing behind him was a supreme Ruler!

To change something rotten into something wonderful, to turn despair into hope...although it was unbelievable, that didn't mean there was no chance.

Because a Ruler controlled all and subverted all!

"That's no problem. There is an excellent seclusion chamber in my residence right now. If you cultivate there you will experience no disturbance!"

A Ruler-level teacher or whatever, that certainly didn't exist in Qin Yu's mind.

In fact, with his current level, he didn't even know that there was such a terrifying existence like a Ruler in this world.

But he was still confident he could break through the shackles of his cultivation and transform himself, rising to the God boundary. This was because he had the jade embryo egg, and also the sun and moon force field. Qin Yu's level of life had already surpassed this world and was no longer limited by the heavens and earth.

Because the numerous rule brand marks in the soul that formed shackles on a person's cultivation when they were too numerous... was originally a limit that came from the heavens and earth.

So none of this was a problem to Qin Yu. If he wanted to break through to the God boundary then he could break through to the God boundary. There was nothing difficult about it, and it was even something that would be much easier for him than for other cultivators.

East Zhou Duly sent people to explain the situation to Snowside. Qin Yu didn't delay and immediately entered seclusion.

Although he didn't feel any pressure breaking into the God boundary, this was still his first time doing so. Without any previous experience, it was always better to be cautious.

The Path of 10,000 Souls had at most seven days before it opened. He couldn't allow any accidents to occur before then.

No matter what, he had to enter.

With East Zhou Duly's current status in the family, the training chamber in her personal dwelling was top class.

At the very least, it was the best one that Qin Yu had ever seen until now. Not only was it large and spacious, but the quality of the construction and the materials used were all incredibly precious. For instance, there was an unknown type of white jade stone used to tile the floor. It had the effect of

purifying the mind and amplifying one's ability to sense the world's rules. It increased one's cultivation efficiency by 10% at the minimum.

Qin Yu sat down on a round cushion and rubbed his forehead. The road of cultivation spoke about an ordered path. Once one reached a certain limit, they would naturally be able to break into a higher boundary.

If they had people guiding the way, everything would be better. Not only could a person avoid any detours but they might make unexpected gains.

As a person with a 'great background' which even shook the great East Zhou Family, Qin Yu couldn't ask them for advice about cultivating even if he wanted to.

But that was fine, because he had an even better candidate now.

He closed his eyes. With a thought, he passed through the formidable contract that was signed and his consciousness contacted something in the far-off distance.

Hum –

A moment later, Qin Yu's consciousness was dragged into the world of his mind. A towering stone pagoda appeared before him. It stood as tall as the clouds and it was formed of white jade, emitting endless light.

"You want to break through to the God boundary? You want to break through now?"

Before Qin Yu could open his mouth, the stone pagoda seemed to learn everything. Its thought fluctuations echoed around him, filled with mockery, as if asking if his head was rusted.

Qin Yu looked up at the sky-reaching stone pagoda and calmly said, "That's right." His two simple words revealed his strong resolve.

The stone pagoda fell silent.

It wasn't that it had been shaken by the determination in Qin Yu's words. Rather, it was digesting the fact that it had encountered such a stupid master.

And most importantly, this master wasn't its choice. Rather, in a helpless situation where it faced life or death, it had no choice but to select him.

Qin Yu could be called the lesser of two evils.

"Are you stupid!?" The stone pagoda roared out loud. It leapt up from the ground and bent over, like someone bending their waist and staring tightly at Qin Yu, "I don't care what the reason is, but if you break through to the God boundary now, you will definitely regret it in the future!"

Qin Yu lightly said, "Then I'll regret it."

"I absolutely disagree with this."

"You may not agree, but I am not here to ask you for your opinion on this matter." Qin Yu narrowed his eyes, "Perhaps you have forgotten your current status...anything I say, just do it."

Bang –

The earth fiercely shook. In the world of his mind, black clouds surged out from the blue skies and strong winds howled.

Qin Yu raised his hands and pointed a finger. Everything instantly vanished from sight, as if the pause button had been pressed in this world.

“I don’t want to repeat myself a second time, understand?” The stone pagoda rapidly shrank until it was only the size of a knuckle. Then it fell into his palm.

Chapter 1002 - Won’t Remain Silent

There were no impermeable walls in the world. Even an influence as powerful as the East Zhou Family could not completely keep out all prying eyes from the outside, no matter how much they isolated themselves.

In particular, with the Path of 10,000 Souls about to open, any news related to Qin Yu was listed as the highest priority.

In a few days, the East Zhou Family had dealt with more than a dozen cultivators. Several of these cultivators had even been regarded as close confidantes of the family for many years.

Placing such spies required long-term planning and layouts, but also a certain degree of luck.

Each spy could be called incomparably precious. But now they were activated without hesitation. It could be seen how highly other influences regarded Qin Yu.

After paying a steep price, the East Zhou Family wanted to completely block all news related to Qin Yu. But they knew this was impossible.

So soon, news about his cultivation not having entered the God boundary yet was transmitted as fast as possible.

The hidden undercurrents suddenly stopped and all plans involving Qin Yu were terminated. All parties withdrew their tentacles that were probing the East Zhou Family.

As for the news that Qin Yu was going into seclusion at East Zhou Duly’s dwelling and was going to emerge within seven days...

No one believed that!

They all knew about the cage of the rules. And they were also aware of Qin Yu’s current condition. Not to mention breaking through in seven days, even if he was given a thousand years or 10,000 years, there was likely no hope for him. He would be forever locked beneath the God boundary.

Such a Qin Yu might still be strong, but every other party completely lost all desire to win him over.

The gathered attention quickly shifted and receded. Since he had no value, they naturally wouldn’t come into conflict with the East Zhou Family because of him.

...

East Zhou Duly received a notice from the Council of Elders. She was requested to choose a new follower from the alternative candidate list to replace Qin Yu as soon as possible.

As for the contract that Qin Yu signed before, he couldn't even enter the Path of 10,000 Souls so it could only be given up.

"Duly, stop daydreaming. Qin Yu's status might be honored but his investment value has fallen precipitously. Although I am not sure why he has reached this step, even if he is the disciple of a Ruler he will likely never obtain their true recognition." The one who sat across from her was an Elder who had been close to East Zhou Duly's father. "The Path of 10,000 Souls will open soon. You don't have much time remaining, so you cannot delay any longer."

He took out a jade slip and put it on the table. "This is a name list of alternative cultivators. By tomorrow, you must give the Council of Elders an answer and we will respect your decision as much as we can. You must know that the position of follower not only involves your benefits but also those of the family. So no matter what the final outcome is, I cannot guarantee it with you."

"Great uncle..." East Zhou Duly hesitated.

The Elder frowned. When he looked at her his thoughts raced. He thought of something and his complexion became even sterner. "Duly, the Path of 10,000 Souls involves your future and you cannot allow any risks. I don't care what relationship there is between you and Qin Yu, but he has lost the chance to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls. You should also know this. Don't have any more fantasies. Give me a name tomorrow. Do you understand?"

East Zhou Duly took a deep breath and stood up, "Yes, great uncle."

When the Elder left, she turned and looked at the place where Qin Yu was in seclusion. A bitter smile crossed her face.

Qin Yu, if you really can break into the God boundary, then hurry up!

...

In the training chamber.

Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. A turbulent but vague aura lingered around him. It was majestic yet muted, giving off a constrained feeling.

He had encountered a problem.

The cage of the rules was indeed not able to cause any trouble for Qin Yu. Wrapped within the sun and moon force field, he was an existence that surpassed the world.

The issue appeared after he made a breakthrough in his cultivation, as he was condensing his God Mark.

Originally, when a cultivator knocked open the World's Dragon Gate, the Great Dao rules they perceived would voluntarily weave together. Bound together by an invisible strength, they would condense into a complete God Mark, signifying one's true entry into the God boundary.

But Qin Yu seemed to have too many Great Dao rules that he used to condense his God mark. Or perhaps it could be said that the mystical strength that arrived from nothingness wasn't enough, at least not enough to support the rules of the heavens and earth until the condensation was fully completed. As for his current cultivation, it was stuck at the threshold beneath and at the God boundary.

He had broken through the limit and completed the transformation of his life level. He was at the God boundary, but he actually wasn't able to smoothly condense his God Mark. As a result, he couldn't achieve normal integration with the heavens and earth.

If he couldn't fuse with it then he would be repulsed. This was the reason for the muted and constrained feeling he gave off.

And what caused Qin Yu to bitterly smile was that as time passed, this repulsing strength grew stronger and stronger.

At this increasing speed, even if his mortal body was tyrannical he wouldn't be able to survive much longer. Sooner or later, all that awaited him was the fate of being crushed to pieces.

He broke through to the God boundary but wasn't able to form his God Mark, and as a result was repulsed by the heavens and earth and would then slowly be crushed to death...if Qin Yu really died like this, he believed he could enter the top ten ranks of cultivators who died in the most tragic and pitiful way.

So he couldn't accept this unfathomably pitiful result.

"Is this why you said it was too early for me to break through to the God boundary? I cannot even smoothly condense the God Mark now. If I had waited any longer and perceived any more rules, it would have been even more difficult."

In the world of his mind, Qin Yu looked at the stone pagoda with an ugly expression.

The stone pagoda was now four to five meters high. It was still clear and translucent, shining with soft white light. But, its previous momentum was all gone. One could even faintly feel a bit of awkwardness rolling off from it.

This world seemed to have changed from before. When cultivators of the ancient past broke into the God boundary, they never encountered such problems.

Facing Qin Yu's questioning, it thought that the saying 'silence was golden' made perfect sense. However, Qin Yu's following words caused the stone pagoda to change its mind.

"You may remain silent now, but if something happens to me you won't be any better off. Everyone here is a grasshopper on the same rope. If we die, we all die together."

Qin Yu was the master of the stone pagoda. He had the right to bring the stone pagoda with him into death. The stone pagoda was also well aware of this.

I don't mind hardship and misery, but death is the only thing I cannot accept...these words perfectly described the stone pagoda.

So when it heard the word 'die' come from Qin Yu's lips, it could no longer remain still.

My wonderful pagoda life has just begun again, so how could I die with a brat like you? I won't remain silent anymore!

"Cough! In truth, there is a possible method to get out of this current situation."

Chapter 1003 – Seizing World Tribulation

If the stone pagoda said there was a way then there really was a way. In this type of situation, it wouldn't dare to joke around with Qin Yu.

"Tell me." Qin Yu simply responded.

The stone pagoda was silent for a moment before beginning, "As you've sensed, when a cultivator breaks through a limit and steps into the God boundary, the world rules they control will weave together under the function of a mysterious strength, condensing into a God Mark."

"Get to the point. You should know that I don't have the time to listen to your long speech."

"...The point is that long ago, there were some people that were extremely confident in themselves. They weren't willing to hand over the condensation of their God Mark to the mystical workings of an unknown strength and thus chose to do it themselves."

If the stone pagoda had a face, it would certainly be smiling, its expression high and lofty with a trace of disdain. "Of course, with your boundary, you shouldn't know that the quality of the God Mark you form will directly correlate with the strength you will possess after stepping into the God boundary. In fact, because of the God Mark, you may even obtain certain marvelous and wondrous lucky chances that exist in the world."

"I'll tell you one more time, get to the point!"

The stone pagoda vowed that if it ever had a chance to rise up and free itself from these chains of slavery, it would surely push Qin Yu to the ground and ruthlessly rub his face into the dirt.

Didn't this fellow know that when others were putting on a performance, being a good audience member was the bare minimum he could do?

Just wait! I believe that this day will eventually arrive!

But for now...I will endure it.

"Because of certain reasons, I happen to know a method where you can voluntarily condense your own God Mark." The stone pagoda simply stated, "But I have to warn you, a God Mark isn't just weaving together brand marks of the rules and twisting them into a shape; it is far more than that. It is something that is compatible and recognized by the world. It is an extremely complex type of brand marking.

"Any mistake or deviation will cripple your God Mark...if things really arrive at that step, then even if you break into the God boundary you will be among the worst and weakest. Basically, if that were to happen, you can forget wishing about your cultivation ever increasing again. So, while there is a way, you need to consider it clearly. If a problem occurs, don't blame me for not reminding you."

Qin Yu frowned before composing himself. Less than a breath of time passed before he said, "Give me the method of forming the God Mark."

It wasn't that he was impulsive to the point where he didn't want to carefully mull over whether or not he should use this method for something as important as the God Mark. Rather, in this current situation, he had tried everything else and couldn't figure out a way.

Since he had no other path to take, then even if he knew there were dangers and he might even end up crippled, he could only brace himself and tread forwards.

Because even if he crippled himself he would at least still be alive. And as long as he was alive, there were countless possibilities in the world.

Death was the greatest terror that brought everything to an end.

In truth, even though the stone pagoda wasn't impressed by Qin Yu's cultivation and also hated the fact that he refused to coordinate with him while he was putting on a display, it had to acknowledge that Qin Yu's willpower and resolve was praiseworthy.

If it were anyone else, then even if they knew this was the only path left for them, they would hesitate over and over because it involved their future.

Taking Qin Yu as an example, the stone pagoda had met some similar people in the past, and they had always ended up doing decently well.

Perhaps this foolish master who it was helplessly forced to recognize wasn't as poor as it imagined. In the future, it might be able to slowly anticipate what may happen next.

