

## Refining 1391

### Chapter 1391 – The Statue is Alive

There were palace halls in the Mountain of Flames and there were quite a number of them. From where Qin Yu was standing, he could not see the end.

The mountainscape was uneven and these palace halls that were built on the mountain were distributed messily.

Looking at them carefully, it did not seem as if they were shifted. It seemed like it used to be combined in one area but hills that randomly appeared forced it to become the strange sight that it was now.

Flames were still burning strongly here and the air temperature was scorching. These palaces had been burning for a long time yet they looked completely fine.

Woo...they were not perfect and had several scars. But most were because of external attacks and had nothing to do with the flames.

This group of palace halls was definitely not ordinary and Qin Yu could already feel a strange aura from within – it was an extremely powerful aura. It was like a blazing hot sun and one could not look directly at it.

Stone Pagoda sighed lightly, “Ruler!”

The strongest other than the heavens. The aura was concentrated and it influenced the palace halls around it, causing them to have attributes of immortality.

There was only one possibility for it to be able to contain so much of a Ruler’s aura – it was where the Ruler stayed!

Qin Yu’s eyes lit up. His emotions were surging.

This was the Ruler’s area. The thing that the West Desolate and that other clan had been searching for must be here.

From another perspective, how could the thing that caused both clans to spend so many years and effort to find be anything ordinary?

Perhaps, the key to break through into the Ruler realm was hidden amongst these halls!

Thump –

Thump –

Thump –

At this moment, Qin Yu’s heart was pounding hard.

He had to be excited. With his current cultivation, for him to obtain something to be able to peep into the Ruler realm...he could be instantly successful!

The delicate figure made from flames appeared and Fire Spirit spoke, "Master, I have confirmed the position of the Inextinguishable Flame. It is here."

It pointed in a direction.

Qin Yu took a deep breath, "Let's go!"

Woosh –

He moved and flew in the direction the Fire Spirit pointed in. As he moved past the halls, he could clearly sense the strong will hidden within.

This was the first time Qin Yu felt the Ruler's power directly and its incredible might. It made it hard for him to imagine what kind of horrible battle had erupted back then to cause this existence to die.

But there was one thing he was sure of. The fall of the Ruler was related to the West Desolate and that group.

As he thought about it, his eyes flashed and Qin Yu found himself back at his original position.

Because of how emotional he felt, he was observing everything carefully earlier, including the angle of the hall in front of him. Hence, Qin Yu was sure that he was standing here a moment ago.

An illusion? No, with how strong the Ruler's will was, it was not something a mere illusion could imitate. There must be another problem.

Qin Yu frowned as he flew in the same direction again. This time, he was prepared and was constantly observing his surroundings. But just as he crossed the huge hall in front of him, he was teleported without any warning once more.

Woosh –

He frowned even harder as his face fell solemn. It was not only because he had been transported back once more. More importantly, he did not sense anything unusual even though all his senses were fully activated.

It meant that even now, Qin Yu had no idea what caused him to be teleported back twice.

If it was about toughness and perseverance, Qin Yu would definitely pass. Taking a deep breath, he suppressed the annoyance he felt and flew back in the same direction.

The huge hall was in front of him and there were roads on his left and right. If this way could not work, then he would just try another way. It was a pity that before any delightful surprise happened, Qin Yu was transported back to his original position once he reached a similar distance away.

He could not pass!

It was as if there was some kind of lock in the air. As soon as he neared it, it would activate and send him back to his original position.

Woosh –

He continued to fly. This time, he went backwards. Since he could not go forwards, how about backwards? Apparently, the 'airlock' existed in all directions.

Woosh –

Qin Yu was back to where he started.

Stone Pagoda said, "Master, this must be one of the abilities of the illusion, reality Divine Way that I mentioned earlier. We must now be within the power of the Ruler's inheritance. The likelihood of death is not high. After all, with the Ruler's power, if he just wanted to kill, he would not have needed to go through all this trouble. So I guess that to leave here, we have to follow the Ruler's will and move in the way he allows."

The way the Ruler allows...

Qin Yu's eyes flashed as he looked at the huge hall in front of him. Because of the terrain, he was not able to see the entire group of palace halls. But from here, he could at least see the boundary and that the palaces were linked together.

And this was an obvious path.

Previously, Qin Yu did not choose to enter the halls because he was worried about the dangers within. After all, this was where the Ruler stayed; who knew if it contained more of the Ruler's will and would kill anyone who trespassed.

But now it seems like Stone Pagoda's deduction was very likely...could this be some kind of trial? Could it be some kind of story that he had to show his power, resources and gain the Ruler's recognition to obtain the inheritance?!

This couldn't be. How old fashioned. With the Ruler's position and status, if he did this, it felt like the value dropped.

More importantly, it was obvious that the Ruler died after a huge battle...in that kind of situation, who would have the mood to plan for things like this? This did not seem right!

Stone Pagoda seemed to sense the disgust in Qin Yu and coughed lightly, "Master, we have no choice now but to try."

'Try' was a good word to use.

The huge palace was here and entering should be easy. However, Qin Yu did not think that pushing the door open and stepping in was a good choice.

What if their deduction was wrong?

If he angered the Ruler's will, Qin Yu's current abilities would be equivalent to an unripe persimmon resisting against the heavens.

But a persimmon was still a persimmon and there was no doubt it would be squashed.

Unlike the West Desolate and the other clan, he did not have the ability to not die and treasured his life greatly.

Hmm...as he thought of this, he needed to brainstorm. The West Desolate and that group created the big ship and did more than one Blood Sacrifice. It was obvious they had entered the Mountain of Flames multiple times; could it be that they did not find this group of palaces?

He thought of the Inextinguishable Flame he got from Li Zhouyi. It was obvious they had most likely come in here. Woo...but perhaps not as well. The fire creatures also contained Inextinguishable Flame. They could accumulate more by killing a few.

Forget it, who cared if they came here before. I am here now.

But how should he 'try'?

Stone Pagoda suddenly fell silent and even hid his aura. Although he did not say anything, his intentions were clear.

I am not going. You better not think about it!

Truthfully, Qin Yu had no intentions of using Stone Pagoda to test. After all, he was still very useful now. He then thought and pointed, "Fire Spirit, enter the hall and see how it is."

See how it is. It was obvious. Who did not know how things were!

Brutally speaking, he meant for her to test it out. It would be good if things were fine, but if not, then count yourself unlucky.

Stone Pagoda could clearly sense the begrudging feelings from Fire Spirit. You put in so much effort but it seems like there was no use.

In the past, Qin Yu has always been extremely gentle with other women, especially the pretty ones. Why is he different with you?

Keke, there was no point thinking if he could not find an answer. Alas, men changed their minds easily too...time to take note. It feels like I learnt something new!

The delicate flame figure stiffened for a while before replying, "Yes, Master." There was a coldness in her gentle voice, filled with complaints.

Qin Yu nodded, "Hurry."

Damn. Heartless!

If Fire Spirit had tears, she would have cried a river. Turning her head, she flew towards the huge hall and pushed open the door.

Everything went smoothly other than the angry 'bang' sound. A few moments later, Fire Spirit flew out, "Master, there is no danger."

Her voice was very hard!

Qin Yu pretended not to hear. You are just a Spirit Array but you chose to be a woman and the kind with a voluptuous figure. What do you mean by that?

It is as if you are saying that I am a pervert and you even determined my taste! Hehe, who made you so bold?

You dare to do this and think that I would treat you nicely? What are you thinking!

Woosh –

He flew towards the entrance. Fire Spirit said there was no danger and Qin Yu was still able to believe her.

She would not dare to create trouble. Otherwise, Qin Yu guaranteed that she would perish before he did.

This was also why Qin Yu was cold and did not give her face...hehe, your life is in my hands and you try to be funny? He did not feel any guilt. After all, if not for Qin Yu, she would have been extinguished!

The palace door had been pushed open and he could see everything. The palace looked extravagant and clean, as if it was completely new without a hint of dust.

A few dozen statues neatly lined the sides of the hall and each of them held weapons. They ranged from swords, spears, and knives, and they all appeared very lifelike.

Qin Yu had his guard up and he breathed in deeply as he focused on these statues. Once he felt like nothing was wrong, he let out a sigh of relief and walked in.

Buzz –

Right when Qin Yu walked in, a soft buzzing sound rang through the halls as a cold aura swept through his body.

His first thought was, Fire Spirit, you dared to harm me? Did her attitude become this bad after she became a woman?

Before Qin Yu could think about it further, the statues in front of him came alive!

### **Chapter 1392 – Rewards**

There had been no signs of the statues cracking out of the surface and no forewarning. It came out of nowhere from the silence. Their bright eyes were white and they held no emotions as they stared intently at Qin Yu.

Shoosh –

Shoosh –

A bright shadow of a sword flashed by!

Actually, these sound effects were not real.

Similar to when the statues came to life, their attacks were silent.

The lack of sound did not represent weakness. Instead, their power was terrifying. Qin Yu's eyes were shaking involuntarily. He stepped down and retreated backward. Against such a force, his best option now was to avoid it.

This was especially so after he sensed the danger from the sword flash.

However, there was a surprise for him. A low 'bang' sounded as his chest was struck heavily. He almost spat out blood.

The palace hall doors had been opened and he had seen the interior clearly. When he first entered, he did not sense the dangers. But now that he wanted to head out, he realized that it was a single direction entrance.

There was nothing in the doors but they felt as strong as a mountain. Qin Yu struck them but there wasn't a single movement.

Qin Yu gave up on the thoughts of forcing open the doors. He looked up at the sword flash and yelled, "Fire Spirit, just you wait!"

She needed to take the blame.

However, Qin Yu knew that she did not intend to harm him. Nonetheless, someone had to take the blame.

The most important matter now was to survive, otherwise it was pointless to place the blame on someone else.

Many wild thoughts filled his mind. Qin Yu was not impatient enough that he dared to be distracted under dangerous circumstances. He had to do this to calm his nerves.

That's right, Qin Yu was nervous now.

The powers of these statues were frightening. When they were revived, Qin Yu's first thought was to leave without hesitation.

Silent clashes between swords, spears and knives brought a more ominous feeling.

Qin Yu breathed in deeply and threw a punch out. A single strong blow could make the breakthrough. No matter how accomplished one was, they would need to kneel down in front of absolute force.

Qin Yu did not think he would need to go to such a resort. He did not believe that his blow would be able to crush the Sword Flash.

Instead, Qin Yu wanted to slow down the momentum of the battle and gain some time for him to find out the weakness of the statues.

While this was a good plan, he needed to have decisive actions. The power of his strike was strong but it could not match up to the statues.

Crack, creak –

The sounds of flesh tearing and muscles straining could be heard. Qin Yu grunted and his face turned pale.

His guess was right. In a single blow, he had been heavily injured!

There was something wrong with these statues.

The Rule System Body would not be crushed no matter how strong the blow was. However, under the strikes from the weapons barrage, it was as vulnerable as an egg shell.

The injuries on Qin Yu looked like red streaks but they were very deep. In harsher terms, he was like a lamb slab on a butcher board.