Of course, the stone pagoda only had these thoughts in its mind. It would never reveal them.

This brat Qin Yu, he already didn't give any face to it. If he knew that it felt a bit of appreciation towards him, wouldn't he just overturn the heavens at that point?

Haha, I absolutely will not give him that opportunity!

Since you want the method to condense the God Mark, I will give it to you. As for what the result will be...that depends on your luck.

After all, no two identical God Marks existed in this world. The condensing process could only depend on Qin Yu; no one could intervene.

Hum –

A warm current flowed into his mind, then exploding into light that transformed into information. The information rushed through his body and marked itself in his soul.

Qin Yu closed his eyes, carefully perceiving the God Mark condensing method that the stone pagoda passed to him. After a long time he let out a deep breath.

So it was like this.

He really couldn't imagine what sort of shockingly talented and incredible person had invented this method in the ancient past. That person actually wanted to act on behalf of the heavens and earth, manipulating that mysterious strength for their own use and then using their own will to condense their God Mark.

Of course, one also had to realize how confident and arrogant this person must have been to dare do such a thing...after all, just a single misstep and they would be thrust into an endless abyss.

This was simply insane!

But now, Qin Yu was going to become a fellow lunatic.

He carefully deliberated over it before determining that he understood the method fully, without any confusing areas at all.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. His thoughts stirred, and the rule brand marks within his soul which hadn't been able to weave together successfully began to tremble.

This sort of vibration was produced from his soul. It started to spread out, soon reaching his body and coming into contact with the repulsing pressure of the world and producing a strange resonance with it.

Perhaps this confirmed a truth of the Great Dao...in a hopeless and desperate situation, the world was still willing to give him a ray of hope.

Because soon after, as the repulsing and crushing strength of the world began to vibrate in sync with his rules, the fluctuations began to mobilize the mystical strength that arrived from nothingness.

Passing through the shaking of his own rule brand marks and resonating with the world's repulsing strength, the mysterious strength started to weave together...this process repeated itself, but Qin Yu could feel how complex and unimaginably difficult it was to continue.

In this state, he had to perfectly condense a God Mark that matched his standards; it was almost impossible.

In the ancient past, the vast majority of cultivators who tried utilizing this method ended up screwing themselves over. Their tears were forever stained with lament and sorrow.

Even if one or two succeeded every now and then, their relative number in comparison to those that failed was so low that it could be ignored.

It was because of this that such a crazy cultivation method slowly vanished from the world, and its inheritance was lost in time.

But now, since he had come this far, there was no point in thinking over these things any more.

Qin Yu poured his mind into the trembling of the brand markings of the rules. He tried to increase the revolutions of the mysterious strength.

As for what kind of God Mark he needed to condense...

To be honest, he didn't have any specific concept in mind. But when it came to condensing the God Mark, there was a phrase people often said: Every person was different and the way they melded together with the world was different. Let your desires freely flow and simply follow the path it takes.

The approximate meaning was that humans were all different and the God Marks they formed were equally different. As long as one acted according to how they felt, they would obtain a God Mark that suited them.

Of course, the premise was that they walked the right path. If they took a wrong turn or fell into a slippery ditch, then that would be too embarrassing.

But Qin Yu waited for a long time and discovered a serious problem. Why didn't this feeling appear even now?

Without that feeling, it was like waiting for nothing. It was like blind people discussing the color of milk, or having him taste plain boiled water and asking him if it was spicy or bitter...he had no idea!

What to do?

Could the stone pagoda have placed him in a trap?

But this wasn't right. There was zero advantage to doing that.

If Qin Yu suffered bad luck, it wouldn't be able to stand on the side and watch while having fun. Its fate would likely be even more pitiful than Qin Yu's.

Then why?

Qin Yu wanted to know the reason why, but the reason was no longer the most important issue at hand. If he couldn't follow his feelings, he could only rely on his intuition. If this was true, then the God Mark he ended up finally condensing would certainly be 'emotional'.

His lips felt a bit bitter, but since he had reached the point of no return he had no choice but to continue onwards.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. With a thought, the rule brand marks in his soul began to gently move.

Bang –

A loud noise exploded in his mind. It was a sound far more terrifying than ten thunderclaps exploding in his ears. Qin Yu felt his consciousness immediately fly up into the air. Then, everything fell into darkness.

If his consciousness was dispersed then he would lose control of the strength in his body. When that happened and the condensing process of the God Mark stopped, he would suffer a backlash from the heavens and earth.

He was violating the majesty of the heavens and earth, trying to use his own will to condense his God Mark. If he succeeded then it would have been fine, but if he failed he would have to pay a dire price.

The consequences were something that the current Qin Yu wouldn't be able to withstand.

But the most horrifying outcome didn't appear. Because after Qin Yu's consciousness fell into darkness, the rule brand marks within his soul were wrapped up by an invisible strength and started 'knitting' themselves together.

A God Mark outline gradually appeared. Its degree of complexity was beyond imagination. Just looking at it left a person's brain feeling pained and swollen. It meant that this unformed God Seal already possessed a certain degree of terrifying power.

In the next moment, the trembling brand marks of the rules around Qin Yu that had resonated with the repulsing strength of the world started to tumble and surge. They became like giant stone mills that spun around, wanting to grind him into powder.

As if the heavens and earth had sensed this particular aura and decided it would not allow this God Mark to appear in the world.

Bang –

There was a shocking thunderclap, like tall mountains moving at high speed and crashing into each other.

A power broke free from within Qin Yu's body and started to contend with the crushing strength of the world...and it didn't fall behind at all.

But one couldn't forget that at the same time, this mysterious power was helping Qin Yu condense the God Mark.

From this, one could infer that even if it resisted the crushing strength of the world, it still easily did its job. It was difficult to imagine how great this strength actually was.

Externally, it resisted the crushing strength of the heavens and earth. Internally, it condensed the God Mark. But, this God Mark was far too complicated, so much so that even the quantity of rule brand marks within Qin Yu's soul couldn't support its continued condensation.

If the amount wasn't enough, what could he do?

The best and most direct method was certainly to make up the gap.

The strength that guided the formation of the God Mark slowed down for a moment. Then, with a roar, it erupted from within Qin Yu's body.

The feeling was like a great beast that had been slumbering for countless years finally awakening from its sleep with a deep roar.

The crushing strength of the heavens and earth stagnated for a moment. Then, it exploded into pieces.

In the next moment, the torn pieces of the strength of the heavens and earth howled into Qin Yu's body. His body was like an infinite abyss that could swallow everything as it inhaled all of these torn fragments.

East Zhou Duly's personal training chambers were built according to extremely high specifications. But in the face of this power, it was as fragile as an eggshell. It shattered and broke into countless pieces.

As a result, the entire East Zhou Family residence was alarmed.

Countless cultivators looked up with amazement. They turned towards the direction where Qin Yu was, and they could clearly hear the lamenting wails of the heavens and earth.

Like a weakling being ruthlessly beaten up again and again.

The higher a person's cultivation was then the clearer they sensed it and the more dignified their complexions became. Endless awe and amazement shined in their eyes...because at this moment, someone was seizing the world's tribulation and was forcibly integrating the world's rules into their body!

In the world, there were countless rules, endless Great Daos.

They existed here because they evolved from the heavens and earth. They could be understood, controlled...and also plundered.

But the premise was that one needed enough strength to achieve this, and they had to achieve it without dying from a backlash of the world afterwards.

Originally, they thought this was something that only existed in the legends, but now they were able to determine that such a fierce character truly existed.

The place where this occurred was East Zhou Duly's dwelling. After a brief inquiry, they discovered that the person who caused such a stir was Qin Yu.

The East Zhou Family was left shaken.

Chapter 1004 – Don't Even Think About It

Even something like directly plundering the world's rules had taken place in front of them. If so, then breaking through the cage of rules and condensing one's God Mark should be easy, right?

Compared to that, it wasn't anything at all!

Could it be that Qin Yu's mystical teacher had finally made a move?

Ruler...

Perhaps only such an unsurpassed existence that dominated above the infinite realms and myriad worlds, even replacing a part of the heavens and earth, could have such a terrifying ability.

Their judgment was clearly wrong.

Qin Yu absolutely wasn't a Ruler's disciple who had been abandoned, one who would have difficulty raising his head in the future.

On the contrary. If this person could have a Ruler personally take action and help him break through to the God boundary, then this was surely the descendant that they liked and appreciated the most.

The status and value of such a Qin Yu rose more than a hundred times over from before!

But what caused the East Zhou Family to feel sad was that the stir Qin Yu caused today was far, far too large. It was so large that there was no way they could cover it up. In other words, news of today's events would soon spread throughout all quarters.

To plunder the world's rules for himself and smoothly break through to the God boundary...even if others didn't know that he was a Ruler's disciple, they would still crazily compete for him.

"Duly, you and Qin Yu are old acquaintances. No matter what price you must pay, you must have him remain in the family. You absolutely cannot lose him!" The Elder who warned East Zhou Duly to choose a different follower had now completely reversed his position.

The Elder hesitated for a moment before saying, "While it seems inappropriate for me to say this, if there are any feelings between you and Qin Yu, you must tightly hold onto them. If you can end up with him, then that will be your life's greatest lucky chance. Even the entire East Zhou Family will profit as a result!"

East Zhou Duly revealed an awkward expression before helplessly saying, "Elder, you are overthinking things. Although I am old acquaintances with Qin Yu, it would be better to describe it as a brief cooperation. Nothing else was involved."

The Elder smiled. He softly said, "Duly, you are being confused by the situation...with Qin Yu's status, he has countless methods to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls. Why would he choose to make things difficult for himself and chase you all the way here to willingly become your follower?"

East Zhou Duly's heart skipped a beat. While she thought the chances of what the Elder said weren't that great, a red flush started to creep up her face.

Because...his words made sense and seemed reasonable. Could Qin Yu really like her...Qin Yu's figure appeared in her mind and she suddenly became flustered. She took a deep breath and suppressed these haphazard thoughts.

"Elder, rest assured. No matter what the reality is, I will do my best to have Qin Yu stay here."

"Good. If you need any support from the family, just tell us. The East Zhou Family will support you with the highest degree of authority we possess." The Elder had a dignified expression, "You should know that right now, Qin Yu will be the strongest force you can draw support from. If you can be on good terms with him and he supports you with a clear attitude, that will have endless benefits for you in the future."

Not staying for much longer, the Elder left in a hurry. The East Zhou Family seemed to have expected the sudden downpour and storm that would soon follow. Even if they were confident in their strength, they had to fully prepare themselves for the battle that was to come in order to prevent any accidents occurring and being exploited.

As East Zhou Duly was feeling shy and awkwardly contemplating whether she should try using her beauty to enchant Qin Yu, news of his breakthrough to the God boundary and the storm he caused in doing so rapidly spread out.

After confirming the authenticity of this news, Qin Yu's value, which had been lost, suddenly increased numerous times over from its original state. He became the focus of attention once again.

To plunder the heavens and earth for his own use...although they had no idea what happened in Qin Yu's God boundary breakthrough, this in itself was enough for all parties to have confidence in him.

The cage of rules could surely not imprison him. His breakthrough to the God boundary was already a certainty!

Such a Qin Yu was even more unfathomably deep and mysterious. He was wrapped in layers of fog, making a person feel instinctual awe.

That's right, it was awe!

To plunder the heavens and earth and seize its strength for oneself, just what boundary was needed to accomplish this? Although no one knew for sure, they could roughly guess it.

It seemed that the supposed transcendent teacher that stood behind Qin Yu was greater than they thought...they feared that this teacher's strength was truly transcendent!

Of course, no one believed that the stir Qin Yu caused today was done by himself. If so, only one possibility remained; that towering figure behind him had taken action.

For this kind of unsurpassed existence to take action, plundering the good fortune of the heavens and earth to give to him, how could Qin Yu's status be ordinary? He was likely a treasured and highly regarded disciple.

Ignoring the Path of 10,000 Souls, just the status and traits that he revealed so far were enough to spur every influence to try and gain his friendship.

No one was stupid. If they could be close with Qin Yu then they could naturally take a turn around him and get in touch with the mountain behind him.

Just this point alone was enough for some people to make their own attempts. They were willing to take some risks, even if it meant getting their wrists broken by the East Zhou Family.

After all, as influences that had the qualifications to obtain a spot in the Path of 10,000 Souls, they were all somewhat confident in themselves.

It was said that the East Zhou Family's Fourth Miss was a genuine beauty...

It was said that East Zhou Duly was an old acquaintance of Qin Yu...

It was said that both sides spoke to each other often and their behavior was close and intimate...

Know thyself and know thy enemy, only then would one be undefeated. If there was an influence that could rise up from the infinite realms and myriad worlds, becoming a powerful force in their own right, they would certainly understand this truth.

Since it was decided that they would compete with the East Zhou Family for Qin Yu, they had to seek out the key to the entire matter in order to get twice the results with half the effort.

And now, as news spread out through various secret channels, the various influences came to the same conclusion as if by prior agreement – the reason that Qin Yu went to the East Zhou Family was East Zhou Duly.

If it was said that they didn't feel envy then that would be a lie. After all, the East Zhou Family didn't do anything at all; they only had the good luck of giving birth to such a beautiful and outstanding young woman. With that, they were able to form relations with Qin Yu first. In the future, they might even obtain bigger benefits.

Luckily, we are also large families and we also have many outstanding daughters. There will always be a chance in the future.

The problem is, what excuse do we make to approach Qin Yu without being loathed by him? And how do we tear open all the hindrances and barriers that the East Zhou Family put up?

Flies could always find cracks on the surface of an egg no matter how small they were. This description might not be appropriate, but it was enough to express the approximate intent and meaning of the other influences.

As long as they wanted to find a reason, they would always manage to find one. For instance, within the East Zhou Family, there was a certain Elder who was going to be holding his 3000 year birthday celebration.

As for us, we have always been on good terms with the East Zhou Family. Since we know about this, it's completely reasonable for us to visit to pay our respects and offer congratulations. It wouldn't be considered rude at all.

We took the initiative to celebrate a person's birthday. With so much courtesy and thoughtfulness, no matter how reluctant the East Zhou Family was, they couldn't push people away, right?

Of course, it is only the 3000 year birthday celebration of an Elder, so it isn't enough for the high-level figures to go. In that case, it's appropriate to dispatch some outstanding juniors.

As a result, a certain not well-known Elder of the East Zhou Family was left dumbfounded as he received countless birthday greeting jade slips. The youths on the list all had immense backgrounds too.

If this were any other time, then receiving these jade slips would certainly cause one's honor to rise dramatically and it would be enough for a person to brag about for hundreds of years.

But now, even an idiot knew what sort of game these guests were trying to play. All of them were hurrying over for this celebration with dark intentions in mind.

Otherwise, why would so many cultivators and young ladies renowned for their beauty appear on the list of guests?

This was just so...ridiculous!

A certain Elder of the East Zhou Family cried without tears. He never imagined he would be a raft that others would take advantage of to cause trouble. In particular, when he saw the discontented eyes aimed at him from the Council of Elders, he felt even more anxious.

Hey, I am just a new and ordinary young Elder without any influence. If I offend any of these big brothers here, my future will certainly be pitiful to the extreme.

But I have already replied and said that the birthday banquet was cancelled for some reason, yet those people didn't answer back at all. They are clearly pretending that they don't know anything, so what am I supposed to do? I am also feeling helpless here!

The East Zhou Patriarch was expressionless, "Since they are so enthusiastic, my East Zhou Family will not refuse them. If they want to come then let them come. After all, they'll find an excuse as long as they want one. We cannot avoid this in the end."

He had already left seclusion. Although he had only vanished briefly, the feeling he gave off had changed immensely.

The ubiquitous oppression that used to linger around his entire body had disappeared. Now there was only a loose calmness and carefreeness.

Even if one stood in front of him he seemed far away in the distance. His aura was unsteady and couldn't be captured at all.

Everyone knew that the Patriarch had made harvests during his seclusion. Even if he didn't make a breakthrough, his cultivation bottleneck had loosened.

As long as he was given enough time, there was a high chance he could break through his current cultivation and reach the boundary of strongest beneath a Ruler!

And this was all thanks to the advantages that Qin Yu brought to the East Zhou Family after coming here. As long as they remained on good terms with him, there would be even more benefits in the future.

How could they let such a Qin Yu be stolen by others? Hum hum, so what if there are beautiful women? Do you think my East Zhou Family doesn't have any? Don't even think of taking him from us!

Chapter 1005A – A True God is Born

The noisy rings of bells and gongs filled the air. The atmosphere was bustling and festive, and guests from all around showed up, each one of them with a precious status.

But what a pity, even though the banquet was being enthusiastically carried out, a pall of vigilance shrouded the entire scene.

Because as the host family and guests made eye contact with each other, a faint smile touched their lips, as if one side was telling the other to keep on dreaming, and the other was saying that they would all rely on their own skills to achieve their goal.

The birthday star who had lived for 3000 years sat in the seat of honor, wearing celebratory red robes. Even so, his face was drained of blood, making him look especially pale.

He was a pitiful sight. He had started preparing for this birthday banquet ten years ago and he never imagined that such a terrifying matter would occur.

As the birthday star was placed in a difficult and embarrassing situation at his own birthday banquet, Qin Yu suddenly opened his eyes. His eyes were dark and blank for a long time. Then, his pupils fiercely shrank and he quickly scanned his body.

During the process of the God Mark being condensed, he had suddenly fallen unconscious and lost control of his strength. Just thinking about the possible consequences left him with a cold sweat covering his body.

But now...things were different than they seemed. After a short period of shock, he froze where he was.

In the infinite skies in the world of his mind, an incomparably complex God Mark hovered there, formed of countless woven rule lines. Not only were they intertwined with each other, but hundreds of thousands of these lines also hung down like a curtain.

The surface of each line sparkled with light. The number of them was so high that it was impossible to count. It was like the stars from the heavens had been plucked down and placed on these lines, giving them a feeling of magnificence and dignity.

This was...his God Mark? He had broken through? But the issue was, just how had he made a breakthrough? He was a bit confused about this.

He certainly didn't know that in this world, there was a saying that had been passed down from ancient times: When the God Mark condenses, the endless sea of stars is taken down from the skies, hung on a curtain of beads and establishing a new legend.

That's right, beginning from today, Qin Yu had started his own legend...it was just that he still had no idea right now.

"What happened?" Qin Yu muttered to himself, frowning.

There was no beginning and no end to this question, but the one who was being asked naturally knew. After a short silence, a slightly dejected fluctuation of consciousness from the stone pagoda entered his mind, "If I told you that the connection between you and me was just restored at this moment, would you believe it?"

Only the heavens knew how excited it had been when its contract connection to Qin Yu had suddenly vanished. In this sort of situation, the most likely probability was that its master Qin Yu had died, thus its freedom was restored.

But Qin Yu was clearly a bastard who didn't like to do things according to common sense. Not only had he not died, he unexpectedly made a breakthrough.

No, this wasn't just a breakthrough. In its senses, the God Mark Qin Yu formed wasn't too formidable, but it sent out a faint aura that caused it to feel suppressed.

This suppression that came from a higher level was what the stone pagoda found most difficult to accept, because this indicated that Qin Yu's God Mark was even more noble than its own.

This was just...how was this even possible?

But no matter how much disbelief it felt, the truth was placed right in front of it. The stone pagoda couldn't help but begin to wonder...was Qin Yu someone that was playing the role of pig to eat the tiger?

Could it be that he had some immense background, some unfathomably great origin? How else could the current situation be explained?

As the stone pagoda's thoughts were in a mess, Qin Yu rubbed his forehead. Through the contract connection he knew that the stone pagoda wasn't lying – it really had no idea what happened.

With a thought, he disconnected from the stone pagoda. The sun and moon force field within his soul space began to revolve, separating him from the outside world.

Besides the stone pagoda, Qin Yu had someone even more reliable he could ask. It was just that during this recent period of time it had been unusually silent.

He sent over a thought fluctuation through their connection. But like a pebble dropped into a sea, he didn't obtain any response.

Qin Yu felt helpless. That little blue lamp fellow was growing increasingly silent these days. He had no idea what it was doing.

He took a deep breath and stood up.

Whatever. In any case, what happened was a good thing for him. If he couldn't find a reason now, he would figure it out later. Everything in this world occurred for a reason. Since it happened, there would come a day when he learned why.

East Zhou Duly's training chamber had been practically destroyed. Qin Yu emerged from the ruins. As he looked around, his lips twitched as he revealed an awkward expression.

Before, he clearly remembered that outside East Zhou Duly's training chamber was an incomparably exquisite garden filled with all sorts of rare and precious flowers and other plants.

But now, the ground had been almost thoroughly overturned. The rubble was piled up and countless crushed stones littered the area. Everything had been destroyed.

She had lent him her training chambers out of good intentions but this was the end result. While he knew that East Zhou Duly would be happy that he broke through to the God boundary, he still felt uncomfortable about this.

Before Qin Yu could think more, a respectful voice sounded out, "May I ask, did Mister Qin come out of seclusion?"

Qin Yu answered and someone flickered into sight. They took several steps forward and bowed deeply. "Greetings, Mister Qin."

This person was a fresh face. His aura was average, but Qin Yu could feel the boundless strength hidden within his body. It was like a deeply slumbering volcano, ready to erupt at any moment.

Qin Yu's eyes sparkled and he said, "I have left seclusion. Has the Path of 10,000 Souls opened yet?"

This was the issue he cared for the most right now.

The cultivator said, "Mister, there is no need to worry; the Path of 10,000 Souls has not yet opened. The miss is currently attending a longevity banquet, and requests Mister Qin's presence."

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. "Longevity banquet? I'm not interested in that. Once it's over, have East Zhou Duly come and see me."

"Mister Qin, please wait." The man bowed again, "Many honored guests have come to today's longevity feast for the sole purpose of seeing you. If you don't make an appearance today, I fear these people will not willingly leave. The Patriarch has already come out of seclusion. He and the young miss both hope that you can join them."

These words were tactful, but Qin Yu could already guess the meaning behind them.

It seemed that because of his existence, the East Zhou Family experienced some problems.

Thinking about it, this was reasonable. With the performance he just put on right before the Path of 10,000 Souls was due to open, it was inevitable that all the parties would try to compete for him.

Especially after they confirmed that he broke into the God boundary.

Qin Yu thought for a moment and nodded, "Lead the way."

"I thank you for your understanding." The cultivator relaxed. He bowed once again and turned to guide the way.

After stepping out from this nearly ruined garden, Qin Yu discovered that he still underestimated how highly the East Zhou Family valued him.

Outside the garden right now, there were several dozen cultivators just like this man in front of him.

Disregarding all else, with just their strength alone they could fight an Origin God if they worked together.

"Greetings, Mister Qin!"

Qin Yu slightly bowed. Though he maintained a calm expression, he was even more curious.

What sort of status did the East Zhou Family determine he possessed for them to treat him with such high regards?

This was a considerable misunderstanding!

At the hall of the longevity banquet, a maid leaned over and whispered into East Zhou Duly's ears. Her eyes immediately brightened. Smiling, she stood up and walked out.

As the real focus of today's longevity banquet, her actions immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Just as she stepped out of the hall, a guest on the left side of the hall, near the front, who possessed considerable status said, "May I ask where the Fourth Young Miss of the East Zhou Family is going?"

Everyone knew each other's thoughts. It was just that they were cautious of each other and didn't dare to blatantly tear apart all pretense of face. But at this time, there was no need to disguise their words any longer.

East Zhou Furu cursed inwardly. If you ask me, who am I supposed to ask? If it weren't for all of you bastards, would my 3000 year birthday celebration have turned into such dog shit?

But even if he cursed inwardly, it was all inwardly. Since everyone decided to still have some consideration for face, it was best to be friendly if possible.

He lightly coughed and smiled. Just as he was about to feign ignorance and give some random answer, a subordinate walked over and whispered into his ears. East Zhou Furu's complexion immediately changed and he waved away the subordinate. He stood up and said, "Everyone, I have invited an honored guest to attend my longevity banquet today. Please rise and join me in welcoming him."

As he finished speaking, he stood up from his table and walked into the hall.

He hadn't been an East Zhou Family Elder for long and thus his authority was limited. But, he still had the status to know about Qin Yu's 'background'.

A Ruler's disciple!

Tsk tsk, just this point alone, even ignoring Qin Yu's potential, was not something that he could hope to compare with.

The Patriarch had passed down strict orders that no one could reveal anything about Qin Yu's status to anyone. But if I have a better attitude and focus on him, even if I overstep a little, that isn't too much, right?

After all, who didn't know that while the opening of the Path of 10,000 Souls was imminent, Qin Yu was a sweet little pastry and these people here were all big bad wolves wanting to gobble him up.

Hehe, I am doing this to increase the pressure on these 'big bad wolves' and teach them that if they want to steal someone from our East Zhou Family, they are simply dreaming!

"Mister Qin!"

There was a roll call from outside the hall. This was a reception that all guests with honored statuses were given as a show of respect.

Shua –

The hall immediately fell silent. All eyes gathered at the entrance. Eyes brightened and filled with admiration. East Zhou Duly had suddenly left and East Zhou Furu had put on this act. They weren't stupid so they naturally guessed who this Mister Qin was.

They were indeed worthy of being the East Zhou Family. Their conduct was magnificent. Even if the East Zhou Family knew what they all came here for, they still continued what they were doing with great momentum.

They were clearly saying: I know what you are all thinking. You want to look for a chance to take Qin Yu away from our family, right? But even if I give you this opportunity and place him right in front of you, just what methods can you use?

Of course, admiration was just admiration. They wouldn't hesitate in making their move. They had come to the East Zhou Family with great fanfare and even prepared generous gifts. Wasn't doing all of that just for this moment?

Chapter 1005B – A True God is Born

Cough!

It was unknown which cultivator cleared their throat, but the sound of clothes being straightened rustled in the hall. Then, the beautiful women who followed their groups to come and join the celebrations all raised their heads and thrust out their chests, doing their best to show themselves off.

Before they came, they were all given orders; anyone that could win over Qin Yu would become the hero who performed great merits for the family. Moreover, it was said that Qin Yu was a young and handsome man. With their family's support, who wouldn't try to struggle over such a catch?

Even if East Zhou Duly was as beautiful as a flower and was outstanding in all aspects, they weren't necessarily any worse...this seemed a bit lacking in confidence, but even if they were slightly worse, everyone had a preference for their own favorite vegetables. Who knew, maybe one of them was Qin Yu's type?