It was only because his physical body was strong and his flesh was durable that he was still alive.

It would be hard to maintain his body soon.

The injury caused by the statues had a sharp tearing force that could cut through everything. Not only was his Rule System Body broken through, his wounds took a long time to heal.

Invincibility and indestructibility...was it this?

Oh god!

His expression stiffened and his eyes darkened. Not long ago, his heart was racing in anticipation. Now, it was as cold as ice.

He had never imagined that after coming so far with his cultivation he would still be defenseless against a bunch of statues.

Alright. Although he sensed from before that he should not provoke the statues, their might far exceeded his expectations.

He would not survive!

This was only one blow. Unless these statues were fleeting images, just a few more blows – roughly three to five more – would be enough to kill Qin Yu.

The Rule System Body was very strong and it had an incredible lifeforce. The speed at which it healed itself was shocking but his opponent would not give him any chance to recover. Qin Yu would be killed on the spot.

“Master, hurry up and leave. These statues are problematic...” Stone Pagoda cried in a rage as he sensed something.

This warning...was useless!

If he could have left, he would have escaped a long time ago. Why the need for Stone Pagoda? The problem was that he had nowhere to run!

Qin Yu scanned his surroundings. Aside from the shut doors behind him, there were only tightly shut windows. Whether or not he could open them was one thing, and even if he did manage to open them,

they might be like the doors. He would only be able to see the outside world but he would not be able to leave.

What should he do?

Giving up his life and waiting for death was something he would never do. He needed to keep his life.

Furthermore, he had a hidden card.

The sword that he obtained from the East Sea as the Dragon Saint cried.

While Qin Yu had never witnessed the sword's power before, using Great Dao to activate it would unleash a strike and that was enough to prove how strong it was.

Qin Yu only had half a Great Dao and the Spring Master had warned him not to use it. But he was about to die; who cared about a warning!

Qin Yu gritted his teeth and his eyes flashed. He gathered all his energy for his strike. However, the next scene stunned him.

Those statues that came to life and slashed Qin Yu with the Sword Flash suddenly dropped down to their knees on the ground and threw their weapons aside. They kneeled respectfully.

What was going on? They were just about to kill him but they suddenly changed and acknowledged him as a master?

Qin Yu's eyes widened and he choked on his saliva and coughed violently.

Completely puzzled, he scratched his head and many nonsensical thoughts crossed his mind. Just then, the statues picked up their weapons and walked back to their original positions.

Then, they returned to the ice cold unmoving statues. This disappointed Qin Yu.

A second ago he was still wondering if he could mobilize the forces of these statues and become a general who led them.

True Saints or not, they could try to attack him. With a single wave of his hand, he would mobilize the force of the statues. They would beat his opponents senseless!

Take that! Are you scared now?

It was a pity that his dreams were shattered before they were even realized.

Tsk. Qin Yu sucked in a cold breath of air and relaxed. He instantly felt the excruciating pain from the statues.

These darn statues were so harsh!

Everything appeared strange and weird. Who knew when the statues would suddenly revive again and give Qin Yu another lesson.

As such, he ought to leave this place quickly.



His body flashed and he appeared beside the hall doors. Right as he was about to step out, he realized that the seal around the doors had already disappeared.

A subtle smile appeared on his face. Just as he was about to move ahead, he suddenly stopped. He had been struck by the Sword Flash and he sustained heavy injuries because of that. How could he simply accept that and just leave?

He turned around and looked at the hall and the silent statues. Gritting his teeth, he thought to himself. He was going to get those riches!

The primary factor that drove Qin Yu to make such a risky decision was that he did not know what to do after he left the hall.

Wherever he went, he would return to his original location. Unless he died, he would return here again.

Since that was the case, why not give it a shot?

Shoosh –

He flew through the air at lightning speed and arrived at the other end of the hall.

Things were going smoothly!

The statues remained stationary and there did not seem to be any other danger within the hall.

Phew.

He sighed deeply. Qin Yu was not a fearful person, the hall was simply too scary. If another wave of creatures similar to those statues came, Qin Yu was not confident he would survive.

He spotted a door in the distance. As he thought, there were two ways to enter and exit the palace hall. Just as Qin Yu sped up, a bright light flashed through the hall and illuminated the stone walls.

Strange markings lined the walls of the hall. At first glance, they looked messy. When Qin Yu took a closer look, he was in amazement at these strange markings. He could vaguely understand the hidden meaning in them.

His heart beat faster. Although he could not understand the markings fully, he had a feeling that there was more to the markings on the stone wall. As such, he stopped and looked closer at them. Almost instantaneously, he found himself transfixed by the markings.

“This...this is...” His eyes bulged wide open and shock filled his expression as he shouted with joy, “Yes, this is it!”

In dramas and books, main leads would often go through tough obstacles and make huge achievements after.

As usual, hard work must be put in first.

Qin Yu did not go through a series of tests and the result was unexpected and odd. But he definitely risked his life and the difficulty of the tests was high. He was deserving of spoils.

The statues in the hall remained stationary but Qin Yu dared not assume that he was safe. The best option for him now was still to leave.

However, if he were to leave...no, no way. He could not leave like that. After such a blow from the Sword Flash, he could not leave!

“Stone Pagoda, keep a lookout for me!” Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. His eyes sparkled as he observed the markings on the walls intently.

Stone Pagoda was speechless.

What...is he going to close himself in cultivation under such dangerous circumstances? However, Qin Yu had given him an order and Stone Pagoda did not have any chance to protest. Stone Pagoda thought of waking Qin Yu up and urging him to leave the hall.

Forget it. Stone Pagoda quickly threw aside these thoughts.

Qin Yu was not a reckless fellow who disregarded all danger. Since he instructed Stone Pagoda to keep watch, the markings on the wall must be very important.

Stone Pagoda knew better than to disturb Qin Yu now.

### **Chapter 1393 – Star Retrieval**

Life was so hard!

He was just about to head out of the hall and escape to safety when these strange markings suddenly caught his eye. He could not help but look at them.

Buzz –

Stone Pagoda’s illusion appeared and surrounded Qin Yu. He said, “Fire Spirit, go and look at that door. Can we really leave through there?”

Fire Spirit nodded. This was another instance of Stone Pagoda dictating what she should do. She obeyed Qin Yu’s instructions, but Stone Pagoda...never mind, she did not dare to resist him.

If she had known that the life of a spirit was so pitiful, she should have just disappeared back then...Oh well, she was still alive. At least she still had a chance to see the beauty of the world.

She floated over towards the door and pushed it open silently. The entire process went smoothly.

Stone Pagoda instructed, “Go out and have a look around.”

Don’t bully a spirit!

Fire Spirit gritted her teeth and flew out of the hall. A few moments later, she returned and reported, “It is safe.” Her tone was cold and it was obvious she was unhappy.

Qin Yu and Stone Pagoda were the same. Why was she being bullied? Who would be happy under such circumstances?

Stone Pagoda sighed deeply. Alright, thank goodness. If a real danger popped up, Qin Yu could escape through the door.

Stone Pagoda thought lightly of Fire Spirit's poor attitude. He could pacify and satisfy her wants later on.

However, what caused Qin Yu's wondrous expression when he looked at the strange markings on the wall? Stone Pagoda finally took a look at it. After a few moments, a sharp breath escaped him. It felt like he had been hit on the head after being caught cheating on an exam by the teacher.

Damn it, how would he have known? How could Qin Yu be the only person allowed to look at the wall? Furthermore, Stone Pagoda had not looked at it for long. Did the force have to be so harsh to him?

If Stone Pagoda had eyes and could see, all he would be seeing now was a black screen.

Urgh.

Another blow!

Stone Pagoda was speechless.

Couldn't he even think about it? So harsh!

He shrugged his shoulders and secretly prayed that the force would let him off.

Fire Spirit was shaking. She had seen Stone Pagoda jerk backwards twice in pain. She could also feel the terrifying pressure in the air.

The will of the Ruler!

Time ticked by and the hall was silent. After an hour, Qin Yu shivered and his eyes regained focus.

Right as he regained consciousness, the markings on the stone wall disappeared.

The markings were erased from the wall. A blank hole started from the middle and spread through the stone wall until all the markings were gone.

In the end, there wasn't a trace of the markings.

Stone Pagoda sighed, "So it seems it was left for only one person to read..." He had peaked at it and desperately tried to memorize the markings. Now, it felt like something had swept through his mind and wiped his memories clean.

The Ruler's item!

Without question, these markings were left by the Ruler. Was Qin Yu so lucky that he got a treasure right from the first room of the hall?

"Master..."

Stone Pagoda was interrupted immediately. Qin Yu said, "It isn't like what you think. Don't be impatient, let's leave here first."

Shoosh –

His body flashed and he appeared outside the hall.

The Fire Spirit was speechless.

Why didn't she just die back then?

Was she invisible? Qin Yu ignored her completely.

She was the one who opened the door and checked the outside. Although there had been an accident previously, it was not her fault.

She felt so wronged!

Gritting her teeth, she chased after Qin Yu. The desire for freedom slowly started to grow in her heart.

She wanted to be free and experience the life of a spirit!

Qin Yu stood outside the hall. There were numerous mountains all around but this was a place that was originally a flat square.

The Ruler wanted him to pass through the hall and not head to other directions. However, this hall was really frightening. Entering a wrong area could mean certain death.

Qin Yu sighed and explained, "The writings on the stone wall described a Divine Way of refining the body. It needs the Rule System Body as a requirement and it is difficult to explain the details. All in all, it is very strong."

This was an explanation for Stone Pagoda. Right now, Stone Pagoda was so curious he was about to explode. He nodded his head eagerly and his eyes were passionately locked onto Qin Yu. Obviously, this was not the only thing he was curious about.

Qin Yu frowned, "Don't ask me. I am still a little confused." He did not understand why the statues suddenly let him off and proceeded to kneel before him.

Stone Pagoda coughed lightly, "Master, are you hiding something related to your birth and background?"

Qin Yu's lips twitched, "Your imagination is so wild. There isn't that much trickery and scheming in this world."

Stone Pagoda thought about it and nodded. He had been with Qin Yu for a while now. If Qin Yu was hiding a secret, Stone Pagoda would have sensed it by now.

"Then that is so strange!"

Qin Yu raised his hand and rubbed his forehead, "If we can't figure it out, then let's cast it aside for now. The answer will reveal itself in the future."

He had a few guesses about his birth origins. But he did not think it would be related to this hall or the Mysterious Clan.

If that was the case, then why would they try so hard to find him for all these years? In the end, they failed miserably. Qin Yu worked with the ancient Saints instead of them.

Forget it, it wasn't worth telling Stone Pagoda about this.

Qin Yu glanced at Fire Spirit. She quietly floated beside him but her bad mood was apparent.

He frowned, "Do you feel wronged?"

Fire Spirit quickly denied, "I wouldn't dare to."

"That's right!" Qin Yu scoffed coldly. "You saw for yourself how I almost died in the hall. Didn't you say that it was safe? Because of this, you don't have the right to feel wronged."