In this world, even men could like other men, so what wasn't possible?

East Zhou Duly pulled Qin Yu's arm and entered the hall. Although there was a red glow on her face, she still appeared graceful with all the makings of an elegant lady.

"Uncle, this is Qin Yu. He is one of my followers who will be joining me in entering the Path of 10,000 Souls. He learned that you were holding your 3000 year birthday feast today and came here specifically to congratulate you."

As she finished speaking she loosened her hand and moved to the side. Her closeness with Qin Yu had been clearly expressed and she was too embarrassed to keep holding onto him the entire time.

However, if she had to be honest, the feeling of holding onto Qin Yu was really good...hey, what are you thinking about at this time? Please sober up and don't act like an idiot!

Qin Yu stepped forward and cupped his hands together, "Qin Yu congratulates Elder East Zhou Furu. May you live a long and prosperous life!"

East Zhou Furu smiled so widely that his face was covered in pleats. In the outside world, his status was absolutely a noble one. Normally he wouldn't be so moved by such simple flattering words.

But the same words from different people had different meanings. With Qin Yu's status, would his words be treated the same?

Face, this was absolutely giving face. In the future when Qin Yu's name resounded throughout the world, today's matter would be enough to brag about for several tens of thousands of years.

If he ran into someone, he could say that at some time in the past, the Ruler's disciple, Lord Qin Yu, had participated in his 3000 year birthday feast and so forth. Shocking the hearts of the common people would be absolutely assured.

"I am honored that little friend Qin Yu came here today. Please, take a seat." He waved a hand and ordered, "Men, hurry and prepare a seat for Mister Qin."

Qin Yu stood up and said, "I thank Elder Furu for the good intentions, but I just left seclusion today and there are some matters that I need to handle, so I won't be staying for long. Since I have delivered the gift, I shall bid my farewells."

He turned and started to walk away.

"Mister Qin, please wait a moment!" The man who previously asked where East Zhou Duly went suddenly stood up, a warm smile on his face, "I am..."

He was interrupted before he could even make his status known. "I am friends with East Zhou Duly, and since I have agreed to become her follower, I won't change my mind in that regard. If the reason anyone came here today involves me, then I can only apologize."

As he finished speaking he turned and walked away, leaving everyone in the hall wide-eyed and feeling as if they were about to choke to death.

What benefits did the East Zhou Family give you? Or, could it be said that East Zhou Duly is so good that you are dead set on choosing her and aren't even willing to listen to our offers?

Even if you have no intention of changing your mind, won't the East Zhou Family become anxious if you speak with us? And if they are anxious, won't your conditions be better? This could be called receiving a hundred benefits without a single harm!

If we can think of this, how can you not? To leave so neatly and not give us any chance of speaking to you, are we the idiots or are you the idiot?

They had prepared numerous plans that included beautiful women, treasures, and all sorts of flattering conditions. But Qin Yu wasn't even willing to speak with them. What else could they do?

East Zhou Duly let out a deep breath and swept her disdainful eyes around the hall and at all the gorgeously dressed women. She looked down at them from up high, as if loftily saying – you common rabble, you still want to struggle with me? You are overreaching!

She stood up and bowed, smiling. "Uncle, Qin Yu asked me to process some matters with him so I won't be staying any longer. Goodbye."

She turned and walked away.

Of course, Qin Yu asking her anything was pure nonsense. But when she said it at this time, almost no one doubted her.

After all, for her sake, Qin Yu had given up any chance of contacting others. It was clear that his emotions for her ran deep...the East Zhou Family was actually lucky to give birth to such a fierce young miss!

"Fellow daoist Furu, I suddenly received a message from the family and they need me to urgently return. I will bid my goodbyes here first!"

"It's the same for me, I cannot stay any longer today. I will be leaving first."

"I must bid my farewells!"

The cultivators in the hall all stood up. Moments later, almost all of them had cleared out. Qin Yu had made his stance clear and wouldn't even give them a chance. If they stayed then all they would see would be the smug faces of the East Zhou Family.

There was no chance of competing for Qin Yu, so they had to raise East Zhou Duly's threat level. If this girl entered the Path of 10,000 Souls, she would likely receive a harvest.

This girl, her life was wonderful!

It wasn't just outsiders that thought this. Even those within the East Zhou Family thought that East Zhou Duly was extremely lucky.

If others could think of it, how could they not realize it? Qin Yu's attitude had been resolute and he directly blocked all other influences trying to contact him. Was it really just because he was touched by the sincerity of their East Zhou Family?

Hoho, don't kid around. If the situation was reversed, the East Zhou Family would do anything in order to win over Qin Yu.

Looking at things, their East Zhou Family might be able to climb up marriage relations with a Ruler in the future!

This was a great deed!

....

The advent of a legend would inevitably be accompanied by phenomena. Depending on the level of the legend, the phenomena were also divided into large and small. Taking the sea of stars as a curtain of beads to condense one's Great Dao God Mark was amongst the highest levels.

The reason Qin Yu didn't experience any phenomena after his breakthrough was that some people didn't want him to appear too dazzling. After his breakthrough, they directly transferred the phenomena away.

So in a distant wild star territory that was countless miles away from the homeworld of the East Zhou Family, trillions of stars erupted and surged. They were like mighty waves, giving off a feeling that they were almost substantive.

Drawn in by an invisible aura, the light shrank inwards, forming blinding motes of light.

If someone could see all the stars in the heavens, they would discover that the trillions upon trillions of shining spots corresponded to the stars!

As if they were a projection of the starry skies!

There were living creatures in this wild star territory, but their level of life was low so they didn't notice the arrival of this sight. Originally, it should have silently dissipated without being noticed.

However, as this projection of the starry skies arrived, an old man in winged robes, sitting cross-legged in a tent on one of the worlds in this desolate region, suddenly opened his eyes. He was blind in one eye but it caused his other eye to seem even brighter.

Walking out of the tent, he looked up at the sea of stars that tore apart the darkness and lit up the heavens. His one eye became brighter and brighter and his lips began to tremble.

“A True God...this world...a True God has been unexpectedly born...”

....

The East Zhou Family knew that the reason Qin Yu rejected the olive branches from all the other parties was because of his deep sentiments towards East Zhou Duly.

But this didn't mean they wouldn't try anything else...it was hard to find such a good son-in-law even if they were holding a lantern, so naturally they couldn't implicate East Zhou Duly due to some small matter and reduce her standing in Qin Yu's heart.

Save a little only to lose a lot, this was a mistake they would not commit.

As a result, they didn't reduce his benefits but instead increased them so that he would feel the full sincerity of the East Zhou Family. If he could really become dao companions with East Zhou Duly, what could such a minor price be considered?

Qin Yu had no idea that the East Zhou Family's thoughts had diverged far from reality and everything had become a mess. He received all the generous gifts without refusing them.

No matter what angle he looked at things from, if he accepted these gifts now then the East Zhou Family would be even more at ease.

Snowside, who was in charge of sorting out the gifts, was smiling so happily that her eyes turned into crescent moons. While these things weren't for her, with Qin Yu's attitude, as long as she needed something and whined and acted cute about it...cough cough, well, that method was probably useless.

As long as she ignored all her ethics and shamelessly and brazenly acted without any regard for her face, then she could absolutely obtain what she wanted.

When it came to moral integrity and whatnot, there were times when such things were needed, but at other times she had no problem tossing them to the side.

As she thought about the items on the gift list and how they were basically hers, Snowside smiled with even greater satisfaction. The East Zhou Family was truly worthy of their name when they did something!

“Stop smiling and wipe the drool from your lips! Others will laugh at you if you drown in your own spit!” Qin Yu said, a disgusted look on his face.

Snowside glared at him and humphed twice. She thought that since he had generated such a large income, she wouldn't stoop to his level.

“I heard that during inheritance of the Path of 10,000 Souls, someone will always die. The degree of danger is high so you must be careful. You are my thick money tree and I've decided to depend on you to live from here on out, so you cannot die no matter what!”

Qin Yu rolled his eyes angrily. His woman was becoming more and more presumptuous lately and she dared to say anything to him. He flicked his sleeves and turned around, saying in a bad mood, "Don't worry, my life is very tough. If you die, I will be perfectly fine!"

Snowside curled her lips and lightly humphed. She lowered her head and continued to look over the gift lift. But slowly, her smile vanished until only a heavy expression remained.

In this world, there was no such thing as free meat pies that fell from the skies. If the East Zhou Family sent such generous gifts it was certainly because they believed Qin Yu had enough value.

Or to be more straightforward, once he entered the Path of 10,000 Souls, the risks he would need to endure had to be worth this price.

The more valuable the gifts, the greater the dangers Qin Yu would need to face. And right now, she couldn't do anything but look on helplessly.

She felt really...useless...

From the beginning, she had never helped Qin Yu much. On the contrary, she was someone who needed help.

Her lips moved and she smiled bitterly. She glanced down at her significant-sized chest.

"It seems I can only repay Qin Yu with my body. But what a pity, that boy has no lack of beautiful women by his side. Moreover, it seems he has never regarded me as a woman to begin with. This old lady wants to give herself over on her own initiative but I cannot even find a chance. It's just absurd!"

"No, I cannot be a woman who only knows how to profit from others and never thinks about repayment. Hum hum, once he comes out from the Path of 10,000 Souls I will find a chance to push myself onto him and return what I owe. At the same time, I suppose I can also borrow his seed while I'm at it. Then, it's decided!"

Snowside looked up and thrust out her chest, a sharp and firm light in her eyes. She had an approximate plan for this matter. It was definitely foolproof!

You brat Qin Yu, there is no way you can escape!

Chapter 1006 – One out of Three

Qin Yu suddenly sneezed for no reason. He raised a hand and traced his nose, thinking that someone was certainly plotting against him. Hum hum, they were just courting death!

When it came to his own strength, he was now overflowing with confidence!

While he had no idea how he managed to inexplicably condense his God Mark and fully step into the God boundary, he could clearly feel the boundless strength contained in this God mark. With just a thought he could resonate with the world and mobilize infinite power.

After condensing his God mark, his strength had risen at least ten times over.

In the past he was already able to blast away most God boundary cultivators, and now it was even less of a problem. So what if they were a peak God boundary powerhouse? He would have no problem blowing them apart. Even if he faced an Origin God, he didn't think he would be helpless.

This wasn't because he was arrogant and conceited. Rather, it was an absolute sense of self-confidence that he instinctively possessed.

He sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes. Before entering the Path of 10,000 Souls, he needed to adapt to his sudden rise in strength.

Two days later, Qin Yu's thoughts stirred and he opened his eyes.

East Zhou Duly's voice resounded in his mind, "The Path of 10,000 Souls will soon open! Everyone, please hurry over!"

This was the summoning call sent to the followers through the signed contract.

The time had finally arrived!

Qin Yu stood up. He pushed open the door to see Snowside. She was leisurely boiling some tea right now, a relaxed and satisfied look on her face.

Perhaps because the charcoal fire was too hot, she was dressed lightly. Her large white chest was fully exposed, and just a single casual glance made one feel as if their eyes were sinking into some bottomless abyss.

Qin Yu swore that he had no bestial intent towards Snowside. But with this sight placed in front of him, would he be a man if he wasn't moved in some way?

So he took a look and then another look. When he looked a third time, Snowside lightly coughed and pulled up her shirt, covering most of the exposed skin.

Qin Yu was satisfied. He smiled and revealed a row of white teeth. "I'm leaving now. When you're walking around by yourself, remember to put on some clothes so you don't catch a cold."

As he finished speaking he turned around and walked away, leaving Snowside stamping her feet in a huff of anger. She thought that this boy really was despicable. Even when he was looking at her body he still had time to joke with her. But at the same time, she also felt some self-satisfaction as she thought that her body still held some temptation towards him.

Hum hum, if that's the case, then I don't need to be afraid of you escaping my palm! Once you leave the Path of 10,000 Souls, I'll have you know what it feels like to be 'wrung dry'!

"Fellow daoist Qin!"

Because Qin Yu spent a few moments appreciating Snowside, by the time he arrived everyone else had already gathered. They all greeted him together.

Qin Yu was supposed to suffer from a cage of rules formed from at least several hundred brand marks, yet he had smoothly made a breakthrough in just several days.

This alone was enough to raise everyone's regard for Qin Yu by several levels. When it came to such a character, they naturally had to do their best to be on good terms with him. Who knew what sort of astonishing achievements he would have in the future!

East Zhou Duly remained quiet. She calmly glanced at Fairylike, wondering why this ancient hag even bothered pretending to be young and tender. Why bother trying to be shy and cute? The only way Qin Yu would take a liking to you was if he was blind!

"Cough!"

With a light cough, she drew everyone's attention towards her. She solemnly said, "Everyone, the Path of 10,000 Souls will open soon. Please do not leave my side. Once the transmission begins, I will pull you in together with me through the signed contract. Remember, during this process, do not try to resist."

Everyone nodded in unison.

A moment later, space caved in above East Zhou Duly's head and a black hole appeared.

Hum –

Hum –

An invisible strength erupted. It surged around the six people and wrapped around them. Then, a powerful strength pulled at them, dragging them into the black hole where they vanished from sight.

The Path of 10,000 Souls, the inheritance that was said to lead straight towards the unsurpassed Great Dao, had opened once again today.

...