Fire Spirit was so angry she cried. You did not sense anything wrong either and that is why you entered. Furthermore, when I went in to scout the hall, nothing was wrong. You saw this for yourself too!

However, Qin Yu was not going to reason with her. "Continue to survey the area! Remember, you are not allowed to make the same mistake twice. Otherwise don't blame me for being harsh."

Fire Spirit cried sulkily and left.

Stone Pagoda coughed lightly, "Master, aren't you going too far? After all, she is a girl. You should take care of her."

Qin Yu snorted, "Do you really not know the reason?"

Stone Pagoda was silent. Then, in a soft voice, he said, "I think I might."

Qin Yu scoffed, "Then what nonsense are you talking about?"

From the beginning, Fire Spirit seemed to have ill intentions. As such, Qin Yu made sure to give her cold treatment.

He wanted to force aside her evil thoughts so as to ensure that she did not do anything stupid.

Treat her well? Qin Yu really did not know how the Fire Spirit of the Spirit Array could come up with such thoughts.

What a joke!

There was another important reason. The Fire Spirit would be integral for him to obtain the Inextinguishable Flame and other precious flames.

The furnace could evolve as it absorbed precious flames from the world. Absorbing the Fire of Eternal Night was the first step. Next, he would retrieve the Inextinguishable Flame. Following that, he would get his third, fourth, fifth...flames.

The more flames the merrier. Qin Yu did not yet know how many such precious flames there were in the world.

Although the furnace would not be able to absorb all the flames, it should be able to handle at least ten flames. This meant that it would be very helpful for him to keep the Fire Spirit by his side. For Qin Yu to be able to trust her and use her to her full potential, he needed to make sure that she knew her status very well.

Otherwise, it would be a disaster if she took advantage of his kind heart. Hehe, not only would he destroy the Fire Spirit, he would seal her away.

Qin Yu sat down and started to heal his wounds.

On the surface, the wound he sustained from the sword flash seemed to have healed really well. However, his internal wounds were severe.

He was like a ceramic vase that looked beautiful from the outside but had an inside lining filled with cracks.

However, Qin Yu did not mind having these words now.

It wasn't that his mind was twisted and he enjoyed the pain from his injuries. Instead, he wanted to test the body refinement technique that he had just learnt from the writings on the wall. This was a Divine Way that required the Rule System Body and high level cultivation techniques.

That's right. Qin Yu felt that this body refinement technique was good enough to be classified as a Divine Way.

Star Retrieval!

This was the name of the body refinement technique as written on the walls. When the user mastered this technique, he would be able to use the strength of his physical body to pluck the stars from the sky.

Qin Yu also knew that each of the stars in the galaxy was linked to a Small World.

If he understood the writings properly and the author was not lying, mastering this technique would allow him to wield destructive power with his hands.

Truthfully, when Qin Yu first read the writings, he felt that the author was exaggerating the capabilities of the technique.

After cultivating the Rule System Body, Qin Yu had a good understanding of body refinement techniques. It was possible to cultivate an indestructible body but to say that pure physical strength would be able to crush worlds seemed too good to be true!

However, he had already learnt the technique and it was only natural that he proceeded to cultivate it. After all, it was a technique left behind by a Ruler. While it did not have anything to do with breaking through to the realm of Ruler, it could still be a very powerful technique. Qin Yu was confident of this even if he factored in the possibility of the author bragging.

Eventually, Qin Yu was not disappointed. When he activated his internal strength following the instructions of the Star Retrieval technique, it felt like the Rule System Body came alive.

It was strong and sturdy. It felt like he could support the heavens without feeling any pressure of its weight.

Boom boom –

This was the sound of his strong heart beat against his chest. His blood circulated through his body quickly.

Heat radiated off his body and a white cloud formed above Qin Yu's head. His exposed flesh was as red as a piece of iron being submerged in fire.

Like an awakened beast, it was fierce, domineering, and violent.

The cracks in his body started to heal speedily under the high heat of his physical body.

Crackle, crack –

The sound came from the stone tile Qin Yu sat on. It could not bear the aura coming off him and cracks started to form on its surface.

Just then, Fire Spirit returned from her expedition. She was still fuming angrily when she saw what was happening.

“Ah!”

She cried. The flames that outlined her body wavered and her body was almost crushed from the aura Qin Yu gave out.

Star Retrieval! Incredible!

The Ruler had truly left behind something marvelous.

No, it could not just be described as marvelous. This was too weak a description of Star Retrieval's might.

Having tested the body refinement technique out, Qin Yu could not conclude that mastering this technique would grant him the strength to crush the skies with just his physical strength. However, it would definitely be the decisive blow if he used this technique to kill someone. A single punch from him would ruin his enemy!

By now, Qin Yu felt that he could use his pure physical body strength to fight against a True Saint!

This was only the first step. He had just grazed the surface of the whole learning journey and was still a far cry from actually learning it.

If he continued to cultivate this technique and practice it....its name, Star Retrieval, would be very appropriate!

Under normal circumstances, anyone who chanced upon such a powerful Divine Way would immediately close himself in cultivation and practice it for a hundred years.

However, he was definitely in an extraordinary circumstance now.

Qin Yu sighed and forced himself to shut down his impatience. As he calmed his wildly circulating blood flow, the heat around him dissipated as well.

Thud –

Fire Spirit fell to the ground and her flame body cracked. She had shrunk into a fist-sized ball of flame from her fear.

Too scary, way too terrifying!

The aura from Qin Yu was so destructive and she did not even dare to run away!

All the hateful feelings in her heart instantly disappeared.

With Qin Yu being this strong, she did not dare to play any tricks on him. She would be shouting for her own death.

All her previous thoughts of wanting to die early was nonsensical. She was somewhat similar to the Shadow of the Abyss in her unwillingness to die.

This ill-fated Spirit Array managed to survive against all odds and it even had the chance to merge with a Fire Spirit and live longer in this world.

The percentage of this chance was very small.

Before she had seen the world and experience a good life, why would she die? It wasn't bad to continue living even if she had a hard life!

Qin Yu definitely had not imagined that the lessons that he wanted to teach Fire Spirit would have gotten through to her from this mere event.

Stone Pagoda was very excited. After learning that the Mysterious Clan was a superpower as strong as the West Desolate, and knowing that they might have come from another world, he had been quite disappointed and hesitant.

The possibilities of revenge appeared to grow smaller. Although Qin Yu was strong, would he be able to go against the Half-King that was as strong as a divine dragon? It was obvious that a Half-King was not the strongest individual that that clan had.

This was something that could make anyone despair. Furthermore, the hopes of taking revenge had just been given before they were crushed again...the disappointment had made Stone Pagoda depressed.

However, the fire had ignited again.

So what if that clan was very strong? Qin Yu was someone who always gave surprises. Back when Stone Pagoda first started to follow Qin Yu, he was an insignificant weakling who was ignorant of the world.

However, his wings took flight and he was now a top martial artist in the Vast Brightness World. Beneath the realm of Ruler, he could definitely be considered very powerful.

Furthermore, Qin Yu was exceptionally lucky. He had obtained a treasure left behind by a Ruler.

Star Retrieval was the best example!

Was he far from being a Ruler? No! He was very close to it!

Even if that powerful clan was in another world, so what? One day, Qin Yu would go there to kill them.

**Chapter 1394 – Connection**



As Stone Pagoda was dreaming about his fantasies, two other people were engaged in an intense battle. They were Close Saint and the vengeful spirit in Li Quanji, the two who were previously in a close alliance.

They were truly pitiful. From the initial objective of trying to kill Soft Peach and Qin Yu, they ended up being crushed and they lost all dignity.

After such shame, the two of them could be considered brothers who went through hard times together. However, they were not the kind of people who would pitifully cry in each other's arms.

They chose to direct their anger at each other. Consume him and recover the loss from before!

Birds of a feather flock together.

It was hard to say who made the first move but that was not important. The instant they turned against each other, Close Saint and Li Quanji knew what the other party was thinking.

After Li Quanji had been beaten by Soft Peach and Close Saint was tricked by Qin Yu, they were both agitated and their need to kill grew even more intense.

Roar –

With a cry, Li Quanji's mouth opened and like a large black hole, it devoured Close Saint.

However, the battle did not stop. Li Quanji seemed to have the upper hand after he swallowed Close Saint but he had actually been tricked.

Just as Close Saint was about to be devoured, a black flame rushed out from Li Quanji's nose and instantly covered him.

"How dare you try to swallow a Ghost Path user? Are you unafraid of death?" Close Saint smirked coldly and smoothly found his path of escape through the black flames.

Li Quanji taunted, "Let's see who will survive till the end!"

Boom!

A thick cloud of blood rushed out from the black flames and twisted to form a layer of blood mist. The mesmerizing colors of black and red formed an incredible scene in the sky.

.....

Soft Peach curled herself into a small sphere and she was like a bubble that floated in the flames.

Upon a closer look, her soft and delicate skin had streaks of golden marks on it. As the Inextinguishable Flame burned, the golden streaks surged and light spots gathered from all directions and entered her body.

As time passed, her weak aura started to recover.

The use of her second personality had taken a huge toll on her. It was similar to an outburst that drained her energy.

As such, the consecutive awakening of her second personality eventually placed her in a deep slumber to recover her strength.

Sleeping did not put her in a vulnerable state. Instead, Soft Peach was an even more dangerous threat now.

The fire danced and a pair of cold eyes appeared in the flames. This creature locked its eyes onto Soft Peach. It finally decided to take action after a long time.

It reached out and its mouth opened viciously. Vicious flames gathered together and formed a concentrated spot with very high heat.

Roar –

Suddenly, a dragon shot forward from the flames. Its target was Soft Peach.

However, right before the dragon reached its target, the gold streaks on Soft Peach flashed.

Then, everything came to a standstill. These two creatures – the roaring dragon and the creature formed from the flames of the Inextinguishable Flame – vanished.

This entire process was very silent and nothing appeared amiss. Everything returned to normal and it was like nothing ever happened.

.....

Although it had been pretty much determined that he had to proceed by moving forward, Qin Yu still tried to go down the side paths multiple times. After he was sure that he could not advance via the side paths, he frowned and looked forward.

The second hall.

He had experienced this before and obtained rewards after tough obstacles. However, Qin Yu could not help being nervous.

This time, there weren't any statues in the hall but there were illustrations of dancing women on the floor. It was as if this group of women were sucked into the floor of the hall when they were dancing.

The illustrations were very vivid and lifelike. When Qin Yu looked at the drawings, it felt like he could vaguely hear the enchanting music as the women danced elegantly in the hall.

Qin Yu was sure that the obstacle in this seemingly peaceful hall would come from the dancing women.

Fire Spirit had already circled the hall numerous times but nothing seemed to happen. She stood confidently in the hall and her expression seemed to be telling Qin Yu, it isn't my fault if anything happens! You saw it for yourself. Come in if you dare to, otherwise, stay out.

Life often made him feel so helpless. Despite knowing that this was a trap, he could only advance forward.

Taking in a deep breath to calm himself, Qin Yu stepped into the hall. Just as he entered, a buzzing sound reverberated through his ears.

Soon, a cold aura drifted across.

It was here!

The melodious strum of instruments mesmerized him. Slowly, drum beats joined in followed by the sound of flutes. In the blink of an eye, the charming music flowed like water through him and instantly pulled him into a trance.

Qin Yu bit his lip and forced himself to focus. There was something terrifying in this hall. The music alone was enough to pull him into an illusion.

Thankfully, he was wary and he had prepared himself to immediately counter anything amiss. This hall was dangerous!

A girl started to sing along to the enchanting music. Qin Yu could not make sense of the lyrics but his soul was immediately aroused.

He laughed bitterly. He had just refocused himself but he was almost pulled back into the illusion. Yin and Yang forces were still circulating normally and it was evident that whatever he was experiencing was not a normal attack on his soul.

One by one, the women in the floor slowly started to walk out of it. Their charming smiles and bright eyes were brilliant and Qin Yu could not help being mesmerized by them.

One of them started to dance. Her elegant movements followed her as she waved around the floor. Qin Yu bit his lip so hard that a strong metallic taste of blood appeared in his mouth.

He knew that everything in front of him was an illusion and falling into it would mean certain death. However, he could not remain calm. This might seem very easy to do, but without experiencing it by yourself, there was no way to know how terrifying and dangerous this was.

It was almost like he was voluntarily walking into his grave even though he did not want to die. Throughout the entire process, he was very clear-headed but he could not control himself.

Qin Yu did not know how long he would be able to take this for. Perhaps, he would lose control in the next moment and fall into a deep dream realm.

Death was obviously the one thing that came at the end of that tunnel.

If that was the case, he would give it a try. Although he was not confident and he felt that this method was very illogical and strange, this was his only option now.

He took in a deep breath before stepping forward decisively.

Ptui!

His mouth was full of blood from biting his tongue. Finally, there was use for that blood. He spat the blood onto the ground and it was instantly absorbed.

The music came to an abrupt stop as did the dangers. All the beautiful ladies shivered as they dropped to the ground.

They bowed three times to Qin Yu before dissipating into the air.

A deadly silence fell in the hall.

Although Qin Yu had some degree of hope before, after what happened, he felt slightly lightheaded.

It ended just like that? It was only a mouthful of blood and Qin Yu was the one who spat it out!

Stone Pagoda's light voice rang through his head, "Master, are you going to continue hiding your identity?"

Qin Yu remained silent.

What could he say? He did not know how to explain.

He glanced around him and found Fire Spirit staring at him with a look of realization too. No wonder she felt so fearful around Qin Yu; he had such a solid background.

As expected, she was right to be careful around him. Otherwise she would be dead meat by now!

Phew.

Qin Yu gave a long sigh. By now, it was pretty much confirmed that there was a close connection between this hall and his origins.

More accurately, he was closely connected to the Ruler who died.

This was the only explanation for how his mouthful of blood spat onto the ground could stop the trial. It was a complete joke!

Qin Yu thought deeply. He had two guesses now, one of which was the little blue lamp.

This guy was addicted to going missing and now only a very faint thread of connection still existed between him and Qin Yu. He had gone completely silent and there was no movement.

However, it was normal for the secrets and mystery around the little blue lamp to be related to the Ruler.

The other possibility was the mysterious woman in the Shadow of the Sun and Moon.

She was his deepest secret. Furthermore, it appeared that she was far stronger than a True Saint. The only option left was that she was a Ruler.

A sudden thought popped into his mind. What if the Ruler back then did not really die but found a way to escape?

However, this did not seem right either. The reason why the Spring Master and Scholartree Saint had such a unique Great Dao was because they obtained special nourishments for their True Saint path.

From this, it seemed almost certain that the Ruler had truly died.

Qin Yu raised an arm and rubbed his forehead. Everything seemed so unclear right now. Thankfully, he was comfortable with putting aside these problems that he had no answers to at present.

Strictly speaking, there was nothing bad about this. Instead, this was very helpful for Qin Yu.

A mouthful of blood allowed him to pass the trial. If others knew about this, they would be very jealous.

Passing the trial was not the end. The previous hall gave him such a huge reward and there was no reason that this hall did not have something for him too.

After all, based on the difficulty of the trails, the slashing by the Sword Flash was highly dangerous but at least there was a way to defend himself against it. These dancing women were invisible murderers who stealthily killed in the dark.

Qin Yu ignored Stone Pagoda's words and avoided the gaze of Fire Spirit. He rushed to the next hall.

Suddenly, his eyes brightened. As expected, there was something!

### **Chapter 1395 – Divine Way**

The rewards in the second hall appeared exactly the same as the first hall.

That's right. Strange markings lined the walls of the interior stone wall, making it appear mysterious and secretive.

Not only that, there was a similar requirement for the markings.

For Star Retrieval, the prerequisite was the Rule System Body. Only cultivators who mastered the Rule System Body would be able to comprehend Star Retrieval.

The second hall's reward was called Moon Embrace.

Just from the names of these two skills, it was evident that they were related. Names were just names and connections were just connections. These were not important.

Instead, Qin Yu was glad that he could comprehend the skills. This also meant that he met the necessary requirements to master them.

Although the two Great Divine Ways seemed very similar, they were very different. Star Retrieval was a body refinement technique and it strengthened the physical body. When fully mastered, he could potentially crush the heavens and earth with pure physical strength.

On the other hand, Moon Embrace was a secret soul refinement technique. Its interpretation was similar to Star Retrieval and the general essence was that once it was properly mastered, its user would be able to use their divine sense to sense a large area of the world at will.

The 'Moon' word represented different worlds.

However, the explanation of the word 'Embrace' made Qin Yu puzzled.

If he could sweep across multiple worlds with his divine sense at will and he could understand the state of the world with a single thought, it was strange to use the word 'Embrace' for the name of this skill.

After all, the world could not be directly embraced. It would put up some form of resistance.

Qin Yu felt that it was highly probable that the skill was being exaggerated again...it was slightly believable when Star Retrieval was described to be a technique so strong he could destroy the world with a wave of his hand.

But it was incredulous to say that his divine sense would be able to sense the entire world.

The naming was extravagant and it felt prideful, domineering, and powerful...this was the impression Qin Yu had towards the Ruler, backed by his own personal experiences.

Why would Qin Yu intentionally try to understand this Ruler? He ran into the Ruler's home and stole his leftover belongings. There was nothing wrong with trying to understand the Ruler from this perspective. Perhaps he might even be able to learn and obtain useful things from this.

There was no harm in doing this. Furthermore, Qin Yu always believed that chances were opportunities seized by the well-prepared person.

All in all, he would turn what he obtained into his own belongings.

Mastering the full technique was not possible, but Qin Yu had only cultivated Star Retrieval slightly and he could feel its effects immediately. This had been a wonderful surprise to him.

Yes, it was truly surprising!

Qin Yu sat down cross-legged and entered a deep state of cultivation. When his eyes flung open, he made a decision – he would take everything in these halls. Nothing would escape his eyes.

As such, Qin Yu smoothly passed through the third hall, the fourth and the fifth...after he entered each of the halls, he pointed a finger and allowed fresh blood to drip down.

The next instant, the blood would be devoured.

If anyone knew about this, they would directly spit out blood at this incredulous way of cheating!

Soul Hiding, Shield Guard, Defensive Attack...these were the rewards Qin Yu obtained from the subsequent halls.

One was a soul recovery technique, another was a defensive skill, and the last was an offensive skill. Coupled with Star Retrieval and Moon Embrace, it created a whole system.

Was there anything more satisfying than cheating to obtain great achievements one by one?

Qin Yu could personally vouch that nothing could beat this feeling!

This was especially so as he stood on the ground and looked at the four other halls.

What was he feeling now? He was so overwhelmed and emotional from the rewards that dropped magically into his hands.

How many more were there? He did not know.

How strong was the Ruler? It was very obvious.

Were all of these his? They had to be!

Qin Yu could not think of anything other than these grand halls. A treasure from the Ruler? No! This was the greatest loot!

He scanned all the various halls...tsk!

Qin Yu sucked in a cold breath of air. How much more could he get? He did not dare to think about it and be too greedy.

Right as his heart beat in anticipation of the great spoils he would receive, he received a slap to his face that shocked him awake.

One, two, three, four, five...there wasn't a sixth! This naturally meant that there wasn't a seventh, eighth or ninth.

This also meant that there was no more continuation of the system of Star Retrieval, Moon Embrace, Soul Hiding, Shield Guard, and Defensive Attack.

Do you know the feeling of dropping into an abyss after experiencing highs? Qin Yu now knew!

.....

At the same moment as Qin Yu was disappointed and helpless, there were two other people who were in a much sadder plight than him.

Gentle Spread Saint and Gentle Smoke Saint looked at the stone wall. The strange markings had suddenly disappeared and their expressions hardened.

They knew the precise reason why the markings disappeared, and this made them utterly disappointed.

The siblings had collaborated to decipher the meaning of the markings. Just as it seemed as though they were going to break through to the meaning of it, someone stole it right off the bat!

"Ah!"

Gentle Spread Saint cried in dismay. His fists struck against the floor in rage and a deafening blow sounded as the entire hall shook violently from the impact. However, no harm was done and the hall remained sturdy.

On the other hand, Gentle Spread Saint's bones received the brunt of it. His hand throbbed and blood instantly pooled from it.

Gentle Smoke Saint sighed, "Big brother, why don't we change to another Divine Way?"

Gentle Spread Saint nodded in agreement, "Let's go!"

Shoosh –

The two brothers turned and left the grand hall. Without hesitation, they headed for another hall.

Pushing the door open, they stepped into the hall. The token in their hand lit up and the icy cold aura that initially rushed out slowly started to ease into the room.

Without meeting any dangers along the way, the brothers headed straight for the end of the hall. Their eyes locked onto the markings on the stone wall.

Gentle Spread Saint immediately frowned. They had not prepared for this particular Divine Way and deciphering it would be hard. However, they needed to try even if they would take a thousand or ten thousand years to decipher it. Everything would be worth it eventually!

“Let’s begin!”

The brothers sat down crossed-legged and stared intently at the stone wall as their eyes shone brilliantly.

However, the raging cries of the brothers quickly filled the hall again when the markings on the stone wall disappeared.

Someone had deciphered it again!

No way, no way!

The brothers felt like they were mad from anger. They knew the grade of these Divine Ways. Even if the other party had made preparations, he was a sole individual. The brothers worked together but could not even decipher a single Divine Way.

Who could be faster than them?

Despite their shock and disbelief, this was the truth that was presented in front of them.

No one spoke and the two brothers bounded straight for the next hall. However, they were instantly thrown into dismay upon discovering what awaited them there.

Gone!

It was gone!

As they stared at the empty stone wall of the halls, the two True Saint brothers felt their souls drifting away.

The five Divine Ways were passed down from the previous Ruler. They were taken by someone...who? Who was it?

Hatred came naturally. The brothers had seen the five Divine Ways as their possession.

Breath, breath.

The brothers’ eyes bulged open and their breathings turned hard and labored. They looked at each other with hatred.