In a white nothingness, space was vast and limitless. Time lost all meaning, as if nothing had changed since ancient times.

But there certainly couldn't be something that truly remained eternally unchanged in this world.

After all, even Rulers that represented supreme power still had a chance of dying. If that could happen, what couldn't?

A black dot appeared without warning and rapidly expanded outwards. In a breath of time it expanded to a thousand feet in size, so dark that it was like black jade.

It was like the legendary scroll projection of a fabled Divine Saint creating the heavens and earth. After the 1000 foot black jade platform appeared, the creation and evolution of a world seemed to occur in this white space of nothingness.

Mountains, rivers, deserts, canyons...besides there being no life here, this was a true world. And from non-existence to reality, this world only took a few short breaths of time to form.

Six transmitted figures watched everything occurring from the black jade platform. Shock filled all of their faces.

A so-called miracle was nothing more than this. The Path of 10,000 Souls truly lived up to its well-deserved reputation. With just one glance, they understood how formidable it was.

Because even if they knew that this world in front of them didn't truly exist in reality, in their senses they couldn't find a single flaw.

They clearly knew it was an illusion but they couldn't distinguish where the difference lay. This was the most terrifying point!

East Zhou Duly closed her eyes, accepting some sort of invisible information transmission.

Qin Yu and the others restrained their minds. They encircled her, sharp looks in their eyes.

They had to ensure her safety until she gained the qualifications to truly enter the land of inheritance.

Otherwise, if an accident occurred to her, the contracts would ensure they were also eliminated and they would lose their opportunity to find their own lucky chance.

Right now, a follower was only a follower. But when the person they followed obtained the qualifications to enter the land of inheritance, they would also earn a chance to compete for it.

While the difficulty was high, the rewards were great enough that countless people were willing to recklessly do everything in their power for this...after all, it was mind-bogglingly difficult to obtain a spot in the Path of 10,000 Souls, and every person that succeeded, unless they had heaven-defying luck or were a proud elite of heaven, needed strong background support.

Not everyone had a chance to gain a spot to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls. Then, becoming a follower was the only way left to enter.

If not for this, how could there be so many cultivators willing to pay any price to become a follower?

Shua –

East Zhou Duly opened her eyes. "The Path of 10,000 Souls has opened. The trial is that after occupying three platforms, we will successfully earn the qualifications to obtain the inheritance."

A spot to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls only represented that they had a chance to enter. If one wished to obtain the inheritance, they also needed to undergo strict and harsh testing.

And each time the Path of 10,000 Souls opened, the method of testing was different...this time, only one out of every three could be chosen!

Out of three spots that entered, only one could enter the land of inheritance. That meant that out of three competitors and their teams, 12 people would be eliminated.

No one wanted to be eliminated immediately after entering the Path of 10,000 Souls. If they didn't want to be eliminated then they could only eliminate others.

Thus, everyone had to rely on their own ability...and give their best!

East Zhou Duly knew what sort of critical situation she faced. Her thoughts raced and she said, "I have a suggestion..."

She turned and glanced at Qin Yu. After a brief pause she said, "Qin Yu will stay here and ensure our platform isn't occupied. Me and the remaining four daoists will go and capture a second platform."

Space fell silent. Shang Lingyu and the others all widened their eyes, stunned.

It was clear that they never expected East Zhou Duly to place Qin Yu in such high regards.

It seemed that the East Zhou Family must grasp information they didn't know about...for instance, Qin Yu's true origins.

Every person that entered the Path of 10,000 Souls would have five followers with them. If they wanted to capture a platform, they would inevitably split into two groups.

If Qin Yu was left here to guard alone while East Zhou Duly and the others went on the offensive, the chances of success were much higher.

This was indeed the best plan...

Of course, the premise was that Qin Yu could defend their platform by himself. If it was taken away, the six of them would all be eliminated.

When it came to this matter, East Zhou Duly's attitude was the most important. After all, before the contract was completed, she would be the one making the decisions.

The Path of 10,000 Souls was of great significance and she would never act unreasonably or mess around. If she decided this, she had to have a certain degree of confidence.

Qin Yu's strength was likely even greater than what it seemed on the surface.

So after a brief period of shock, Shang Lingyu and the others looked earnestly at Qin Yu before agreeing.

Qin Yu thought for a moment and nodded, "Alright, I will do my best to guard this place."

East Zhou Duly turned and started walking away, "Let's go!"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Five figures howled into the distance.

This woman was actually quite decisive. After she made up her mind, she immediately went into action.

Although Qin Yu was confident in his own strength, he didn't dare to underestimate anyone. Through the infinite realms and myriad worlds, powerhouses were like drops of water in a sea. How could he guarantee that he was in an invincible position?

Since East Zhou Duly trusted him so much, he certainly had to do his best so he wouldn't disappoint her.

Chapter 1007 – Change

Qin Yu took a deep breath and sat down. He closed his eyes and released his divine sense. No movement could escape his senses.

An hour later, he opened his eyes, startled. He never thought that trouble would come knocking so soon.

Moreover, five full people came...it seemed that this other party chose the same idea as East Zhou Duly.

Qin Yu stood up. Standing on the platform, there was a chill in his eyes. He slowly said, "Since you've arrived, then show yourselves."

After a short silence, space fluctuated and five figures appeared. They looked at Qin Yu in surprise, as if they never thought that they would be discovered so soon.

"Mm? It's him!"

"Qin Yu!"

"How hateful, how could it be him?"

Loud cries came from the group. It was clear they recognized Qin Yu, and their faces started to darken.

The story of what happened in Stranded God Valley had already spread throughout the world. In addition, it was determined that Qin Yu became a follower of East Zhou Duly to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls. It was natural for other parties to gather information about him.

Although no one knew just where he came from, they had to remember his figure and appearance to avoid any unnecessary troubles.

Originally, when the group of five determined that there was only one person guarding this platform, they were all excited. Even though this person had to be tyrannically strong since they dared to guard a platform on their own, they believed there was no possibility of losing with five against one.

But who could have expected that this was the rumored Qin Yu, whose reputation reached far and wide and was said to be unfathomably powerful?

Even if they didn't consider their honor, turning and fleeing now still wasn't something they were willing to do.

After all, when the five of them went on the offensive and left only one person to guard the platform, that in itself was an extremely risky plan. For every additional moment they delayed, the risks would be greater. Once their platform was taken away by someone, they would be done for.

"So what if he's Qin Yu? No matter how strong he is, do you think he can contend against the five of us together?" A cultivator roared from behind clenched teeth.

He could disregard face, but if they were to turn around now, who knew how much time they would need to waste before they found a second platform?

Of course, the most important reason was that just like this cultivator said, while it was rumored that Qin Yu was fierce, no one knew just how fierce he was.

The five of them joining together could even face off against an Origin God. Were they still not his match?

“That’s right, no matter how fierce he is, he is only at the initial God boundary!”

“Go, seize the platform!”

With loud shouts, the hesitation in the eyes of the group rapidly faded away. An ominous light began to surge instead.

“Hold on!” A cultivator who had been silent from the beginning suddenly spoke up and the four people around him fell quiet. It was clear that he was the leader.

Without accident, this person should be the one who had a spot to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls, and the others were his followers.

The cultivator took a step forward and cupped his hands together, “My name is Feng Hong, from the Square World’s Feng Family. I have no intention of making things awkward with fellow daoist Qin Yu. If you can retreat on your own initiative today, the Feng Family will surely reward you generously in the future.”

Qin Yu shook his head without expression.

Feng Hong wasn’t willing to accept this. “Fellow daoist Qin Yu, is there really no other possibility? I do not wish to come into conflict with you.”

He had learned some secret information from the family. The East Zhou Family had invited Grandmaster Zhou Buyi to use the Great Revelation Art to reveal Qin Yu’s background.

Although no one knew what the result was, soon after that, the East Zhou Family confirmed Qin Yu as one of East Zhou Duly’s followers.

If it was just that, then there wasn’t much to say about it. At most, it would only indicate there was nothing wrong with his status.

But ever since that day, Grandmaster Zhou Buyi had disappeared from public sight. The East Zhou Family declared that the grandmaster had been injured and needed some time to heal.

This was worth thinking about. There was no evidence, but it wasn’t hard to extrapolate that the East Zhou Family was trying to hide something.

It was likely related to Qin Yu’s true origins.

Amongst the disciples of great families, there were certain to be many extremely arrogant young masters and haughty troublemakers. But even more of them were people who had been carefully cultivated since childhood.

Enemies that could not be provoked should be avoided. In particular, people whose origin could not be traced back likely represented great trouble.

It was clear that Qin Yu was such a person.

Moreover, Feng Hong had another point to consider. No matter what Qin Yu’s background was, no one had a reputation without genuine deeds. If Qin Yu was able to escape Stranded God Canyon on his own, how could he be easy to deal with?

If they came into conflict with him, even if they managed to seize this platform, would the five of them be unscathed?

It had to be known that to pass this test, obtaining two platforms wasn't enough. If they lost people, how could they seize the third platform?

So unless it was a last resort, Feng Hong really didn't want to become enemies with Qin Yu.

If Qin Yu left on his own initiative, that was naturally the best choice.

But it was clear that no matter how much he liked this idea, it was doomed to fail.

Qin Yu lightly said, "If you don't want to attack, then leave."

Feng Hong's complexion sank and he took a deep breath. "If that's the case, then I and the others here must offend you. I only ask for your understanding."

As his voice fell, he raised his hands and pressed them forward, "Attack!"

Bang –

The earth shook and cracked as if an invisible mountain suddenly descended. The air turned thick and sticky, wrapping around Qin Yu in layers.

At the same time, Feng Hong's four followers erupted with their strongest strengths.

Although they spoke arrogantly and looked as if they didn't even see Qin Yu in their eyes, no one that made it here today was an idiot who would actually underestimate him.

Since they attacked, they would do their best and try to suppress Qin Yu in one single move.

With Feng Hong as the lead, the group's strength was without a doubt. When they attacked together, the might of their joint strike could be imagined. But right now, Qin Yu remained calm. His eyes glistened with eagerness.

After breaking through to the God boundary, he had yet to use his full strength. But it should be more than enough to suppress these five people.

With this thought in mind, Qin Yu stood up and lifted a hand, pointing out a finger.

Puff –

There was a deep thumping sound, as if a sharp weapon had been thrust into the hide of a thick drum. The oppressive strength that flooded the world immediately vanished.

Feng Hong's eyes widened with incredulity and panic, as if he saw a ghost.

The 'Feng' of the Feng Family meant Seal, and this surname wasn't inherited because of their bloodline. Rather, some ancient ancestor had achieved great success in the sealing arts and in order to inherit the intangible luck that existed in the heavens and earth, he changed his surname to Feng.

The sealing arts were originally the most powerful techniques of the Feng Family, and the one Feng Hong used just now was one of the more formidable skills.

To draw the world as a cage and imprison a cultivator within it. As time passed, the cage would grow increasingly strong. It was a tyrannical technique.

But that didn't mean this sealing art was weak at the start. On the contrary, it was incomparably formidable. Otherwise, if a person freed themselves before the seal could even take effect, wouldn't this entire technique just be a joke?

With Feng Hong's cultivation, if he used all his strength even a peak God boundary cultivator could give up any idea of easily escaping.

But what did Qin Yu do?

He simply lifted a hand and pointed a finger. During this process, Feng Hong didn't even feel any fluctuations of strength.

But the strength of this finger tore apart the seal, easily and without hindrance...Feng Hong felt a cold chill creep up his heart.

As expected, what corresponded to a person's reputation was their strength...no, the strength that Qin Yu displayed now was even more terrifying than the rumors.

"This is bad!" Feng Hong screamed inwardly. At the same time, a jade ring on his left hand shattered into pieces.

It was like a hammer slammed into his forehead. His ears buzzed and his field of vision flashed black.

Dark red blood flowed out from his nose, mouth, and ears. It dripped down his face, making him look incomparably distressed.

It took a full breath of time for Feng Hong to gather his thoughts. Horror rose on his face and he turned and fled without hesitation.

"Run!"

He had no idea what method Qin Yu used to attack him, but this attack was undoubtedly enough to take his life.

If it weren't for his ring substituting for him in that critical moment and receiving most of the attack's killing strength, he might have already died.

This Qin Yu...was truly terrifying!

Feng Hong had no idea why he was so terrifying nor was he in the mood to figure out why. All he knew was that if he didn't escape now, he feared he wouldn't be able to ever again.

Feng Hong's response was quick. The moment he sensed danger he ran away without a second thought. But what a pity, he still didn't have enough time.

It wasn't just because Qin Yu was strong, but because from the moment he arrived here, he had become a chess piece in the hands of someone else.

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

The four followers that hurtled towards Qin Yu flew backwards as if slapped away by some giant invisible hand. Their eyes were wide with shock and disbelief. They clearly couldn't understand why they weren't Qin Yu's match, even when the five of them worked together.

It had to be known that he had just broken through to the God boundary, so why was he formidable to such a degree? This was completely unreasonable!

But reason or logic didn't matter right now. Since they weren't his match, they could only think about how to escape!

However, a change suddenly occurred. One of the followers that was flying backwards suddenly paused in midair.

The next moment, with a loud bang, a horrifying aura erupted from his body.

Bones cracked and popped. The person grew taller and larger, soon growing to 30 feet in height.

Because his skin couldn't withstand the sudden increase in height, his flesh and blood began to tear apart. The rank smell of blood filled the air.

Billowing black gas gushed out from the person's bodily cracks, weaving together into a mass that covered him.

Only a pair of striking red eyes appeared in the black gas. They were filled with cruelty and destruction.

Qin Yu frowned and subconsciously held his breath. He looked at this black gas and revealed a dense killing intent. In the boundless world, there were innumerable evil and dark cultivation methods. For instance, using the demonic path as an example, even their various terrifying body transformation techniques seemed common.

But this person in front of him was different.

When facing a Great Dao Seizer, any cultivator that sensed their aura would feel loathing and revulsion.

But what Qin Yu felt right now was more intense than that. It was not just loathing, but uncontainable killing intent that swelled up from deep within his soul.

This was an opposition that came from the level of life itself. It was like two beings that could not coexist together. Once they met, there was no other reason needed; things would only come to an end when one side was completely and utterly destroyed.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed his killing intent. When he glanced at Feng Hong and the others, they also had shocked looks. They clearly had no idea what was happening.

But before Qin Yu could observe their expressions more, the complexions of Feng Hong and the others quickly changed into panic and horror.

“Ahh! Damn it, what are you doing!? Stop now!”

“My strength! He is plundering my strength!”

“Stop! Have you gone mad!? If anyone happens to me then you will die without a grave!”

“Save me! Save me!”

Feng Hong and the other three started to wither away at a speed visible to the naked eye. Their flesh and blood vanished and the light in their eyes faded.

Their blood, essence, and soul, had all been sucked away cleanly!

The black fog that obtained the strength of the four others suddenly grew drastically, soon surpassing over a thousand feet in height. Loud cries of excitement emanated from within it.

“What a fascinating and enchanting flavor. Flesh and blood life forms should become the food of my people. This is the mission and glory you have all been granted from birth.”

Shua –

The blood red eyes in the black fog locked onto Qin Yu, laughing at him even as it licked its tongue.
“Now, it’s your turn.”

Qin Yu drew in a deep breath, “Just what are you?”

“Humans. They are the most boring biological species I have yet to encounter, even if they taste the best.” The blood red eyes within the black fog laughed. “After death, everything becomes nothing. Why waste your time dwelling on such irrelevant matters?”

“Now, what you should do is cry in despair as you drown in fear and sorrow!”

Bang –

The black fog suddenly tumbled, as if a dam had burst open. Black waves howled towards him, crashing into Qin Yu to swallow him!

Chapter 1008 – Abyssal Species

Qin Yu’s complexion sank. His heart violently contracted as his pulse began to race.

He had no idea just what was so terrifying about this black fog across from him, but the countless warning bells going off in his mind were very real.

He lifted his hands and pressed them forward. Five-colored divine light instantly erupted, weaving together to form a vortex of colors.

Rumble rumble –

As they rapidly spun around, a terrifying tearing strength was released. The surging black waves were pulled directly into it.

Sharp hissing sounds that tingled the scalp rang out. The five-colored vortex started to melt away at a speed visible at the naked eye.

This was the incomparably formidable Five Element Samsara that had the power of both suppression and defense. After Qin Yu broke through to the God boundary, there was no comparing this version to the one from before. Yet, it wasn't able to resist this attack at all.

This wasn't being crushed by absolute strength. Rather, it felt as if he had been absolutely restrained in terms of attributes...as if this black fog in itself was the nemesis of all supernatural arts.

"Jeje...it's useless. You cannot fight me with your strength. Obediently stand there and wait for death!" A strange cackle came from the black fog. The voice could not hide its burning greed.

Qin Yu could clearly feel those two blood-filled eyes firmly locked on him. It wanted to swallow him whole, right away.

This fellow seemed to be confident in himself, as if Qin Yu were already a meal placed in front of him. Qin Yu didn't like this feeling at all. He narrowed his eyes, his pupils turning as cold as ice.

He took a step forward. Space smashed and a terrifying strength blasted outwards, rippling in circles and forming waves of destruction. It temporarily isolated the black fog that ate away at the Five Element Samsara outside.

But at this time, Qin Yu's complexion changed. He lifted a hand and without hesitation, thrust his fingers between his eyebrows. Where his fingers landed, skin broke apart. No blood flowed out, but black fog did.

This black fog seemed to have a mind of its own. After being noticed it quickly stretched out, turning into a bug that desperately tried to dig deeper into Qin Yu's forehead.

"Humph!"

Qin Yu pinched the end of the black smoke with a cold cough. Where his fingers touched, he could feel a burning pain.

"Come out!"

He fiercely pulled back with a deep roar, dragging out the black smoke. It screamed and turned into a horrid face that opened its jaws and bit down at him.

Hum –

Within Qin Yu's soul space, the sun and moon force field immediately fluctuated. The fluctuation vibrated and swept outwards.

The ugly face of black smoke that rushed towards Qin Yu shattered and vanished without a trace. Across from him, the black fog gave a muffled grunt. It was clear that the ugly face being destroyed also caused it to be damaged.

As those blood red eyes locked onto Qin Yu, although there was still naked greed and bloodthirst, there was also some cautiousness. For Qin Yu to destroy a fragment of his mind, that proved there was something on Qin Yu's body that could threaten him.

But this was even better. The stronger the human cultivator was that he killed, the greater the reward from the abyss would be.

“Abyssal species!”

A fluctuation of consciousness from the little blue lamp rang out in Qin Yu’s mind. Within his soul space, space collapsed inward and the phantom of a great sun appeared.

It had been a long time since the projection of the little blue lamp last arrived. During this period of time, it had maintained silence.

Today, Qin Yu could clearly feel the loathing and dread it emanated, as well as a strong sense of wariness.

This was the first time Qin Yu felt such an emotion from it...it seemed that the abyssal species it spoke of could prove a threat to it.

As he realized this, Qin Yu’s heart turned cold. Throughout the world, he was absolutely one of the people who understood the little blue lamp the best. He knew about its inconceivable abilities that could turn dangers into miracles.

If even the little blue lamp was so wary, then this abyssal species must be extremely terrifying.

As if sensing Qin Yu’s thoughts, the little blue lamp’s fluctuations of consciousness resounded once again, “It’s not just terrifying, it is incredibly terrifying. It seems that a change has occurred in the world of the Great Desolate. An abyssal species unexpectedly managed to run away.

“Don’t ask too much. There are some matters that I am unable to tell you of yet, but you have to remember one thing – whenever or wherever you encounter an abyssal species, you must kill it no matter the cost!”

Qin Yu frowned. “I won’t ask you anything, but killing this thing won’t be easy. At the very least, it is restraining my strength.”

The little blue lamp said, “The abyssal species possess abyssal energy that naturally restrains the strength of all flesh and blood creatures. But you are no longer just an ordinary blood and flesh being. If you want to kill it, it won’t be that difficult.

“The fluctuations of the sun and moon force field can temporarily protect you and isolate you from the harm caused by the abyssal energy. The jade embryo egg’s strength has condensed the Great Dao of the world. With just one strike, you can kill an abyssal species of this level.

“But you need to know one thing. When you attack, you must be swift and fatal. Otherwise, if this abyssal species escapes, you will soon welcome an all-out encirclement and slaughter from the entire abyssal race. Trust me, no one will be able to save you at that time...not even me.”

Qin Yu’s heart chilled. His intuition told him that the little blue lamp’s past contained a great secret.

But now was not the time to dwell on such things. As he felt the projection of the little blue lamp fading away from his soul space, Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed all other thoughts.

The little blue lamp was definitely hiding from something. Could it be that it had some horrifying enemy?

None of that mattered right now. He first needed to eliminate this abyssal species.

With his mind made up, a sharp light flashed in his eyes.

Shua –

He took a step forward, welcoming the surging black fog as he brazenly intruded into it.

This was beyond the abyssal species' expectation. After a brief pause, it laughed out loud, "I originally thought that I would need to use some effort to kill you, but I never imagined you would be so stupid to come and die on your own initiative!

"To break into my abyssal energy, even if you possess transcendent abilities you cannot escape the fate of becoming bloody water, your soul turning to dust!"

Bang –

The abyssal energy wildly tumbled around. It was like wriggling intestines, trying to thoroughly kill and absorb Qin Yu.

But things progressed differently from how the abyssal species imagined. Qin Yu wasn't corroded to death, but was like a large fish, swimming against the stream of abyssal energy and soaring towards its main body.

Hum –

Hum –

In his soul space, the blue sun and purple moon gently trembled. As they did, the entire sun and moon force field was excited as it shook.

These shaking fluctuations wrapped around Qin Yu, completely repelling the abyssal energy that was attracted to his flesh and blood body.

If Qin Yu wanted to achieve a one-shot kill, the best way would be to close the distance between the two. Taking a step back, even if an accident occurred he still had a chance to remedy it.

The abyssal species was 40 feet tall and wrapped in layers of abyssal energy. Its body was as firm as rock and its crimson eyes shined in the darkness. It frowned and then sneered.

You want to approach me and kill me?

Hoho, the abyssal races experienced the erosion of abyssal energy for countless generations, and as their bloodline was inherited downwards, they tempered incomparably formidable mortal bodies for themselves.

In terms of the intensity of their mortal bodies, in this world, only the incomparably Ancient race bloodline could barely be placed on par with the abyssal race.

To come close and kill him? In the eyes of this abyssal species, that was no different from seeking death.

Bang –

The abyssal species stepped forward and welcomed Qin Yu. Its great mouth split open, revealing a fiendish grin.

The more Qin Yu approached, the more he could feel the richness of the abyssal species' aura. As this happened, the irrepressible killing intent in his heart also increased.

This caused the blood vessels on his eyes to bulge out. Because his eyes began to turn red, he took on a crazy appearance.

Flesh and blood creatures and abyssal species were like two tribes that stood on complete polar opposite sides of each other. There was no chance of easing the hostility between them.

From the first day they met, it was doomed that one side had to be utterly destroyed. Only then would the bloody killing between the two tribes come to an end.

The figure of the abyssal species appeared in front of Qin Yu. Abyssal energy rushed and tumbled all around it, rumbling with dreadful momentum.

“Jejeje...human cultivator, since you want to die, let me fulfill your wish!”

Bang –

The abyssal species blew apart, instantly vanishing from sight. It fused into one whole with the abyssal energy surrounding it.

It was the abyssal energy and the abyssal energy was it. This was a unique attribute of the abyssal species. They could hide themselves like this, giving their enemy an invisible and fatal strike.

Chapter 1009 - Killed

Qin Yu's complexion changed. Shock and anger filled his eyes, as if he hadn't expected he would encounter such a situation.

At this time, a grinning chuckle sounded in his eyes. A surge of abyssal energy began to roll towards him.

Almost at the same moment, Qin Yu suddenly turned around. He pointed a finger behind him without hesitation.

His finger was like lightning. It was simple and decisive, without any sloppiness to it.

Where the finger fell, abyssal energy suddenly paused, as if it had been frozen by extremely cold temperatures. The vanished figure of the abyssal species slowly emerged.

Now, one could see that Qin Yu's finger just happened to fall between its eyebrows. It tore through the skin and submerged partway in.

“You...you are actually...” The abyssal species' eyes widened with shock and despair. It already sensed that its vitality had been cleanly severed.

No, I cannot die like this. I must pass on news of what has happened here.

“Ahh!”

Like the final radiance of a setting sun, the abyssal species burst into flames. The flames were just like the abyssal energy, pitch black in color.

Qin Yu’s eyes were cold. “Give up. I won’t give you any chance of escape.” His finger pushed in, piercing right into the abyssal species’ skull.

He didn’t need to galvanize the strength of the jade embryo egg at all. It burst out on its own volition, sweeping through every inch of the abyssal species like a hurricane, crushing its bones and flesh, exterminating all of its vitality.

The black flames that just appeared on the surface of the abyssal species were rapidly extinguished. Then, its body disintegrated into ashes.

The billowing abyssal energy quickly faded away. It was like everything had only been an illusion and it had never been here at all.

...

The first battle had come to an end.

East Zhou Duly smiled. With the strength of five people, they didn’t need to pay too great a price to capture a platform.

If they captured another one, they would receive the qualifications to truly enter the land of inheritance and obtain the supreme good fortune of the Path of 10,000 Souls.

“Fellow daoists, let us start resting. Once we have recovered, I will stay here and then the rest of you can go on and capture the third platform!”

In order to meet the challenges of the Path of 10,000 Souls, the East Zhou Family hadn’t slacked off in their preparations. East Zhou Duly possessed an extremely formidable card in hand.

It was an array disc that had been purchased at great cost. Its defensive strength was astonishingly high and even an Origin God wouldn’t be able to break it open in a short period of time.

After activating it, it would last long enough to defend this platform. As for the cost of the array disc...

As long as she obtained a spot to truly enter the land of inheritance, much less one array disc, she wouldn’t care if she had to use ten of them or even a hundred.

Things progressed much smoother than expected. But East Zhou Duly knew this was all because of Qin Yu’s existence.

If he didn’t defend his platform alone, how could the five of them come here and use all their strength to capture another platform?

Pure Summer, Fairylike, and Peaceful Nun all smiled. Once they captured one more platform they would fulfill the conditions of their contract. They would then be able to search for their own good fortune.

Throughout countless years, amongst the followers that were able to enter the Path of 10,000 Souls, there were a considerable number of them that finally obtained some harvest.