“Wind, Cloud and Rain!” Gentle Smoke bellowed.

Gentle Spread Saint added, “We underestimated them. I can’t believe these three old farts were so capable.”

Gentle Smoke gritted his teeth, “They are definitely still here!”



A hateful gaze was in Gentle Spread's eyes as he barked, "We have to find them!"

Bam bam –

The two Saints sped away.

Their target was Wind, Cloud and Rain!

However, the two True Saints were unaware that at the same time as they went mad from anger, the three Saints, Wind, Cloud and Rain were also going insane.

The reason was the exact same!

The five Divine Ways in the halls had been deciphered by someone and they were gone. Obviously, the most likely culprit was the two brothers.

They knew each other well. There was no one else who would be able to find this place so quickly and speed through the halls in such a short time!

As such, the two parties were both seeking each other. Their objectives were the same...kill the other party and take the Divine Way!

#### **Chapter 1396 – How Bold**

Qin Yu was very unhappy!

He had just started on his grand feast and it was suddenly taken away from him.

After all, going through these halls was a piece of cake for him. All he needed to do was to drip blood off his finger. This low cost effort made it worth a try.

What if he had other finds? Even one more would be brilliant!

Facts had proven that no matter how strong, calm and self-collected a person was, it was very hard to keep all these qualities when faced with a huge opportunity.

This human nature was very understandable. However, reality was disappointing. The more halls Qin Yu walked through, the more disappointed he was.

There was nothing!

Qin Yu felt helpless but he knew he had been very lucky. Among all the halls, there were only five with rewards and he had taken them all.

What luck!

Never mind, men should not be too greedy. Since he could not find more rewards, he should search for the Inextinguishable Flame. After all, these techniques were surprise finds.

He comforted himself and was just about to open the hall doors. However, before the doors were opened, he jumped in realization and his expression hardened.

There were people outside!

It was not a single individual. From the commotion, they were at odds with each other.

He focused himself and peered outside through the small gap in the door. He figured out their identities.

The two parties were familiar to him.

It was the twin Xu brothers and the somewhat weaker group of the three True Saints fighting against each other.

.....

The palace grounds were large. But with the Pass Token, the twin brothers navigated through the halls with ease. It was only a matter of time before they met the three True Saints.

As such, their confrontation directly happened.

“Twin Xu brothers!”

“Wind, Cloud and Rain!”

The two sides glared at each other with hateful eyes. They each viewed the other party as their enemy and they were so agitated, they were going to fight directly.

They knew how valuable the Divine Ways were. Hence, they could not be bothered to waste time confronting each other and talking it out.

Their fists would prove their strength and this would decide the outcome of the battle...furthermore, if they tried to communicate with each other, what if the other party took advantage and escaped?

Both parties shared similar thoughts. As such, they hopped directly into battle the moment they met.

The battle between the five True Saints was chaotic. If not for the fact that the palace had the Ruler’s aura supporting it, it would have been demolished by the commotion.

Oh, if that had happened, Qin Yu’s hiding spot in the hall would have been exposed. Till now, he had been silently observing everything.

“Space Demolishment!” Gentle Spread Saint yelled as he unleashed his attack. Gentle Smoke Saint quickly followed suit.

Boom, bam!

The two explosions came one after another and violent shock waves resonated with each other through their vibrations. Like a huge boulder being dropped into the sea, a demonic tsunami was set off.

Terrifying forces spread through the air and tore the space apart. This formed countless dark cracks that spread out like a grid on the opposing side.

“Wind!”

The first ancient True Saint attacked. Fierce winds formed in the atmosphere and the Inextinguishable Flames that danced in the air originally were separated.

“Cloud!”

Soon, the second True Saint hopped onboard. A blanket of clouds rolled over the palace grounds.

“Rain!”

The third True Saint pointed a finger and the clouds shook violently. Then, a heavy downpour rained down. These dense rain droplets connected with each other to form a curtain of rain.

As the space forces and the rain droplets met each other, booming sounds formed.

“Hand over the five Divine Ways!”

“You should die!”

“How dare you leech off us? No way!”

Sharp cries and yells could be heard throughout the intense battle. No one held back.

.....

Behind the doors of the hall, Qin Yu shuddered a little. He suddenly felt a chill that poured out of his heart and spread through his whole body.

First of all, he realized that he had been too careless. He could not believe that the twin Xu brothers could collaborate with each other so smoothly. Their combined force as they unleashed the two spatial attacks together was powerful.

Additionally, there were Wind, Cloud and Rain.

Have you ever seen such coordinated attacks at the level of a True Saint? He had witnessed a perfect choreography where they complimented each other entirely.

The three True Saints before him could achieve strength that was double their individual powers when they teamed up.

If he had a conflict with either party before, Qin Yu was sure that he would have been at a huge disadvantage.

He might even have suffered if he had been careless.

The other point was that Qin Yu had made a few inferences from the exchange between the two parties.

The five Divine Ways!

Qin Yu instantly thought of the five rewards that he had obtained.

Star Retrieval, Moon Embrace, Soul Hiding, Shield Guard and Defensive Attack... Coincidentally, there were five of them. Could they be what the True Saints were referring to?

With how much anger the two sides held against each other and their murderous intent, it was highly possible it was because of the five skills he had obtained.

However, why did they pin the blame on each other? Why wouldn't they know that Qin Yu was the real culprit?

Qin Yu was still slightly perplexed. However, he quickly decided not to meddle with it.

It was nice to watch a grand battle happen in front of him. However, if he was probably the cause of it, he ought to leave.

Nonsense, if he stayed here for the joy of it, what would happen once he was discovered? Time to run!

Without hesitation, Qin Yu turned and fled through the entrance of the hall. He needed to be as far away as possible from this bunch of hateful, agitated old farts whose eyes were red from anger.

However, what were the Divine Ways? From the reactions of the True Saints, they must be really incredible.

The True Saints were evidently familiar with the Divine Ways.

Perhaps they had a much deeper connection with Bounded Zero Place.

When Qin Yu flew out of the hall, he could not help turning back to look at the battle. He found a newfound respect for the Ruler.

He was so close to the great battle between the five True Saints but he could not sense any aura leaking out.

Thankfully, he had reacted quickly and he did not open the doors of the hall fully. Otherwise, the consequences would have been deadly!

He quickly asked Fire Spirit where the Inextinguishable Flame was. Without wasting a second, Qin Yu flew over.

It was not a direct route.

Instead, passing through the halls was a very easy process for him and Qin Yu would rather cross through them for additional safety.

Receiving gifts was a joyous occasion for anyone and it would make them excited as they anticipated the rewards. However, if he continued to seek gifts even after there were none left, it would be very boring.

This was exactly what Qin Yu felt like now. He passed through the empty halls and lamented at how boring this was.

“Hm?”

Suddenly, Qin Yu frowned. He stood still in the hall after his blood dripped down. As he scanned his surroundings, a look of surprise crossed his eyes.

This was a familiar place to him.

However, he was not sure of it. He had passed through so many halls and although each one was different, he felt like they were mostly the same after a while.

Knowing this, Qin Yu stepped forward and flew ahead.

A few moments later, Qin Yu stopped in another hall. His expression was hard and he scanned his surroundings. After confirming that he did not miss any corners, he realized that this place was exactly the same as what he recalled.

Unless the Ruler who lived here constructed two identical halls with the same markings, he was not wrong.

He came across this hall not too long ago!

He turned and tried to back out of the hall. As he stood before the narrow entrance, he looked around...Qin Yu sighed in exasperation a few moments later.

He was going in circles.

"Fire Spirit, what is going on?"

She had been giving him directions this whole time and she naturally had to shoulder the responsibility.

Fire Spirit had already been frightened by him and her voice sounded pitiful as she cried, "I do not know. I sense that it is in this direction."

It was unlikely that she was lying. Furthermore, there was no reason for her to lie. Qin Yu frowned deeply. Had his luck gone dry after obtaining the five Divine Ways? He was in trouble now.

The Inextinguishable Flame was here and Fire Spirit could sense it. Yet, she led her in circles...what was going on?

"Cough!" Stone Pagoda finally suggested, "Master, why don't you try splattering some blood out."

Qin Yu was at a loss for words.

Stone Pagoda, this brat!

Let me give you a solid slap that will send you flying.

Oh...after his initial anger, he could not help being influenced.

What if it succeeded...it was just blood and nothing major!

As though he sensed Qin Yu's hesitation, Stone Pagoda added in a solemn tone, "Don't feel pressured, Master. My generation of cultivators are only obsessed with the Great Dao and we will always try to advance it. There aren't any sick thoughts like killing your wife and eating your child to pursue demonic ways. Giving your blood is a very normal thing..."

Qin Yu's lips twitched and he waved his hand dismissively to cut Stone Pagoda off, "Shut up!"

Stone Pagoda obeyed.

There was a strange silence in the air and Qin Yu lightly coughed. He allowed his blood to drip down again.

Slap!

The graceful figure outlined by the flames suddenly felt like it was hit by a hammer and it dissipated directly.

It had been a clean hit and Stone Pagoda held in his breath and shrunk inwardly. He did not want to experience something like that too.

However, his actions had been so obvious. If he had not done anything, it would appear more natural.

Qin Yu's lips twitched and he sighed deeply as he walked out of the hall. Stretching an arm out, he waved his other hand...

Since he made his decision, hurry up and stop wasting time!

Then, the air grew silent.

There was only the dripping sound as his blood dripped onto the ground. This sound felt extra clear and loud now and Qin Yu's expression turned ugly.

The floor was a blanket of red. His blood could be pooled together to form a swimming pool to wash his clothes. This was not fun.

Although he had prepared himself for this already, his heart wavered.

Stone Pagoda's aura was completely gone but Qin Yu knew that he was resisting now.

He was making a game out of Qin Yu's blood. How bold of him!

Shoosh!

The furnace vibrated and Fire Spirit flew back with a lot of unwillingness. Even if Qin Yu was strong, how could he be so unreasonable? She did not do anything but he had been so violent towards her!

I am angry, I don't want to play with you anymore! You better give me a good explanation or I am done with you! Yet, Qin Yu did not wait for the angry Fire Spirit to speak. He pointed a finger at her.

Slap!

Fire Spirit was crushed again.

Pfft –

Stone Pagoda had been holding it for so long and this was the final straw. He broke into an outburst of laughter.

“Ha ha ha, Master...listen to me...ha ha ha...I did not laugh on purpose...ha ha ha...you have to believe me.”

As if I would believe you!

Qin Yu's expression was dark and he demanded, “You come out.”

“No!”

“Come out!”

“No way!”

### **Chapter 1397 – A Deeper Key**

There was a moment of awkwardness that went away after a while.

Qin Yu squatted down and allowed his finger to touch the floor. Like the dry desert, his blood seeped into the ground quickly.

This...

It could still absorb his blood after so much had been given already...it definitely wanted more.

Stone Pagoda felt like he was about to faint. However, he had to resist it this time or Qin Yu would fly into a rage.

The two of them could sense each other's feelings and Qin Yu knew what Stone Pagoda was feeling.

His lips twitched and he scoffed coldly as he strode away.

The plan of offering his blood was a failure!

Fire Spirit had a tough personality. After receiving two slaps, she rushed over quickly.

“I have had enough...”

Slap!

A third slap.

Qin Yu used her to let out some steam and his expression slowly softened. In a low voice, he said, “Alright, let's begin official matters. What do you think now?”

Stone Pagoda fell silent. He cleared his throat and continued, “Master, I mentioned about the levels of illusion and reality in the Great Divine Ways of a Ruler before. Do you recall that?”

He had purposely shown a calm, solemn attitude...how dare he! Stone Pagoda, just you wait. When the chance is right, I will make you pay the price. I am remembering this.

Sighing deeply, Qin Yu probed, “Yes. Continue.”

Stone Pagoda answered, “There isn't a definite boundary between illusion and reality. Compared to the outside world, our current location appears to be reality. However, this reality might not actually be one and it is just a comparison. There might be an even deeper secret.”

Qin Yu's eyes flashed brightly, “Are you saying that there might be a hidden state of the Mountain of Flames?”

Stone Pagoda confirmed, “That's right. This might also be able to explain why Fire Spirit led you in circles despite following her senses.”

After a slight hesitation, he continued, “Perhaps the real Mountain of Flames is here and we are only separated from it by a barrier. This would explain why we are unable to reach it.”

Although Stone Pagoda had been a cunning brat, Qin Yu had to admit that his explanation made sense. The line between illusion and reality...such a complicated state was something a Ruler would be capable of.

If this guess was right, how was he going to enter the deeper level of this 'reality'? He slayed a Fire Phoenix previously and he came here by chance. The flame crystal nucleus within its body had been a key... if he was right, he would need a new key.

Stone Pagoda said, "Master, don't look at me. I don't know much and this is just a guess. I might be wrong."

This simple sentence cleared up loose ends for him. He left a way out for himself. This crafty fellow!

Qin Yu smirked. Only a child would need to be reasoned with. The adult world needed a tough heart and a scheming mind. If I want to deal with you, I have a hundred ideas to do so.

However, this was no time to be thinking nonsensical thoughts. The most important thing now was to obtain the real key to go deeper.

Stone Pagoda's warning that his guess might be wrong was ignored by Qin Yu. Even if this guess would eventually be found to be wrong, Qin Yu did not have any other heading right now.

Ever since he entered the palaces, Qin Yu did not see any hints related to a key...this was true even after he went through his memories thoroughly.

Ah, his heart hurt!

Qin Yu frowned and did not know where to begin. Suddenly, he raised his eyebrows and turned to look behind him.

In that instant, a strong wave of force pushed out from the middle of a hall. Vicious auras spread across the area.

It was the bunch of old farts again!

These old Saints had lived for a long time but they were still so ruthless with each other. The battle was still going very intensely.

That's right, these uninvited guests were the twin Xu brothers and Wind, Cloud and Rain. The very group that Qin Yu had been trying to avoid.

Although the Saints were engaged in battle, their senses were sharp and they all spotted Qin Yu at the same time.

"Virtuous Nine!"

"You are here too!"

Qin Yu grunted to himself. He had seen the surprise and doubtful looks in the eyes of the old farts and he knew what they were thinking.

Their thoughts were right, but this did not mean that Qin Yu would admit to it.



Nonsense, of course he was not going to admit to it. He did not think he would be able to take on five True Saints simultaneously.

His mind spun quickly and an idea popped into his head. Without hesitation, Qin Yu urgently cried, "True Saints, please help me. Close Saint is actually a powerful Ghost Path user. Soft Peach and I almost died because of his tricks!"

Like he expected, the expressions of the five True Saints faltered slightly. As ancient Saints, they knew the terror of Ghost Path users even more so than Qin Yu.

If these were just empty words, they would not have believed Qin Yu. However, these ancient Saints roamed Bounded Zero Place for a long time and they had collaborated with each other on a few occasions before. While they had some earlier suspicions, they did not have the proof.

However, Close Saint's identity had been revealed and it explained all their suspicions. The mysterious and strange happenings around Close Saint for all these years could now be explained.

Gentle Spread Saint frowned deeply, and asked, "Is Close Saint here too?"

Qin Yu hurriedly nodded, "Yes, he isn't the only one. He teamed up with a prince from the West Desolate and it seems that this prince has another motive."

This made everyone's faces fall again. Their first reaction was disbelief. The ancient Saints had allied together to confront the West Desolate and that clan. Why would Close Saint ally with a prince from the West Desolate after taking advantage of the two clans?

However, if it was a lie, anyone would be able to tell how terrible it was. Virtuous Nine would not be so dumb.

Would anyone be so stupid as to tell an obvious lie?

Think about it. Close Saint was actually a Ghost Path user and the ancient Saints had been allying with a demon for all these years. It was a miracle that they were still alive.

If such a terrifying thing was true, it was not impossible for Close Saint to have linkage with the West Desolate. After all, Ghost Path users were crazy. They had traumatic memories of their experiences with this bunch of men a long time ago.

The whole scenario instantly turned way more dangerous!

Close Saint was strong and if he used Ghost Path methods unscrupulously, it would be very difficult to contest him. If any one of them met him, they would be in deep trouble.

They could not delay this any longer and the battle had to be settled once and for all!

Gentle Spread Saint breathed in deeply and suddenly said, "Virtuous Nine, we have a very valuable item on hand. If you team up with us and kill Wind, Cloud and Rain, we will share the spoils with you."

On the other side, the three True Saints' expressions hardened and their eyes glared angrily. They had not expected this.

Qin Yu was confused. Weren't the True Saints fighting for the Divine Ways? Why was another item mentioned? He did not understand the context but he kept up his pretense. Qin Yu frowned and his expression turned doubtful as he asked, "Gentle Spread Saint, what item are you referring to?"

Gentle Spread Saint flipped over his hand and revealed a Crystal Token. This token was a deep red color and light rays reflected brilliantly in it. It was obviously a valuable item.

"This is a key and it unlocks a path to this mysterious place that houses treasures. It can open a way up for us three!"

Qin Yu's eyes glittered, but not because of Gentle Spread's words. In fact, he did not believe a single word Gentle Spread Saint said. It was a lie that the key would accommodate three people.

However, Gentle Spread had not been lying that the Crystal Token was a key. It was just the item that Qin Yu had been troubled about.

He could confirm this with Fire Spirit.

After three consecutive beatings, Fire Spirit was enraged but she dared not disobey Qin Yu and she answered him instantaneously. She felt like she was the victim of Qin Yu's anger but surprisingly, this made her slightly excited.

Yes, she had to admit that she was slightly excited!

Was she crazy? Did she lose her sanity? In the midst of her panic and confusion, Qin Yu nodded, "Alright, I agree to it!"

Wind, Cloud and Rain's expressions fell. They could barely stand their ground against the twin brothers. If Virtuous Nine teamed up with the twins, the balance of power would be tipped. Their only remaining choice was to run, and that would mean missing out on the treasure.

Cloud Saint sighed in exasperation and he cried, "Virtuous Nine, Gentle Spread Saint has always been unfriendly to you and he is proposing an alliance only because he wants to take advantage of you. After this ends, he will hunt you down!"

Obviously, Qin Yu recognized this. But he felt that he could take advantage of this too.

As such, Qin Yu frowned and gave a look of hesitation as he glanced at the twin brothers. He looked very nervous.

Rain Saint quickly added, "Please ally with us instead, Virtuous Nine. Once we defeat the twins, I swear that we will share the treasures with you."

Gentle Spread Saint suddenly scoffed, "You are so desperate, it is so funny!" Gentle Spread Saint lifted his arm and said, "I can let you hold on to this item for now to express our sincerity."

Qin Yu was stunned. He was flabbergasted by Gentle Spread Saint's proposal as he had just been wondering how he should trick the twin brothers to give the key to him.

Such kind actions by the twin brothers moved him to tears! They were such kind souls.

He quickly formed a plan in his mind. Without hesitation, he reached his arm out. 'Slam', the key was sucked towards his hand.

It was real!

Qin Yu was giddy with happiness.

Gentle Spread Saint asked, "Virtuous Nine, do you trust us now?"

Qin Yu quickly nodded, deciding to agree to whatever Gentle Spread Saint said.

On the opposite bank, the three Saints had a solemn look and they cursed at the brothers.

It was obvious that Gentle Spread Saint had made a move on the Crystal Token to trick Qin Yu. Otherwise, he would not hand over the key so easily to Qin Yu.

However, Qin Yu could no longer be convinced and he had chosen his side.

"Come on!"

With a yell, the three True Saints attacked. Wind howled as thick clouds formed in the sky. Then, a downpour of rain brought about fierce winds through the sky.

They would never give up.

### **Chapter 1398 – I Have a Secret Technique**

Fire Spirit had something to say after testing the Crystal Token. After all, this was her specialty, "He did something on it. It is a special space force technique, but I am not sure what it is."

This wasn't a big problem. With the general direction settled, he would leave the rest to Stone Pagoda. Stone Pagoda was always capable and this was nothing to him.

As facts would have it, Stone Pagoda was right to be prideful. He had a look at the Crystal Token and he said, "It is a small trouble. They were unlucky to meet me."

Qin Yu asked, "How long?"

Stone Pagoda hesitated before replying, "Fifteen minutes." He gave extra time for himself. In the case that he did not complete it by his actual target, Qin Yu would not be mad at him.

All this happened as the battle was occurring. The twin brothers fought fiercely and space force surged violently. Although Qin Yu had learned about space dao before, his mastery of it was way lesser than the brothers'.

Of course, if the twin brothers had not played a trick on the Crystal Token, they would not have passed it to Qin Yu so easily.

This was confidence in their strength. Men were like that and Qin Yu did not mind it.

Kaboom!

Deafening explosions continued endlessly and violent shock waves spread through the land.

Qin Yu's opponent was Cloud Saint. Cloud Saint was furious and vicious; every attack he made was to kill.

Despite the battle being a three on three, Wind, Cloud and Rain were at a disadvantage. However, they were not overwhelmed miserably and they put up a fight.

Of course, this was also because Qin Yu was holding back. He wanted to enjoy spectating whilst secretly controlling the balance of power. This was actually challenging to pull off, especially since he was doing it in front of ancient Saints.

Qin Yu could feel the suspicion in the twin brothers' glances at him. They were already doubtful of his motives.

But what could they do? Qin Yu would not ally with them to take the three Saints down quickly.

There was no way he would let that happen.

Fifteen minutes was a short period of time and by now, Stone Pagoda was halfway there. He just needed to hold on for a little longer before the key could be 'unlocked'.

When that was done, Qin Yu could leave the battle and the True Saints could continue on with their fight for all he cared.

The impact of the battle was massive. Although the twins and Qin Yu had the upper hand, they could not turn the tide of the battle and settle it once and for all.

Gentle Spread Saint frowned and a feeling of uneasiness went through him. He glanced at Qin Yu and although he did not have any concrete evidence, he felt like something was off about Qin Yu.