That meant they also had a chance!

Shang Lingyu smiled, but there was a feeling of extreme relaxation hidden deep in his eyes.

It was good that they had managed to smoothly capture the second platform. Even if Qin Yu was killed off, he could remain here and wouldn't be defeated because of that.

Considering the time, he should have made a move.

As for whether Qin Yu could block him...

Hoho, that was a lord with a pure bloodline. Not only was he tyrannically strong, but he naturally restrained all flesh and blood beings. Unless one's strength reached the limits and surpassed the existence of the world, they could never hope to contend with the lord.

Although Qin Yu was strong, he was still far away from reaching that boundary. Naturally, he wouldn't be able to do this.

Soon, Qin Yu would be killed by the lord. And he would be rewarded for it.

He hoped that he could obtain several more drops of divine blood and further transform his bloodline. At that time, he would become even stronger.

Shang Lingyu and the others sat down cross-legged. However, he didn't meditate but instead tried to suppress his excitement. He was waiting for the sign that signaled Qin Yu's death.

A moment later, there was a stuffy cough from the platform. East Zhou Duly and the others opened their eyes to see Shang Lingyu spit out a mouthful of blood. His face paled and his body shook. His eyes widened with disbelief and shock.

"Brother Shang, what happened?" East Zhou Duly asked. She hurriedly stood up and walked over, a concerned look on her face.

Was there a deep friendship between her and Shang Lingyu? Of course there was no such thing.

But if you want to vomit blood, at least wait until I capture the third platform first. I still need you right now.

These words might be cold and callous, but this was the reality of the situation.

It had to be said that Shang Lingyu was a talented character. Even though he was stunned by the sudden change he actually managed to quickly suppress his emotions. He looked up and squeezed out a smile on his pale face. "It's nothing. In the battle just now, I gained some insight. I wanted to try and see if I could make a breakthrough, but something happened midway. Everyone, there is no need to worry. It's a minor issue and I will soon recover."

He also understood why the others were worried about him.

Fairylike's eyes flashed. "Fellow daoist Shang, I have cultivated a secret art that hastens the recovery of injuries; perhaps I can be of help to you." She faintly smiled, a thousand different styles passing across her face. "After all, you and I are tied together as one for now. I hope you can restore yourself as soon as possible."

Shang Lingyu shook his head, "I must thank Miss Fairylike for the good intentions, but the Peach Blossom Spring Arts I cultivate are not to be spread out and it's best if others don't try to probe them." He took a deep breath and said, "Everyone, please rest assured. I will soon stabilize my injuries and I won't be a drag to anyone here."

Seeing his calm and easy manner, it appeared that the problem really wasn't that big. East Zhou Duly nodded and said, "I see. Then Brother Shang should hurry up and cultivate. If there is any way I can help you, just ask."

Shang Lingyu closed his eyes, unable to cover up the turbulent waves in his heart anymore.

That lord had died!

How was this possible?

It had to be known that he was an existence that came from the abyss and possessed a pure bloodline.

If he wasn't worried that too much slaughter would arouse suspicions from the outside world, then the lord alone would be enough to kill every cultivator participating in the Path of 10,000 Souls.

After all, Shang Lingyu was well aware of how terrifying the abyssal species' inherent ability to restrain flesh and blood beings was.

But in this sort of situation, that lord's life brand mark had been extinguished. There was no mistaking this.

Did Qin Yu kill him?

This was impossible. No matter how deep his background was, he definitely couldn't achieve this. To destroy the lord, flesh and blood beings had to at least have power that surpassed the limits of the heavens and earth.

It was impossible for this sort of existence to descend into the Path of 10,000 Souls. Otherwise, the actions of the abyss wouldn't have remained undetected for all these years.

Damn it, just where had a problem occurred?

Shang Lingyu's heart continued to tremble. He couldn't find the lord. There was a chance he had died, but there was one thing he knew for certain.

A pure-blooded lord had fallen. As a provider of information, he would inevitably be implicated. Just thinking about this caused him to feel like he had fallen into an icy lake.

What should I do? Damn it all! How could things have ended up like this? Don't panic! I cannot panic! I must find a way to fix this. At the very least if I find out who killed the lord and kill them in return, I might be able to make up for what happened here.

As Shang Lingyu was filled with fear and horror, an ice cold presence descended into his body.

Shua –

Without any ability to resist, Shang Lingyu's consciousness was dragged into the world of his mind.

The skies were black and strong winds roared. Endless abyssal energy tumbled all around, and one could see a towering and terrifying figure within.

He stood between the heavens and earth, like a legendary demon god. A pair of bloody eyes fell on Shang Lingyu, "Gain enough strength to become the vessel for my coming. This is your only chance to redeem yourself..."

Four hours later, Shang Lingyu opened his eyes. While his face was still pale, his aura had stabilized. He stood up and said, "I apologize to everyone for making you wait so long. There isn't much of a problem with my condition right now. We can head off at any time."

East Zhou Duly's eyes flashed with surprise. This person really was a disciple of Peach Blossom Spring; his methods were extraordinary.

Before, even though Shang Lingyu put on a calm demeanor, East Zhou Duly could still sense the severity of his injuries.

In such a short period of time he had basically managed to fully recover. If she didn't see it with her own eyes she wouldn't have believed it.

But to her, this was good news. Now that Shang Lingyu had recovered, their chances of capturing a third platform were much higher.

"Fellow daoist Shang's skills are admirable. I must have bothered you earlier." Fairylike sighed and blinked her eyes.

Shang Lingyu faintly smiled. "Miss Fairylike speaks too seriously. I will always keep your good intentions in mind."

Fairylike's eyes brightened. "Remember what you said."

They paused here, not overdoing things. The two had their own thoughts and didn't speak again.

If one lived for a long time they naturally saw more things. They didn't even turn an eye towards such a conversation.

At most, others would comment inwardly that this Shang fellow wasn't weak, but his eyesight was a bit poor.

And what background did Fairylike come from? If he had thoughts of approaching her, he must be tired of living.

East Zhou Duly frowned. But in this current situation she didn't have much to say. There was nothing that could happen between the two of them right now.

As for the future...

If Shang Lingyu was smart enough then he would know when to wake up and stop. Or if he wanted to seek death on his own initiative, she couldn't manage his choices.

Putting these thoughts to the side, she glanced at everyone and bowed, "Everyone, I will leave the third platform to you all. If you succeed, then besides the contract agreement, I will also give you all a heavy gift!"

"Fourth Young Miss, don't worry!"

"We will use our full strength!"

"I ask that Fourth Young Miss calmly wait here for the good news."

"I shall do my best!"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

After bowing, the four people turned and left, howling in a direction they had all agreed upon before.

Chapter 1010A - Abyss

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows, an amazed look appearing on his face. At this moment, an invisible strength appeared from within the world and slowly integrated into his body like a cool spring rain. His soul and body rapidly improved as he absorbed this power.

This was...a gift from the world?

Qin Yu didn't think that he would have such a harvest after killing the abyssal being.

What was the reason for it?

"The reason is that you have killed an abyssal being." The stone pagoda's thought fluctuations suddenly resounded. Since being helplessly forced into recognizing Qin Yu as its master, this was the first time it spoke on its own initiative.

However, these words didn't really explain much at all. Qin Yu coughed and rolled his eyes. What was the difference between saying this and saying nothing at all?

But this wasn't the key point. The key point was that this stone pagoda fellow seemed to know something.

Qin Yu lightly coughed and said, "Be specific."

Surprisingly, the stone pagoda didn't seem to feel personally attacked by Qin Yu's attitude this time. After a brief silence it slowly said, "With your cultivation level, you are not yet qualified to come into contact with these matters. But since you have become my master, you must face this sooner or later.

"The abyss is the greatest terror of the world. Or to be more exact, it is an existence that humanity, and even all blood and flesh beings of this world, still aren't sure of. But there is one thing that is without doubt: they possess the ability to destroy the entire world."

Without waiting for Qin Yu to tell it to continue, it said, "Many many years ago, so long that even I don't know when it was, a channel suddenly appeared. From this channel, countless horrific creatures emerged. They seemed to control some kind of demonic energy that had the natural ability to restrain all flesh and blood creatures...this was an era that was submerged in catastrophe. Countless trillions of lives were mercilessly wiped out in the great war.

"Perhaps you might not believe it, but this world you see around you is born from after that catastrophe. And the world before didn't look like this at all. Of course, I cannot tell you too much right now, otherwise once the causal karma draws you in, this will not help you but harm you. In short, what that channel connected to was the infinite abyss. And what emerged into this world, causing a dreadful catastrophe that almost wiped out all flesh and blood beings, were those abyssal life forms.

"They are born to be the natural enemies of all flesh and blood creatures. You should also have experienced this. When facing an abyssal being, any flesh and blood creature will instinctively give birth to the desire to completely kill the other. This is not just because these two different kinds of existence naturally oppose each other, but because it is a brand marked into the souls of every being born in this world.

"This is because what the abyss must destroy is not just all flesh and blood beings, but also this world itself...to describe it like that might be too general, but that's the correct description and will allow you to more easily understand it. So after you killed that abyssal being, you will have obtained a gift from the world. This is a reward you have earned."

As the stone pagoda spoke, its feelings fluctuated. This was because it knew how horrifying abyssal beings were, and it knew that with Qin Yu's cultivation base, he shouldn't even be able to withstand a single blow.

But now, Qin Yu had slain that creature from the abyss, and it wasn't a weak opponent either. There were clearly secrets that it wasn't aware of.

It seemed that this master, whom it hadn't taken a liking to this entire time, wasn't completely without merits.

Or to be more exact, he should have some extremely deep and hidden background.

But regardless of what the actual situation was, Qin Yu had been able to kill an abyssal being with his cultivation. Just this point alone was enough for him to earn its approval.

Although it didn't want to shoulder any responsibility, it was still there. Since it had survived, it should take revenge for its old friends.

Those abyssal creatures...should all die!

Qin Yu could sense the extremely restrained feelings hidden behind the seemingly calm tone of the stone pagoda.

Although everything it said sounded inconceivable and even absurd, Qin Yu's instincts told him that these things he had never come into contact with before really did happen a long time ago.

Abyss...

Just what was it that it was so terrifying, even to the point of eliminating all flesh and blood beings? It had to be known that ‘flesh and blood beings’ covered almost all existences that Qin Yu had ever come into contact with.

For instance, the Peach Blossom Spring Master he had seen one time before who was so strong that he caused the Origin God Xue Zheng to fall to his knees.

This kind of existence was still frail in front of the abyss? If so, how did this world manage to survive?

As Qin Yu’s thoughts raced, the stone pagoda seemed to sense something. A bitter smile was sent through a thought fluctuation. It said, “No one knows what the abyss is. Even the ancient texts of the past only have some blurry records, as if nothing was passed down.

“But right now, what you should care about is not the origin of the abyss, but this Path of 10,000 Souls...the channel that connects to the abyss has been suppressed by a seal, so why would a pure blood abyssal being appear here?”

The stone pagoda paused for a moment, its demeanor growing even darker and heavier. “Perhaps what my past master said was correct. The existence of the Path of 10,000 Souls in itself is a major problem.”

Qin Yu’s eyes brightened. The reason he came here wasn’t for the so-called inheritance of the Path of 10,000 Souls. What he wanted to find out was the secrets of the Path of 10,000 Souls, and now it seemed that the stone pagoda had some information.

“What do you know?”

The stone pagoda said, “My past master only proposed his suspicions; he never spoke much about the Path of 10,000 Souls. After all, the person who established this place in the past was a peak existence of the world. Without accurate evidence, he couldn’t randomly cast doubt on it. Moreover, the original purpose of establishing the Path of 10,000 Souls came out of good intentions. It was hoped that flesh and blood beings would be able to open up the path to their own unsurpassed Great Dao and solve the threat that came from the abyss.

“However, it seems that a problem has occurred with the Path of 10,000 Souls. What we must do is to find out what this problem is. Qin Yu, perhaps this might be dangerous, but since you are a human and have encountered this matter, you absolutely cannot retreat from it. This is a mission you must bear, even if it means your death.”

Qin Yu: ...

He really didn’t expect that the stone pagoda could also say such bold and righteous words. He felt that this scene was too unconventional. Moreover, something didn’t seem right. Why was he the only one mentioned from beginning to end? That he had to die to find out the cause? What about the stone pagoda, hm?

He thought for a moment and asked this question.

The stone pagoda lightly sighed, “Fewer and fewer people know of what happened in the past. I must continue living on so that all future generations can know what sort of terrifying threat our world is

facing. Thus, I must survive no matter what. No matter how painful it is, I persevere until the end of time! Even if I must endure infinite loneliness...so what?"

To describe its greed for life and fear of death in such an eloquent and fresh way, besides this stone pagoda, Qin Yu really couldn't think of anyone who had thicker facial skin.

Haha!

However, Qin Yu didn't have any intention of tearing through its facade. In any case, he wanted to seek out the true secrets of the Path of 10,000 Souls and thus figure out how to undo it. No matter how dangerous the process was, this never changed.

If so, why did he have to waste any more words on the stone pagoda? And if he truly did experience some bitter danger, well, they were both grasshoppers on the same tightrope. If something happened to him, did it really think it would escape unscathed? How naive!

Mm?

At this time, Qin Yu's thoughts stirred. Through the contract, he could feel fluctuations being transmitted over.