He was dragging for time? The instant Gentle Spread Saint thought about this possibility, his heart jumped and he made a connection to the space seal he placed on the Crystal Token.

Phew –

Nothing was wrong with it.

If it could be easily broken, Gentle Spread Saint would not have passed the Crystal Token to Qin Yu so willingly. He was not mad.

Gentle Spread Saint sighed out loud and yelled, "Virtuous Nine, Close Saint may come at any moment. We cannot delay any longer!"

He believed Qin Yu's claim that he was being chased by Close Saint. Otherwise, how would Qin Yu have known that Close Saint was a Ghost Path user?

Using Close Saint to pressure Qin Yu proved useful and this was not a lie. Since Qin Yu met the group of True Saints by coincidence, there was always a possibility that Close Saint would arrive here too.

As he expected, a look of horror crossed Qin Yu's face. He glanced at Cloud Saint and his attacks grew more aggressive.

His battle with Cloud Saint appeared to be very balanced previously and it would have been a good fight to spectate. However, the tide changed completely and the battle grew more intense.

Gentle Spread Saint's lips twitched. Virtuous Nine, you thick-skinned bastard. Weren't you afraid of being seen through? Also, Virtuous Nine was so scared of Close Saint, his attitude took an instant change.

Pathetic!

What was the point of keeping a loser alive? Hehe, after they killed the three True Saints, he would change his target to Virtuous Nine later!

The pressure on Cloud Saint was immense and he pulled together all his strength to defend himself. However, it felt like he was constantly being crushed.

Damn it!

If this continued on, the three Saints would not be able to take it anymore.

"Gentle Spread Saint and Gentle Smoke Saint, Close Saint may come any moment. We cannot delay!" Qin Yu shouted, "I have a secret technique that can trap Cloud Saint and break the linking attacks between the three of them. Please take advantage of that moment to end the battle!"

Gentle Spread Saint's eyes lit up and he laughed, "Alright. Virtuous Nine, please do it. We will settle this in one shot!"

Qin Yu raised his hand and pointed a finger towards Cloud Saint. However, nothing happened. Instead, Qin Yu gasped as his face turned pale.

Gentle Spread Saint's smile faded and he asked, "Virtuous Nine, is something wrong?"

Qin Yu sighed and laughed bitterly, "I was injured by Close Saint before and I need some time to prepare in order to unleash this attack smoothly."

He looked at the twin brothers and said, "Please block them for now. I will finish the preparations in no time!"

Lazy people would find many excuses to delay work...Gentle Spread Saint wanted to kill Qin Yu but now was not the time. He could only force a smile, "Not a problem. Virtuous Nine, please hurry up. After all, we all know that Close Saint can come at any moment!"

Qin Yu's expression fell again and he reassured, "Don't worry, I will be done very soon!"

He took a step back and retreated out of the battleground at once. Soon, the aura surrounding him started to surge and there was a crushing pressure around him.

Gentle Spread Saint's heart clenched and he thought to himself that Virtuous Nine was truly strong. They had to be careful when they killed him later.

On the opposite side, the three True Saints shouted in unison, "Stop him!"

They could not allow Virtuous Nine to unleash his secret technique. If their connection was broken, they were finished.

Kaboom!

As such, both sides fought fiercely and the battleground grew more chaotic.

The aura around Qin Yu was wild and it only became more powerful as time went on. He would be done at any moment.

Gentle Spread Saint grunted and blood seeped out from the corners of his lips. The three True Saints were really giving their all. But there was no way they would be allowed to break the seal between the brothers!

Everything would end very soon.

Suddenly, the wild aura behind them reached a peak.

Virtuous Nine was finally done!

The three True Saints cried in agony at the same moment. However...

Pop!

A light pop sounded like a balloon that burst upon being pumped too big.

It burst...

Qin Yu was like this balloon. After the pop came, he disappeared.

Everyone froze in the air.

### **Chapter 1399 – Tragic**

Shield Guard was the fourth reward that Qin Yu obtained. It was a defensive divine way but it was different from the typical defensive skills.

It used the original energy of the cultivator to create an identical replica of the user. This helped the user to escape danger easily.

The exact technique was more complicated and Qin Yu only touched the surface of it. However, after using it, Qin Yu realized how effective it was.

This was how Qin Yu was able to escape with the Crystal Token right beneath the eyes of the five True Saints.

Gentle Spread Saint gritted his teeth and swore to himself that he would kill Virtuous Nine if they met each other again. This was the only way to resolve the hatred in his heart. More importantly now, he had to retrieve the Crystal Token.

Gentle Spread Saint connected to the space seal and noted that nothing was wrong with it. It could be activated at any time. Hehe, did you underestimate me? I gave you the Crystal Token but I can take it back any time.

Buzz –

The space seal activated and the space in front of Gentle Spread Saint vibrated. Yet, when Gentle Spread Saint reached his hand forward, his face fell.

Shoosh!

He jerked his arm back and when he finally had a clear look at the item in his hand, he grunted angrily. His heart clenched and he almost puked blood.

It was a brick!

The brick had a light green color and there were many scratch marks on it, proving its age. There was a smiley face drawn on it, and the smile appeared to be mocking him silently.

“Ah!”

Gentle Spread Saint yelled as he squeezed strongly and shattered the brick in his hand. The moment it shattered, a ‘bam’ emerged and a strong force pushed Gentle Spread Saint backward.

“Virtuous Nine! I will kill you in this life!” Pure hatred and anger exploded out of him.

.....

With the key in his hand, Qin Yu could not be bothered with the True Saints after he left.

He had already expected the outrage from Gentle Spread Saint and Qin Yu simply ignored it. Furthermore, what could hatred do? Even if the hatred between them was ten or a hundred times deeper, Qin Yu was still alive and well.

Was he worried about Gentle Spread Saint’s vengeance in the future? Haha, there was nothing in this world that came freely. Some would win and some would lose, this was how the world maintained order.

Since he had the key in his hand, he had no reason to overthink this. Qin Yu studied the Crystal Token intently. In the end, he could not figure out the way to activate it.

“Fire Spirit!”

The ball of fire shifted and burned fiercely. However, she was obedient now and she did not act brazenly in front of Qin Yu. She confidently said, “Master, please give the key to me.”

Look, even the way she addressed him had changed!

Qin Yu was very satisfied with her. After the round of beatings, Fire Spirit finally understood her place.

This was good!

Fire Spirit allowed her body of flame to surround the key. After a short while, she finally gave her answer.

“Master, it is the correct key but it will be difficult to activate it. I need to make additional preparations.”

Qin Yu nodded, “That is not a problem. Tell me if you need anything.”

Fire Spirit was puzzled.

Why did his attitude towards her suddenly change? She was not used to this, and she was surprisingly disappointed as well.

She must have gone mad!

“Mm, Master, I need to go to a quiet place and the process might take some time. Also, there might be a chance of failure...”

“Hold on!” Qin Yu frowned in dissatisfaction, “Failure? I had to trick the twin brothers in order to get this Crystal Token. How am I going to get another one if you destroy this? Failure is not allowed! Fire Spirit, listen very carefully. If anything happens to the key, you are in deep trouble!”

This cold tone and his oppressive aura...tsk, she was used to this.

Fire Spirit gritted her teeth and tried to remain calm. “Yes, Master. I will do my best to ensure that nothing goes wrong!”

Stone Pagoda listened to this conversation silently.

Who would be able to tell him what was going on? Was something wrong with Fire Spirit? While her reply sounded normal, Stone Pagoda knew that the girl had sadistic thoughts. She was enjoying the poor treatment from Qin Yu!

My goodness, Qin Yu had bullied a normal person until her mind got twisted...scary, this was so frightening!

Qin Yu’s lips twitched. He had sensed the strange reaction from Fire Spirit and he felt the wave of consciousness from Stone Pagoda. Was this it? The legendary masochist? His hair stood on its ends!

Bear with it. It isn’t anything major. As long as she listened to him obediently, all was well.

He silently shook his head and casted these thoughts aside. His body flashed and he flew outside.

In another palace hall a long while later, Fire Spirit flew around busily as she tried to activate the key. Qin Yu finally understood why the twin brothers had not activated the key when they had it. Instead, they kept it with them and got entangled with Wind, Cloud and Rain.

This was so troublesome!

If he was right, the twin brothers and the three True Saints were desperately looking for him.

A lot of time had passed and although the palace grounds were large, they could arrive at any moment. The tightly shut door could be opened from the outside in the next second.

It would be a lie if Qin Yu said he was calm right now.

However, Qin Yu saw how busy Fire Spirit was and she had not taken a rest so far. She was already doing her best and it would backfire if he disturbed her now. Taking in a deep breath, Qin Yu could only smile bitterly. There was nothing else he could do but continue to wait.



He prayed that his luck would be good this time. If the five True Saints caught up to him, there would only be disaster.

Time ticked by and another half a day passed. Qin Yu frowned as he paced back and forth. He felt very anxious and he had a feeling that something terribly wrong would happen if the key was not activated soon.

“Fire Spirit!”

Taking in a deep breath, Qin Yu cried.

“Master, hold on a moment, it will be done soon!” The Crystal Token was placed in the middle of some engravings in the floor. Numerous streaks of crimson red light started to form.

Fire Spirit worked even faster as she felt Qin Yu’s wrath.

Finally, a soft buzzing sound formed and the red streaks of light turned blinding. All the light gathered into the Crystal Token.

“It is a success!” Fire Spirit exclaimed excitedly.

‘Slap!’ The Crystal Token shattered and an illusionary door appeared. A strong suction force emerged and surrounded Qin Yu.

“Master, don’t resist it!”

Only a fool would resist this force after waiting for so long. Fire Spirit had wasted her words.

Qin Yu sneered to himself but he maintained his smile. If things went smoothly, he would obtain the real Inextinguishable Flame soon. The furnace shook impatiently as it prepared itself for a feast. Once it devoured the flame, it would help Qin Yu’s Great Dao immensely.

When that happened, his powers would increase a notch again! Hehe, by then, Qin Yu would not need to fear anyone. He could easily crush the twins and smear their flesh onto the ground.

With that, all his dangers would disappear. He could be fearless!

As his body was sucked into the space crack created by the token, he heard some movement in the palace hall.

Qin Yu turned back. Blinking his eyes, he thought to himself. His intuition had been right. A strange wave of sadness washed over him.

Actually, he was feeling sad on behalf of the Saints. Was there anything more pathetic than helplessly seeing their enemy escape right before their eyes after putting in so much effort to chase him down? Furthermore, the key was personally given to Qin Yu by them.

This feeling was an incredible sense of satisfaction. Their hearts raced and their hair stood on end. In the next instant, Gentle Spread Saint puked blood.

This proved that Qin Yu had an incredible intuition and his intelligence was superb. Blood spurted out of Gentle Spread Saint like a fountain and he grew mad from anger.

He glared deathly at the illusionary door that was slowly disappearing. Hatred, resentment, pain, and despair filled him as tears threatened to fall from his eyes.

How pathetic!

He was so pathetic.

“Ah!” Gentle Spread Saint cried like a mad man and his aura surged uncontrollably around him.

Gentle Smoke Saint frowned deeply but remained silent. His eyes held the same pain and anger as his brother’s.

Virtuous Nine must die!

Not everyone felt similarly to the twin brothers. Wind, Cloud and Rain wore dark looks across their faces and they held a lot of resentment in their eyes as they stared at the twin brothers.

“Gentle Spread Saint, how incredible you are! I have so much admiration for you!” Wind Saint clenched his teeth as he said sarcastically.

“Shut up!” Gentle Smoke Saint yelled, “We were the ones who found the Crystal Token. If you guys had not chased after us relentlessly, how would things have come to this?”

He stepped forward with a cold glare in his eyes, “You guys must take the responsibility for that!”

Rain Saint scoffed, “What a joke. You guys gave the key to him, why are you blaming it on us? You guys are the fools!”

Their eyes burned with rage and they were all like a volcano about to erupt.

They had narrowly missed him. If they were just slightly faster, the result would have been different. The Three Saints had wanted to go in this direction but the twin brothers thought otherwise. In the end, they went another way and wasted so much time.

“Damn it!” Gentle Smoke Saint yelled as he raised his hands threateningly.

Slap!

He was stopped by Gentle Spread Saint. With bloodshot eyes, he spoke in a hoarse voice, “It is too late and crying over spilt milk is useless. Unless you guys want to fight to the death again, shut up!”

Silence filled the air.

Rain Saint was about to say something but was stopped by Cloud Saint. He shook his head at Rain Saint and instructed him to leave the twin brothers alone. Everyone knew what to do and it was pointless to continue arguing. Yet, all of them felt very unsatisfied.

Finally, Gentle Spread Saint sighed deeply. His eyes flung open, revealing his bloodshot gaze, “Wait...we will wait here until he returns. He will definitely be back!”

**Chapter 1400 – The Ruler is Female**

A key that was reconstructed after being broken would not be as effective as before. The first time that Qin Yu used the key for teleportation proceeded smoothly.

It felt like he was soaking in a nice hot steamy bath as he was transported to his destination.

Once he arrived, the scorching heat came over and the flames danced fiercely.

The furnace was going wild in excitement!

All of this is mine.

Qin Yu wore a bright smile. After so much trouble, he was finally going to get it.

His initial objective in coming to Bounded Zero Place would be achieved soon!

The Inextinguishable Flame was right before him and the furnace was so excited. Why would he delay it further?

He wanted it now!

Just before the furnace dashed forward to devour the flame, Fire Spirit cried, "Master, hold on!"

Almost at the same time, Stone Pagoda shouted, "Stop it, stop it!"

The panic in their voices shook Qin Yu to the core and he cursed at them for not warning him earlier. He flung himself forward and caught the furnace. He yelled, "Wait, you can't absorb it now!"

Buzz buzz!

The furnace shook violently in protest. Although it could not speak, it seemed to be shouting vehemently, "Don't stop me. Get away from me!"

Throughout the entire journey, it had been tortured by cruel tricks and ploys. Finally, it reached the real body of the Inextinguishable Flame. It was delivered to him on a plate, so why wasn't he allowed to eat it?

Did they think that it was not capable of rage?

"Master, stop it. The Inextinguishable Flame cannot be consumed now!" Stone Pagoda was so anxious that he directly released his projection to suppress the furnace.

Shoosh!

Without hesitation, Fire Spirit flew forward and merged into the furnace. Through the Fire of Eternal Night, she held the furnace back.

With the three of them working together, they barely managed to stop the furnace.

Qin Yu's expression hardened and he asked, "Tell me, what is it?"

Stone Pagoda quickly explained, "There is something inside the Inextinguishable Flame, but I can't tell what it is. The two things are reliant on each other and there is a balance between them. If the furnace consumed the Inextinguishable Flame, the hidden thing inside it would explode..."

He swallowed and continued nervously, "Although I don't know what it is, it is very dangerous. Very very dangerous!"

Qin Yu glanced at Fire Spirit with a pressing look and she shrunk inwardly. She confirmed, "I have the same feeling. The Inextinguishable Flame is like a protective shell. If it is broken, it will release the scary thing inside!"

Since the two of them agreed with each other, the chances of this being a lie were low. Qin Yu rubbed his forehead helplessly and laughed bitterly to himself.

Good things always came with so much trouble, but this time it was really too much. He had finally found the real thing after so long but even though it was right before his eyes, he could not consume it. This pressed heavily on his heart and made him sigh.

However, after going through so much, Qin Yu could take this final trial. He let out a long sigh and said, "Let's head in first to see what it is."

Fire Spirit flew towards him and her flame body spread out to form a cloak of fire around Qin Yu.

Qin Yu stepped into the flames.

It was hot, so scorchingly hot!

The vicious flames licked his body and he could smell the tortuous heat with each breath he took. His lungs cried in agony.

This was the case even with Fire Spirit helping him to ward off most of the heat. This was the real body of the Inextinguishable Flame and it was truly mesmerizing.

Qin Yu continued moving forward but he stopped after a few moments and a strange look crossed his face.

A palace!

Qin Yu had never expected to see this in the body of the Inextinguishable Flame.

The palace was not large but it had a unique construction. It appeared to glow brightly as the fire of the Inextinguishable Flame burned its walls.

Just by looking at the palace, he could feel an oppressive aura.

It was strong and dense.

This was... the Ruler's will!

Qin Yu gulped. He had walked through every inch of the other palace grounds and he had never found any sign of the Ruler living there.

Those palace halls could withstand fierce flames and the only explanation was that they had absorbed the Ruler's aura...there was an aura but the source could not be found. As such, there could only be one explanation. The Ruler did not really live there.

Alternatively, the Ruler's living quarters had shifted when the earth moved.

Where was it?

As his eyes landed upon this palace, Qin Yu had an answer. This palace was not large, but it had a crushing pressure.

This was where the Ruler lived!

Bang bang!

His heart beat fiercely against his chest as a ripple of excitement went through him.

The five rewards he obtained were precious, but the Ruler's Great Dao was far better. The West Desolate and Mysterious Clan made many attempts to find the treasure left behind by the Ruler. It must be in this grand palace in front of him!

Stone Pagoda warned him, "Master, be careful. I can feel a scary aura coming from this palace."

Without wavering, Qin Yu nodded his head. The world was very fair. He would have to take risks in order to obtain rewards. Furthermore, he was already here and it did not make sense for him to stop right before entering the palace.

On the contrary, if Qin Yu was extra cautious and did not risk entering the hall...what about the Inextinguishable Flame? This suspicious palace was in the Inextinguishable Flame. He had to investigate it to figure out the problem.

He continued forward carefully. Luckily, everything appeared to go smoothly and nothing appeared out of the ordinary.

Eventually, Qin Yu stopped right before the palace.

The doors were within his reach but it was not going to be easy for him to open them.

Qin Yu felt a strong pressure from the palace just by staring at it. As he walked closer to it, this pressure grew even stronger. Beads of sweat dotted Qin Yu's forehead and his expression was pale. Yet, there was a beam of excitement and surprise deep within his eyes.

Taking in a breath of air, Qin Yu gritted his teeth. However, when he touched the palace doors, a trace of cold air flowed down his fingers. After a slight pause, Qin Yu pressed down and pushed open the doors.

Whoosh –

Right as the doors were pushed open, the scary aura disappeared without a trace, as though it was never there.

Qin Yu came to a realization. The wave of pressure must have been a test for him. If he could not withstand the force, he would not be allowed to enter the palace. Similarly, the unbearably high temperature around him calmed down.

Everything seemed to have gone smoothly. Did he pass the test? The terrifying force had indeed pressured him but this was where the Ruler lived.

Never mind, let's head in first!

He took a bold step forward and the doors automatically closed behind him. Before Qin Yu could survey the hall, a voice suddenly rang.

“You have arrived.”

Qin Yu frowned slightly and he quickly looked around him. He coughed lightly and replied, “Yes, I am here.”

“You should not have come.”

Qin Yu was at a loss for words.

This must be wrong, I am already here. What’s the point of saying that?

Before Qin Yu replied, the voice rang out again, “Once you opened the doors, the pressure disappeared. Did you think that was a test?”

Qin Yu’s eyes unconsciously widened. He did not speak but his thoughts were clear. Was it not?

“No, of course not! I was trying to tell you that you are not welcome here. Go back, hurry off. But you ended up forcing your way in.” The tone was angry, “A test? Why would I bother testing you? If I did not suck back all my aura when you came through the doors, you would be a pile of ashes now. Do you understand?”

Qin Yu licked his lips. Although he could not see the speaker’s face, he believed their words. This person was not lying!

Unknowingly, he had narrowly escaped death.

Tsk –

Qin Yu’s hair stood on its ends and he was petrified!

The voice’s pitch grew higher, “You don’t believe me? Fine, go out and come in again. Then you will understand what it is like to be reduced to ashes!”

His lips twitched slightly and he hurriedly cupped his hands together, “I do not dare to doubt your words, I was just at a loss for words after being shocked. Thank you for your help, senior...may I ask for your name? I would like to express my gratitude.”

“Gratitude!” The voice grew even angrier, “I am going to die from anger. I don’t understand why that woman chose you. When did she go blind? How did I not know?”

Buzz –

A slight wave of aura washed through the palace and a figure stepped forward. She wore a long dress and had an elegant figure.

However, there was a layer of mist around her face and Qin Yu could not make out her facial features.

Her eyes locked onto Qin Yu and he could feel her anger directly. She was very unhappy!

Hm? That gaze seemed very familiar to him!

Those eyes, that figure...Qin Yu's eyes widened. He jumped in realization as he realized where this strange sense of familiarity came from.

The woman from the Shadow of the Sun and Moon!

It was her!

At that point, Qin Yu was completely taken aback. The suspicion he had not too long ago returned to him. The Ruler did not really die back then but faked her death and escaped.

This also meant that the Ruler was female!

Furthermore, this Ruler had attached herself to him for some reason. This would provide explanations for the strange things that happened previously.

Why did the statues and dancing ladies in the palace kneel to him after he offered his blood? It was because of this woman!

The woman who had appeared out of the blue stared at Qin Yu. She instantly saw through him and she snapped, "What? Didn't she seal your memories away? How did you recognize me?"

"She must not only be blind, she must have gone mad. Sure enough, bad things will happen to women in this world. She is so unreliable!"

These words confirmed Qin Yu's suspicions. Yet, from his perspective, the woman before him did not seem to be in her right mind too. Wasn't she female too? By scolding the other lady, she was also insulting herself.

So this was a Ruler? Stone Pagoda also felt hesitant.

The moment these thoughts crossed his mind, Stone Pagoda grunted. It felt like someone had smashed a cover over his head. His ears rang and his vision grew blurry as he lost consciousness.

The woman scoffed, "How dare you judge a Ruler? If not for our past entanglements, I would have made you kneel before me."

Qin Yu sensed what happened to Stone Pagoda and his heart clenched. This woman was vicious. Luckily, although she seemed scary he was sure that he was not in danger now.