They had succeeded in obtaining the second platform!

Now, they were only missing one final platform to complete the contents of the contract. East Zhou Duly would be able to truly enter the land of inheritance and they would be able to act on their own free will.

This was the essential condition of the follower's contract. Even if the East Zhou Family had revised the contract to be as generous as possible, they couldn't change this point.

However, just after East Zhou Duly and the others left, he encountered an immediate surprise attack. And, an incomparably terrifying abyssal being was hidden within the group. Could this really be a coincidence? Or was there something else going on?

Qin Yu looked up at the direction East Zhou Duly and the others left in, a cold light flashing in his eyes.

...

The current Path of 10,000 Souls, after being fully opened, was not any different from a true world. Because the mountains and rivers that appeared in front really did exist.

After leaving East Zhou Duly to guard the second platform, Shang Lingyu and the others hurried along, searching for the traces of a third platform.

But their luck wasn't good. As they followed along in this direction, they spent a great deal of time but found nothing.

Qin Yu and East Zhou Duly were both defending their own platforms. Even though they both had their own methods, there was still some danger. And the more time passed, the more chances there were for problems to arise. They were only missing a single platform before they could complete the contract. No one wanted any issues to occur.

At the front, Shang Lingyu suddenly said, "Everyone, how about we split up and search in two different directions? Once we find a platform, we can send each other a signal through the contract."

He looked at Fairylike, "Miss Fairylike, would you like to come with me?"

Fairylike covered her mouth and giggled. "Of course. I would be glad to."

Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun frowned. They glanced over the two and nodded after a brief hesitation. "That's also fine." They thought that even if these two were flirting around so brazenly, they couldn't do anything with how urgent the current situation was.

If they split up to search, they would only need half the time!

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The four people split up and howled away in two different directions.

Fairylike glanced at Shang Lingyu. Right now, his expression seemed a bit sour and pained. He couldn't help but clamp onto his thigh. She smiled and said, "Are fellow daoist Shang's injuries really healed? If you need it, I can lend you a helping hand."

Shang Lingyu looked into her eyes. "I won't hide it from Miss Fairylike, I indeed feel a bit uncomfortable. How about we stop searching for a moment and you can help me diagnose and treat it?"

Fairylike was stunned. She had just been speaking out of boredom and taking the opportunity to tease him, but she never thought that he would be so forward. There seemed to be something off with his eyes. Did he really want to do something with her right now?

She certainly didn't mind. Even if this happened a hundred times she wouldn't mind either. But the problem was that the situation wasn't right.

But Shang Lingyu seemed anxious. Without giving her time to hesitate, he turned around and landed on the ground.

Fairylike bit her lips. Do you think this old lady is afraid of you? She wiggled her waist and followed close behind.

Chapter 1010B - Abyss

Shang Lingyu flicked his sleeves and an invisible strength shot into a mountainside, directly cutting open a simple cave. He smiled at Fairylike and stepped inside.

With this, she determined that this kid really couldn't wait. She felt contempt in her heart. It turned out that this so-called disciple of Peach Blossom Spring was nothing more than . At the same time, she was also proud of her charms and welcome of his advances.

Fairylike's face flushed red and she revealed a subservient expression. She entered the cave. She thought that she should figure out a way for this boy to finish quicker. After all, this wasn't the time to enjoy such carnal comforts.

But even though she thought this, her body ached even more. Her legs clamped together and she felt damp and hot.

“Fellow daoist Shang, where do you feel uncomfortable? Allow me to help you...”

Before she finished speaking, she was taken into his arms. She could feel a man’s hot breath rushing at her face. The charm in her eyes almost flowed out.

This boy really was in a hurry.

Feeling moved for a moment, she slightly closed her eyes, waiting for happiness to come. But in the darkness, she didn’t notice that as Shang Lingyu groped her with his hands, his eyes were cold and indifferent.

“Ah! You’re hurting me...Shang Lingyu, what are you doing...you are insane...let me go...!”

“Save me...who are you...what are you...save me...!”

Screams of panic and despair came from the stone cave. Black fog tumbled and swirled, covering two overlapping figures.

But now, there was no scene of pleasure, only a cold fear that penetrated straight into the heart.

Hou –

A constrained roar came from the cave. The tumbling black fog reversed course and drilled back into Shang Lingyu’s body. He held a withered corpse in his hands, looking like it had been buried in the earth for countless years. It emitted a strong aura of decay.

He loosened his hands and allowed the corpse to fall onto the ground. He didn’t even glance at this woman who had looked bright and graceful just moments ago, her eyes closed and filled with passion.

It had been a long time since he last tasted this feeling. But now wasn’t the time to be wallowing in his feelings.

Shang Lingyu took a deep breath and knelt on the floor. He raised a hand and tore the skin between his eyebrows, allowing blood to flow out.

What was strange was that this blood didn’t drip onto the ground. Rather, it spread across his face, drawing an outline like a blooming flower.

“Honorable and respected lord, your humble servant is willing to become your carrier. I pray for your noble will to descend.”

As he whispered beneath his breath, a loud bang came from inside Shang Lingyu’s body. His face twisted with pain.

On his distorted face, the outlined flower image fully bloomed. It released an incomparably eerie and macabre aura.

“Ah!!”

With a cry of pain, Shang Lingyu's pupils quickly grew until they eventually took up the entirety of his eyes.

A moment later his shivering came to a pause. The darkness in his eyes drew back until he was restored to his normal appearance.

It was just that his pupils were particularly dark, as if they connected to a fathomless abyss.

He glanced at the corpse on the ground. His figure flickered and he left the cave. He looked up and his eyes seemed to pass through the barriers of space, falling upon some distant existence.

His cold and indifferent eyes gradually revealed veneration. He fell to his knees and bowed his head, respectfully saying, "My lord, I have come!"

After kneeling for a long time, Shang Lingyu finally stood up. His pitch black eyes were thoughtful. Upon searching through these memories, he learned who had killed the abyssal being.

But Wugang was not some nameless nobody. If Qin Yu was able to kill him, he had to have a trump card in hand.

Of course, a card was just a card; he didn't fear it and he had absolute confidence that he could slay this human cultivator.

But if he were somehow injured in the process, he feared that would affect what he wanted to do.

He couldn't lose sight of the bigger picture just for some small issues. The matters of his race were far more important. Since he knew about Qin Yu's identity, he wouldn't be able to escape. His death would come sooner or later.

With his mind made up, Shang Lingyu stepped forward and howled into the distance.

An hour later, a fluctuation of information spread out through the follower contract.

East Zhou Duly opened her eyes on her platform, pleasantly surprised.

They had succeeded in obtaining the third platform!

She stood up without hesitation and stimulated the mark within her body that belonged to the traces of the Path of 10,000 Souls.

Hum –

Qin Yu opened his eyes. He looked at the trembling platform below him. The next moment, he vanished along with the platform he was sitting on.

Everything fell into darkness and there was only silence in his ears. Without any sound at all, it was like he had been isolated from the entire world.

Fortunately, this process only continued for a brief period. After four breaths of time in the silence, light bloomed in front of Qin Yu.

He narrowed his eyes. He could see the smiling face of East Zhou Duly across from him. Her face was flushed and she had an ecstatic expression.

Shua –

Shua –

Space continuously twisted and three more figures appeared. Once the trial was over and East Zhou Duly obtained a spot to enter the land of inheritance, her followers would be gathered here through the contract they signed.

At this moment, Qin Yu stiffened and his heart sank. Fear flooded his mind like a tsunami.

This feeling...an abyssal being!

Compared to the abyssal being he killed before, the strength of this one was on a completely different level.

Qin Yu took a deep breath, forcing himself to maintain a calm and composed expression. He silently looked over and their eyes met midway. Shang Lingyu smiled and nodded. His appearance was mild and friendly, unchanged from before.

It was him!

Qin Yu nodded in return but his heart sank. He suspected that there was another reason why he had been attacked by an abyssal being, but he never imagined that Shang Lingyu's body had already been taken over by another abyssal being.

Was he a victim? Or was the matter related to him to begin with? Thoughts raced through Qin Yu's mind but he ended up wryly smiling. There was no point in contemplating this too much. What he should be thinking about right now is how to survive.

Although the abyssal being that took over Shang Lingyu's body hadn't revealed its fangs yet, it was undoubtedly terrifying. Qin Yu's senses explicitly informed him that if they were to truly fight, he would have no chance of winning.

But right now, 'Shang Lingyu' hadn't attacked them. With his strength, it wouldn't be difficult to kill everyone else here. And not just that, but Qin Yu had slain an abyssal being earlier, so there was a reason for a deep grudge between them.

While he had no idea why Shang Lingyu was patiently waiting, Qin Yu knew that this was his only chance to survive this danger.

No matter what the reason is, since you want to pretend to be helpless then I'll also play the role of a clueless idiot. That is, as long as you don't flip around and attack.

"Where is fellow daoist Fairylike?" East Zhou Duly frowned.

Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun's complexion changed. "In order to speed up the search process we divided into two teams. Fellow daoist Shang and Fairylike went off together."

Seeing everyone look over, Shang Lingyu revealed a bitter and guilty expression. "Soon after we separated, me and Miss Fairylike found another platform. However, before we were able to contact the others we were discovered by them.

“In the battle, Miss Fairylike fell to their plotting and perished. But as she did, she managed to drag down two others with her. It was because of this that I was able to kill the last person and capture the third platform.”

“So that’s what happened.” East Zhou Duly appeared saddened. She didn’t doubt Shang Lingyu’s explanation. After a brief silence she said, “Because fellow daoist Fairylike died in the Path of 10,000 Souls, the East Zhou Family will richly compensate her relatives, teachers, and friends.”

Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun slowly nodded. While they felt disdain towards Fairylike, they also grieved a little over her passing.

After all, those that entered the Path of 10,000 Souls were all the same kind of people; they were struggling with all their might to pursue greater opportunities.

They didn’t doubt Shang Lingyu’s explanation either. His strength was one reason and him capturing the third platform was another reason.

It was impossible for too many things to happen in such a short period of time...certainly, the most important thing was that the contract had been completed after obtaining the third platform and Fairylike was already dead...

In such a situation, why would they inquire deeper into something they didn’t care too much about?

Qin Yu nodded along with everything, a heavy expression on his face. He glanced at Shang Lingyu. If this matter wasn’t related to him then he would take a block of tofu and smash his own head in!

But to him, Fairylike was only a passerby. Moreover, she likely had thoughts of seducing him to plunder his energy.

If a woman like that died then she died. And if it wasn’t for her taking the initiative to throw herself at Shang Lingyu, she wouldn’t have ended up with such a fate.

The evils we bring upon ourselves are the hardest to bear!

East Zhou Duly’s eyes lingered on Qin Yu. “Everyone, I have obtained a spot for the inheritance and will soon enter the land of inheritance. With this, our contract has come to an end. Here, I will bid all of you good luck and hope you can obtain some harvests.”

When she finished speaking, the binding force of the contract between them disappeared.

Qin Yu’s heart skipped a beat. He thought, what in the world are you acting so quickly for? What if the reason Shang Lingyu didn’t attack was that he was wary about the existence of the contract? If you undo the contract so quickly, the rest of us might die here with you!

Although he appeared calm on the surface, Qin Yu was actually fully prepared to run away. But soon he discovered that he was overthinking things.

Shang Lingyu was the first to cup his hands together. “Everyone, I will say my goodbyes here first. I hope that we may meet each other again in the future.”

He turned and left, vanishing into the horizon.

Pure Summer and Peaceful Nun also revealed happy expressions. “Miss East Zhou, the two of us will also say our goodbyes here.”

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The two flew away in another direction. It seemed that while they searched for the third platform, the two of them had come to some kind of agreement.

Only Qin Yu and East Zhou Duly were left behind. After determining that Shang Lingyu had truly left and wasn't skulking nearby to launch a secret attack, Qin Yu slowly let out a long breath of air, a nervous look in his eyes.

An incomparably formidable abyssal being had given up on an opportunity to take revenge for a fellow member of the same race. And according to the information he learned, flesh and blood creatures were considered extremely delicious delicacies for abyssal beings.

In other words, when Qin Yu, East Zhou Duly, and the other two were standing in front of 'Shang Lingyu', they were like a buffet on full display.

Yet he had been able to endure this...there had to be a story behind this!

Before Qin Yu could think more, East Zhou Duly hesitated briefly and said, “Qin Yu, what do you plan on doing now?”

Qin Yu glanced at her and cupped his hands, “I have some private affairs that I must deal with. I wish Miss East Zhou good luck in advance and I hope you obtain great harvests in the land of inheritance. Goodbye!”

He turned and left, simple and clean, without dragging his feet.

There didn't seem to be any lingering feelings or unwillingness to part here, right? East Zhou Duly secretly laughed at herself. As she thought, she had been overthinking things from the start. It was likely that from the very beginning Qin Yu only chose to become her follower to deal with a private matter, and it wasn't related to her at all.

How silly she had been. She had been affected by all those outside opinions that she had indulged in needless daydreaming...after mocking herself, East Zhou Duly gathered her thoughts, a look of anticipation shining in her eyes.

She had obtained a spot to enter the land of inheritance. This was the most important matter at hand. Compared to that, the so-called love between men and women wasn't anything at all.

With a thought, she stimulated the condensed inheritance brand mark within her body. Then, she vanished from sight.